

Implementation in Montessori Education: An Overview of Research

Carolyn Daoust, Ph.D.
Saint Mary's College of California



The Problem:

What is consistently described as the Montessori method in writings about the approach is often inconsistently found in actual Montessori classrooms.



Previous Research:

Interviewed 66 Montessori ECE Teachers about:

- 1. Their Classroom Practices
- 2. Circumstances Impacting these



Results

The Method had been Implemented in 4 Ways

Cluster One: 12 Teachers

Mixed-age Grouping: 3 yr span

Work Period: 2 hr 34 min.

Whole Group Lessons: 3% of time

Montessori Materials: 91%

Choice: snack, work, lessons,

combine mat., circle*,

material use*

Limited choice: explore mat., work tog.

Cluster One: 12 Teachers

"Traditional"

Mixed-age Grouping: 3 yr span

Work Period: 2 hr 34 min.

Whole Group Lessons: 3% of time

Montessori Materials: 91%

Choice: snack, work, lessons,

combine mat., circle*,

material use*

Limited choice: explore mat., work tog.

Cluster Two: 24 Teachers

Mixed-age Grouping: 2-3 age levels

Work Period: 1 hr 29 min.

Whole Group Lessons: 19% of time

Montessori Materials: 87%

Choice: snack, work, lessons,

combine mat., material

use*, explore mat., work

together*

Cluster Two: 24 Teachers

"Contemporary"

Mixed-age Grouping: 2-3 age levels

Work Period: 1 hr 29 min.

Whole Group Lessons: 19% of time

Montessori Materials: 87%

Choice: snack, work, lessons,

combine mat., material

use*, explore mat., work

together*

Cluster Three: 27 Teachers

Mixed-age Grouping: 2+ age levels

Work Period: 1 hr 14 min.

Whole Group Lessons: 64% of time

Montessori Materials: 85%

Choice: lessons, material use,

explore mat., combine

mat.*, work together*,

snack*, work*

Cluster Three: 27 Teachers

"Blended"

Mixed-age Grouping: 2+ age levels

Work Period: 1 hr 14 min.

Whole Group Lessons: 64% of time

Montessori Materials: 85%

Choice: lessons, material use,

explore mat., combine

mat.*, work together*,

snack*, work*

Cluster Four: 3 Teachers

Mixed-age Grouping: 3 yr age levels

Work Period: 1 hr 12 min.

Whole Group Lessons: 28% of time

Montessori Materials: 23%

Choice: lessons, material use,

explore mat., combine

mat., work, snack*, work

together*, circle*

Cluster Four: 3 Teachers

"Explorative"

Mixed-age Grouping: 3 yr age levels

Work Period: 1 hr 12 min.

Whole Group Lessons: 28% of time

Montessori Materials: 23%

Choice: lessons, material use,

explore mat., combine

mat., work, snack*, work

together*, circle*



Summaries and Percentages

Cluster Analysis Variables	C1 Traditional (n12)	C2 Contemporary (n24)	C 3 Blended (n27)	C4 Explorative (n3)
Mixed-Age Grouping	3 age levels	2-3 age levels	2+ age levels	3 age levels
Work Period Length	2 hr 34 min	1 hr 29 min	1 hr 14 min	1 hr 12 min
Whole Gr. Lessons	3 %	19%	64%	28%
Montessori Material	91 %	87%	85%	23%



Current Study:

Will Survey Montessori Public School Elementary Teachers about:

- 1. Their Classroom Practices
- 2. Circumstances Impacting these



Current Study:

Will Look For:

- 1. Subgroups and their Characteristics
- 2. Factors Impacting Implementation
- 3. Comparisons Between Programs



Current Study:

Timeline

- 1. Piloting: Early December
- 2. Survey Up, Letters to Schools: January
- 3. Preliminary Analysis: March, report at the AMS 2010 Conference



Future Research:

 Use findings from both studies to create an "Authenticity" assessment



Future Research:

- Use findings from both studies to create an "Authenticity" assessment
- Enable researchers to determine the authenticity of Montessori environments



Future Research:

- Use findings from both studies to create an "Authenticity" assessment
- Enable researchers to determine the authenticity of Montessori environments
- Use to:
 - Compare types of Montessori education
 - Establish authenticity in outcome studies

