

Comparisons between Montessori and Traditional Education

Montessori	Traditional
<p>Emphasis on cognitive structures and social development</p> <p><i>Teacher's role is unobtrusive; child actively participates in learning</i></p> <p>Environment and method encourage internal self-discipline</p> <p><i>Individual and group instruction adapts to each student's learning style</i></p> <p>Mixed-age grouping</p> <p><i>Children encouraged to teach, collaborate, and help each other</i></p> <p>Child formulates concepts from self-teaching materials</p> <p><i>Child works as long as he/she wants on a chosen project</i></p> <p>Child sets own pace to internalize information</p> <p><i>Child spots own errors through feedback from material</i></p> <p>Learning is reinforced internally through child's own repetition of activity, internal feelings of success repetition</p> <p><i>Multi-sensory materials for physical exploration development</i></p> <p>Organized program for learning care of self and self-care environment (shoe polishing, sink washing, etc.)</p> <p><i>Child can work where he/she is comfortable, move and talk at will (yet doesn't disturb others); group work is voluntary and negotiable</i></p> <p>Organized program for parents to understand the Montessori philosophy and participate in the learning process</p>	<p>Emphasis on rote knowledge and social development</p> <p><i>Teacher's role is dominant, active; child is a passive participant</i></p> <p>Teacher is primary enforcer of external discipline</p> <p><i>Individual and group instruction conforms to the adult's teaching style</i></p> <p>Same-age grouping</p> <p><i>Most teaching done by teacher and collaboration is discouraged</i></p> <p>Child is guided to concepts by teacher</p> <p><i>Child usually is given specific time for work</i></p> <p>Instruction pace set by group norm or teacher</p> <p><i>Errors corrected by teacher</i></p> <p>Learning is reinforced externally by rewards, discouragements</p> <p><i>Few materials for sensory, concrete manipulation</i></p> <p>Little emphasis on instruction or classroom maintenance</p> <p><i>Child assigned seat; encouraged to sit still and listen during group sessions</i></p> <p>Voluntary parent involvement, often only as fundraisers, not participants in understanding the learning process</p>