

A Comparison of Montessori and Traditional Education

Characteristics of 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. Student selects work according to individual interest.
- 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 interrelationship between subjects.
- 6) **Independence** is fostered by a classroom that is specifically designed to encourage maximum learning.
- 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 is the basis for abstraction.
- 9) **Close Student-Teacher Interaction** enables complete and precise evaluation of student's progress, both academically and psychologically.

Characteristics of Traditional Education

- 1) **Passive Class Learning** through teacher-centered class lessons and paper work.
- 2) **Chronological Grouping** necessitates external rewards such as grades, competition, and social conformity.
- 3) **Class Curriculum** demands that the students cover the same work at the same time, at the same pace 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 interrelated. Periods of intense mental effort are alternated with periods of vigorous physical activity to release tension.
- 6) **Dependency** is promoted since the activities are teacher initiated.
- 7) **Class Comparison** occurs as work is evaluated graded by the teacher. Students evaluate themselves against the group as best and worse in the class.
- 8) **Abstract Education** has students learning through mechanical memorization.
- 9) **Class Oriented Teaching** prevents close interaction between individual students and teacher. Standardized tests are necessary to determine student's progress.