

Comparison of Montessori and Traditional Education

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. Students select their work according to individual interests.
4. Working at One’s Own Pace enables students to work for long periods without interruption. Each individual works at his 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 inter-relationship between subjects.
6. Independence is fostered by a classroom that is specifically designed to encourage maximum development.
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 as the basis for abstraction.
9. Close Student-Teacher Interaction enables complete and precise evaluation of student’s progress, academically and psychologically.

Traditional Education

1. Passive Class Learning through teacher-centered class lessons, paper work.
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 interests.
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 inter-related. Periods of intense mental effort are alternated with periods of vigorous physical activity to release tension.
6. Dependency 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. .