

Montessori Method vs. Traditional Child Care.

Montessori	Traditional Childcare
Emphasis on cognitive skills and individual social development	Emphasis on rote knowledge and child's social development in group settings
Teacher has an inconspicuous role in classroom activity; child is an active participant in learning	Teacher has a dominant role in classroom activity; child is a passive participant in learning
Classroom environment and teaching method encourage internal self-discipline	Teacher is primary enforcer of external discipline, often through rewards/discouragements
Teaching style adapts to each child's learning style; teaching is generally individual	Teacher often uses same teaching style for all children; teaching is generally in a large group
Mixed age grouping	Same age grouping
Children are encouraged to teach others, work together, and to help each other	Most teaching is done by the teacher and there are few opportunities for peer collaboration
Child chooses own lessons and activities based on interests and abilities	Set curriculum for whole class with little regard to individual child's interests and abilities
Child works as long as she/he needs to or wants to on chosen project	Set teaching schedule creates time restrictions for child's work
Child sets own learning pace to internalize information in a natural way	Teaching pace is generally set by the class norm or by the teacher
Child reinforces own learning through repetition of activities and feelings of self-motivated success	Teacher externally reinforces learning through instructed repetition of lessons and activities
Classroom set-up and activities naturally encourage child to take care of self and environment (washing dishes, trimming plants, wiping spills etc.)	Little emphasis on taking care of self and environment