

Comparison of Montessori to the Traditional Classroom

Montessori children are unusually adaptable. They have learned to work independently and in groups. These children tend to be problem solvers who can make appropriate choices and manage their time well because they've been encouraged to make decisions from an early age. Since they have been encouraged to exchange ideas and discuss their work freely with others, their communication skills ease their way in new settings.

<u>Montessori</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
Child centered-curriculum is based on the child's progress. Children are on different academic levels. Very few large group lessons.	Teacher directed-children are basically on the same level, with the teacher using large groups for instruction.
Mixed-age classes.	Single-age classes.
Children remain with the same teacher for multiple years	Children have a different teacher each year
Materials and lessons are taught moving from concrete to abstract. using manipulatives. Once the concept is understood, the child moves to abstract applications.	Very few concrete applications in the upper grades.
Children are free to move and speak with each other as long as they follow the underlying class rules.	Children's movement is usually restricted. Sometimes children have assigned seats.
Emphasis is placed on respect for themselves, others, and classroom environment. Grace and courtesy lessons are used to actually teach the rules.	Class rules are usually developed with the class.
Parents are encouraged to volunteer as an active participant in the classroom.	Parents usually volunteer in PTA or fundraising activities outside of the classroom, or field trips.