



MEDIA BRIEFING

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Differences between Montessori and Mainstream Education

Montessori Education	Mainstream Education
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 interest	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 the 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 reward and punishment
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