

COMPARISON BETWEEN MONTESSORI AND TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

MONTESSORI

- No pre-determined curriculum; children choose the materials suitable to their developmental stage.
- Children work at own pace and aren't hurried to meet a schedule.
- Children are free to explore and discover on their own.
- Emphasis on the concrete.
- Reality orientated.
- Children are given a sense of order and responsibility – everything has to be returned to its place.
- The learning environment is child-centered.
- Children provide their own stimulation and motivation to learn.
- Montessori materials are designed to promote self-education and self-correction.
- Montessori methods recognize children's sensitive developmental and learning periods.
- Montessori designed multi-sensory materials develop specific skills.
- Children are free to move around the classroom and pick materials at will.
- Children may talk freely, provided they don't disturb the others.
- Teachers are guides only, encouraging children to act and think for themselves.
- Disorderly conduct in the class is regarded as the teacher's fault. Teachers have to adjust their approach to address misbehavior.

TRADITIONAL

- Teachers work to a set curriculum.
- Teachers set the pace to get through the work in a specified time-frame.
- Teachers enforce a lesson plan that is followed every day.
- Emphasis on the abstract.
- Much role-play and fantasy.
- Materials don't necessarily need to go in the exact place from which they came. There is no real sense of order.
- The teacher is the center of attention.
- Teacher provides the stimulation and drives the learning process.
- Teachers use reward and punishment as a means to motivate education.
- Children are subjected to a generic approach and treated alike.
- Play materials are for non-specific skills.
- Children have to sit in designated places and aren't allowed to move without permission or choose their own materials.
- Children have to keep quiet unless called upon to answer questions or invited to ask questions.
- The teacher is the leader and children are expected to follow.
- Disorderly conduct is considered the child's fault and results in punishment.