

COMPARISON BETWEEN MONTESSORI AND TRADITIONAL KINDERGARTENS

The goal of both Montessori and traditional kindergartens is the same: to provide learning experiences for the child. The biggest difference is the kind of learning experience each school provides and the methods they use to accomplish this goal.

We at Early World Montessori believe the kind of learning a child receives during the kindergarten year will help shape the educational experiences of his/her future. These experiences will determine attitudes toward learning and set the foundations for success or failure in school. Listed below are some differences between Montessori and traditional kindergarten.

Montessori

Traditional

Mixed age grouping. Children develop leadership, patience, tolerance and self-confidence from working with younger children, thereby enhancing self-esteem.	Same age grouping.
Cognitive development emphasized	Social development emphasized
Child allowed to work on projects for as long as he/she wishes; learning is uninterrupted.	Child generally works for an allotted time period.
Individual sets instructional pace.	Group sets instructional pace.
Multi-sensory materials are plentiful for physical exploration	Few materials for sensory development.
Children can move and work throughout entire room.	Child assigned to specific chair.
Work is voluntary.	Children are required to listen and sit still during lessons.
Child-Teacher ratio = 10:1	Child-Teacher ratio = 25:1
Child chooses own work.	Work assigned by teacher as curriculum is structured.
Child is led towards self-discovery of concepts through use of materials	Child is guided to concepts by teacher.
Teacher is unobtrusive in classroom; role is to guide and support child.	Teacher is the center of the classroom.
Environment and method encourage self-discipline.	Teacher is the enforcer of discipline.
Rewards are intrinsic through success as child spots their own errors.	Rewards are often extrinsic and errors are usually pointed out by the teacher.
Individual and small group instruction.	Whole group instruction.
Wide range of materials is used for a wide range of interests and capabilities.	Narrow range of materials is available as material capabilities are designed for the "average" skill capacity.