



Montessori vs. Mainstream

An Educational Comparison

Montessori

Mainstream

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| Based on helping the natural development of the human being. | Based on the transfer of a national curriculum. |
| Children learn at their own pace and follow their own individual interests. | Children learn from a set curriculum according to a time frame that is the same for everyone. |
| Children teach themselves using materials specially prepared for that purpose. | Children are taught by the teacher. |
| Understanding comes through the child's own experiences via the materials and the promotion of children's ability to find things out for themselves. | Learning is based on subjects and is limited to what is given. |
| Learning is based on the fact that physical exploration and cognition are linked. | Children sit at desks and learn from a whiteboard and worksheets. |
| The teacher works in collaboration with the children. | The class is teacher led. |
| The child's individual development brings its own reward and therefore motivation. | Motivation is achieved by a system of rewards and punishments. |
| Uninterrupted work cycles. | Block time, period lessons. |
| Multi-age classrooms. | Single-graded classrooms. |
| Working and learning matched to the social development of the child. | Working and learning without emphasis on social development. |