



The Montessori Difference

Traditional Education	Montessori Education
Children are grouped chronologically, one age per class.	Non-graded (two or three year age span). This allows younger children to learn from older children and older children to serve as role models in the class, giving a sense of responsibility and pride in helping others.
Children move from one grade to the next, with a new teacher each year.	Children remain with the same teacher for up to three years; with the same group of children to build a sense of community. Builds home school partnership as teacher and family get to know one another over a long period of time.
The class is seated at desks for most of the time for group lessons.	Students work at tables, on floor: freedom of movement. The children are in direct contact with environment - i.e. natural, sensory, and cultural experiences. They work individually or in small groups.
Relatively frequent interruptions: bells, adult interventions.	Relatively few interruptions. Long blocks of time allow for concentration on tasks they are interested in and engaged with.
The class, as a group, studies one subject at a time with class schedules that limit the child's involvement = pre-determined lesson plans	Children pursue their own self-paced curriculum, individually or in small groups, in various parts of the learning environment.
Often teaching to/or for a test (MCAS, etc.), with many memorized facts.	Learning <i>how to learn</i> for the sake of learning; good to ask questions, explore and experiment.
Teacher corrects pupil's errors.	Children learn from their peers and self-correcting materials. The teacher's role is a guide.