Traditional Learning

FOCUS is on the Class
TEACHER is a Controller
Emphasis on rote learning
Product-oriented
Most learning done in large groups, lecture style
Single grade & age grouping leads to vying for class position, direct competition
Majority of learning is lecture-driven
Class taught to the average child which bores the bright child and frustrates the child who is having problems understanding a concept
Textbooks, pencil and paper, worksheets, dittos
Individual subjects
Block time periods
Passive learning environment where students are quietly sitting at desks
Motivating factor for learning is competition

Montessori Learning

FOCUS is on the Child
TEACHER is a Mentor
Cognitive learning at the appropriate developmental stage
Process-oriented
Students can work alone, with another or in small groups
Classes encompass 3 year age range which promotes sense of community, peer learning
Hands-on learning involves all the senses
Lessons are individualized for each child which allows the child to advance at his/her own pace
Multi-sensory manipulative materials that lead from the concrete to the abstract
Integrated, interdisciplinary subjects
Uninterrupted work cycles (2-3 hours)
Vibrant learning environment with students talking, freely moving about with periods of spontaneous quiet
Motivating factor of learning is collaboration and working as a team - each helping the other while striving to do one's personal best!