



Comparison of Educational Methods

Montessori Educational Method

Emphasis is on cognitive, social, emotional and moral development

Teacher prepares environment with specific materials and guides the children as they learn

Emphasizes inner discipline

Mainly individual instruction to meet each child's individual needs

Mixed age grouping – promotes individual learning without pressure

Peer teaching and role modeling is a primary focus

Curriculum is structured for each child

Child internalizes concepts through exploration of educational materials

Learning is self-paced, and the child usually continues with an activity for an extended time

Child determines own learning pace

Child identifies own errors through observation

Multi sensory learning materials based on Dr. Maria Montessori's designs

Classroom activities referred to as the "children's work"

Teacher gathers information about each child's developmental levels through careful observation and note taking and presents materials according to the needs of the child

Traditional Educational Method

Emphasis is on cognitive and social development

Attention is focused on teacher instruction and presentation of materials

Teacher is primary enforcer of discipline

Mainly group instruction with some individual instruction

Same age grouping – may encourage comparison and competition

Most teaching is done by the teacher

Curriculum is structured for the whole class

Child is taught concepts by the teacher

Child is generally allotted a specific instructional time

Group determines learning pace

Teacher identifies errors

Hands-on materials are typically toys

Classroom activities referred to as "play"

Teacher plans age appropriate activities for the class and all participate at same level