

# *Comparison of Montessori and Traditional Education*



<b>Traditional Approach</b>	<b>Montessori Approach</b>
emphasis on rote knowledge and social development	emphasis on cognitive structures and social development
teacher's role is dominant and active; child is a passive participant	teacher's role is unobtrusive; child actively participates in learning
teacher is primary enforcer of external discipline	environment and method encourage internal self-discipline
individual and group instruction conforms to the adult's teaching style	individual and group instruction adapts to each student's learning style
same age grouping	mixed age grouping
most teaching done by teacher and collaboration is discouraged	children encouraged to teach, collaborate, and help each other
curriculum structured with little regard for child's interests	child chooses own work from interests and abilities
child is guided to concepts by teacher	child formulates concepts from self-teaching materials
child usually given specific time for work	child works as long as s/he wants on chosen project
instruction pace set by group norm or teacher	child sets own learning pace to internalize information
errors corrected by teacher	child spots own errors through feedback from material
learning is reinforced externally by rewards and discouragements	learning is reinforced internally through child's own repetition of activity, internal feelings of success
few materials for sensory, concrete manipulation	multi-sensory materials for physical exploration development
little emphasis on instruction on classroom maintenance	organized program for learning care of self and self-care environment
child assigned seat, encouraged to sit still and listen during group sessions	child can work where s/he is comfortable, moves and talks at will (yet doesn't disturb others); group work is voluntary and negotiable
voluntary parent involvement, often only as fundraisers, not participants in understanding the learning process	organized program for parents to understand the Montessori philosophy and participate in the learning process

