

MONTESSORI VS. TRADITIONAL



An Educational Comparison

MONTESSORI

Based on helping the natural development of the human child.

Children learn at their own pace and pursue individual interests.

Children teach themselves (and each other) using materials specially designed for that purpose.

Understanding comes through the child's direct experiences with the materials; children are

Learning is based on the fact that physical exploration, manipulation, and cognition are linked. Children move around and interact with their environment.

The teacher works in collaboration with the children and follows cues provided by each individual child.

The child's development is its own reward and becomes a motivating force to continue forward.

Children learn in continuous, uninterrupted work cycles.

Children are organized in multi-age classrooms based on peer learning.

Working and learning are matched to the child's social and emotional development.

TRADITIONAL

Based on the transfer of a national (and often outdated) curriculum.

Children learn from a set curriculum according to a time frame that is the same for everyone.

Children are taught by the teacher.

Learning is based on prescribed subjects and is limited to what is on a lesson plan.

Children sit at fixed desks and learn from a chalkboard or the "front of the room."

The teacher leads the class and follows prompts provided by the curriculum.

Motivation is pursued via a system of external rewards and punishments.

Children learn in specific content blocks or work periods.

Children are organized in classrooms with others who are all the same age.

Working and learning occurs independent of social development.