

MONTESSORI VS. TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

CRITERIA	MONTESSORI	TRADITIONAL
ROLE OF TEACHER	Teacher is not the main focus of the classroom; child is an active participant in learning	Teacher has dominant role in the classroom setting; child is a passive participant in learning
LEARNING METHOD	A discovery model of learning where students learn concepts from working with materials	Learn only from instruction and hand-outs, leaving little room for discovery
CURRICULUM	Structured for each individual child and their unique learning methods	Structured for whole class, every child is expected to keep up
TIME LIMITS FOR COMPLETED WORK	Child works until project is complete; three hour blocks of uninterrupted work time	Specific time limits for work, set schedules for each subject
DISCIPLINE	Method and environment encourage self-discipline, creating intrinsically motivated learners	Teacher is primary enforcer of external discipline
SCHOOL CULTURE	School meets the needs of the individual children	Children fit mold of the school
STUDENT INTERACTION	Emphasis on collaboration and role-modeling; children learn from each other	Emphasis on competition