



Differences Between Montessori and Traditional Classrooms

Montessori

1. Child Centered classroom.
2. Small Teacher-child ratio.
3. Teacher is a “facilitator”.
4. Environment and method encourage self discipline.
5. Mainly individual instruction.
6. Mixed age grouping
7. Grouping encourages children to teach and help each other.
8. Child chooses own work with teacher guidance within prepared environment.
9. Child discovers own concepts and is gently guided by teacher.
10. Child works as long as he/she chooses on a specific project.
11. Child sets own learning pace and develops the ability to budget own time.
12. Child spots own error from feedback of material.
13. Child reinforces own learning by repetition of work and internal feelings of success.
14. Multi-sensory materials for sensory exploration.
15. Organized program for learning care of self and environment.
16. Group work can be voluntary.

Traditional

1. Teacher-centered classroom.
2. Large teacher-pupil ratio.
3. Teacher is center of class as “controller”.
4. Teacher acts as primary enforcer of discipline.
5. Mainly group instruction.
6. Same age grouping.
7. Most teaching done by teacher.
8. Curriculum structured for child.
9. Teacher is source of concept discovery.
10. Child generally allotted certain time for work.
11. Instruction pace is usually set by group norm.
12. If work is corrected, errors usually pointed out by the teacher.
13. Learning is reinforced externally by repetition.
14. Few material for sensory exploration; emphasis on worksheets.
15. No organized program for self-care instruction which is left primarily to parents.
16. Child usually assigned own chair and required to participate, sit still and listen to group lessons.