

Comparison of Montessori and Traditional Education

Characteristics of Montessori Education

1. Active Individualized Learning through stimulating, multi-sensory teaching materials.
2. Ungraded Class is a natural social environment that includes a wide range of ages and fosters self-motivation. Students enjoy working for their own sense of accomplishment.
3. Freedom of Choice involves decision making. Student selects work according to individual interest.
4. Working at One's own pace enables students to work for long periods without interruption. Each individual works at this potential independent of the class.
5. Integral Education balances academic work with freedom of movement and harmony is created between physical, social and mental activities. There is an interrelationship between subjects.
6. Independence is fostered by a classroom that is specifically designed to encourage maximum.
7. Self-Evaluation occurs as students learn to evaluate their work objectively through the use of self-correcting teaching materials and individual work with the teacher.
8. Reality Oriented Education maintains concrete, first-hand experience is the basis for abstraction.
9. Close Student-Teacher Interaction enables complete and precise evaluation of student's progress, both academically and psychologically.

Characteristics of Traditional Education

1. Passive Class Learning through teacher-centered class lessons, paperwork.
2. Chronological Grouping necessitates external rewards such as grades, competition and social conformity.
3. Class Curriculum demands that students cover the same work at the same time with no regard to individual interest.
4. Group Learning involves each academic subject being scheduled for a limited period. Each student is directly affected by the progress of the whole class.
5. Fragmented Education provides academic subjects that are not interrelated. Periods of intense mental effort are alternated with periods of vigorous physical activity to release tension.
6. Dependence is promoted since the activities are initiated by the teacher.
7. Class comparison occurs as work is evaluated and graded by the teacher. Students evaluate themselves against the group as best and worst in the class.
8. Abstract Education has students learning through mechanical memorization.
9. Class Oriented Teaching prevents close interaction between individual students and teacher. Standardized tests are necessary to determine student's progress.