



Montessori vs. Mainstream

An Educational Comparison

Montessori

Based on helping the natural development of the human being.

Children learn at their own pace and follow their own individual interests.

Children teach themselves using materials specially prepared for that purpose.

Understanding comes through the child's own experiences via the materials and the promotion of children's ability to find things out for themselves.

Learning is based on the fact that physical exploration and cognition are linked.

The teacher works in collaboration with the children.

The child's individual development brings its own reward and therefore motivation.

Uninterrupted work cycles.

Multi-age classrooms.

Working and learning matched to the social development of the child.

Mainstream

Based on the transfer of a national curriculum.

Children learn from a set curriculum according to a time frame that is the same for everyone.

Children are taught by the teacher.

Learning is based on subjects and is limited to what is given.

Children sit at desks and learn from a whiteboard and worksheets.

The class is teacher led.

Motivation is achieved by a system of rewards and punishments.

Block time, period lessons.

Single-graded classrooms.

Working and learning without emphasis on social development.