

# The Montessori Philosophy

<b>Montessori</b>	<b>Traditional</b>
Start school early (2-3)	Start school late (5-6)
Multi-age classroom	Single-age classroom
Freedom to move around room	Seated at desks
Family atmosphere	Little socialization
Individual lessons and small group lessons	Large group lessons
Learn by using all five senses	Learn by listening, watching, reading
Long, free work periods	Planned activities
Enhanced curriculum	Grade-level curriculum
Student progress and mastery of concepts	Peer comparisons as test
Observation-based progress report	Graded report cards
Progress at individual rate	Annual promotion
Natural & logical consequences	Rewards & punishments
Peace in education	Punishment
Emphasis on learning	Emphasis on grades
Emphasis on individuality	Emphasis on conformity
Freedom within limits	Controlling environment
Child-centered schedule & environment	Teacher-centered schedule and environment

<b>Child Centered Environment</b>	<b>Teacher-Centered Environment</b>
Children complete work	Children interrupted by teacher or end of period
Children learn by doing	Teacher lectures
Self-correcting materials	Teacher as source of answers
Children choose their materials	Teacher chooses curriculum
Children set own pace	Teacher sets pace for the entire class
Children work out of joy and curiosity	Teacher tells children to work
Self-motivation	Teacher motivates children
Children stimulated by curiosity and love of learning	Teacher stimulates children to learn
Children free to work independently	Teacher guides children
Children help each other	Teacher helps children
Emphasis on self-control and self-discipline	Teacher as disciplinarian