

Comparison of traditional and Montessori Classrooms

Traditional Classroom

- Textbooks and worksheets
- Individual Subjects; taught in isolation
- Short subject periods and block time
- Single-age groupings
- Strongly favors verbal mode of learning
- Curriculum is independent of individual development levels.
- Product-focus assessment

Montessori Environment

- Multisensory, manipulative materials, designed to be self-correcting
- Integration of language, sciences, arts, geography and history
- Uninterrupted work cycles
- Multi-age groupings
- Balances verbal and non-verbal modes of learning; accommodates a variety of learning styles
- Working and learning is matched to each child's academic and social development level
- Process-focused assessment; skills checklist; mastery benchmarks