

Montessori vs. Traditional Teaching Methods

(comparison provided by InfoDisc, Div. of Software Holdings, 1000 Words & Pictures CD ROM)

Montessori Method:	Traditional Method:
1. Emphasis is on cognitive and social development	1. Emphasis is on social development
2. Teacher has unobtrusive role in classroom	2. Teacher is center of classroom as "controller"
3. Environment and method encourage self-discipline	3. Teacher is primary enforcer of discipline
4. Mainly individual instruction	4. Group and individual instruction
5. Mixed age grouping	5. Same age grouping
6. Grouping encourages children to teach and help each other	6. Most teaching is done by the teacher
7. Child chooses own work	7. Curriculum is structured for the child
8. Child discovers own concepts from self teaching materials	8. Child is guided to concepts by the teacher
9. Child works as long as he wishes on chosen project	9. Child is generally allotted specific time for work
10. Child sets own learning pace	10. Instruction pace is usually set by group norm
11. Child spots own errors from feedback of material	11. If work is corrected, errors usually are pointed out by the teacher
12. Child reinforces own learning by repetition of work and internal feelings of success	12. Learning is reinforced externally by repetition and rewards
13. Multi-sensory materials for physical exploration	13. Fewer materials for sensory development
14. Organized program for learning care of self and environment	14. Less Emphasis on self-care instruction
15. Child can work where he chooses, move around and talk at will (yet not disturb the work of others); group work is voluntary	15. Child usually assigned own chair: encouraged to participate, sit still and listen during group sessions
16. Organized program for parents to understand the Montessori philosophy and participate in the learning process	16. Voluntary parent involvement