

A Montessori program is based on self-direction, non-competitive and cooperative activities that help a child develop a strong self-image, high levels of academic and social competence, and the confidence to face challenges with optimism. Encouraged to make decisions from an early age, Montessori educated children are problem solvers who can make appropriate choices, manage their time, and work well with others. They exchange ideas and discuss work freely. These positive communication skills build the foundations for negotiating new settings.

<b>Montessori</b>	<b>Traditional Daycare and Preschool</b>
Emphasis on Cognitive and Social Development	Emphasis on Rote Learning and Social Behavior
Teacher has guiding role	Teacher controls classroom
Environment and method encourage self-discipline	Teacher acts as primary enforcer of discipline
Mainly individual instruction	Mainly group instruction
Mixed age groups	Same age groups
Grouping encourages children to teach and collaborate	Teaching is done by teacher; collaboration is discouraged
Child chooses own work	Curriculum structured for child
Child discovers own concepts from self-teaching materials	Child is guided to concepts by teacher
Child is allocated time to work on and complete lesson	Child generally allotted specific time for work
Child sets own learning pace	Instruction pace set by group
Child spots own errors from feedback of material	Errors in child's work highlighted by teacher
Child reinforces own learning by repetition of work and internal feelings of success	Learning is reinforced externally by repetition, rewards and punishment
Child can work where he chooses, move about and talk at will (yet not disturb work of others), group work voluntary	Child usually assigned seat; required to participate during group lessons
Multi-sensory materials for physical exploration organizes program for learning care of self and environment	No organized program for self-care instruction - left primarily up to parents