



# Montessori vs. Mainstream

## An Educational Comparison

### Montessori

### Mainstream

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.