



Montessori School of Silicon Valley



Public (Common Core) vs Montessori Kindergarten

A Head-to-Head Comparison



Public vs MSOSV Montessori Kindergarten

Head-to-Head Comparison



Summary Overview

- Most families are aware of free Common Core kindergarten programs offered by public schools across the country, and frequently ask “What are the benefits of Montessori kindergarten over public kindergarten programs?”.
- Although many children now start with transitional kindergarten before entering into kindergarten, the public kindergarten programs begin with the introduction of the basic concepts, like learning one “letter” of the alphabet per week. This is done with worksheets and coloring.
- While all children will benefit from Montessori Kindergarten programs, those children enter the “3rd year” of Montessori will realize accelerated benefits from the previous 2 years of Montessori experience – far outpacing the benefit of children entering the public-school kindergarten (or TK program) for the first time, regardless of what kind of pre-school experience the child has.
- The students beginning the MSOSV kindergarten program have generally reached the milestones and benchmarks for completion of public kindergarten **before** entering the kindergarten year.
- To highlight the differences and similarities between public kindergarten and MSOSV kindergarten, we have prepared a side-by-side comparison of the developmental milestones and benchmarks.
- This comparison is provided in both a quick at-a-glance summary matrix followed by more detailed, in-depth side-by-side comparisons by subject area for those who concerned with details of their child's Kinder program options.



Public vs MSOSV Montessori Kindergarten

Overall Summary



MSOSV Kindergarten (3rd Year)	Public Kindergarten (Common Core)
Flexible curriculum	Rigid curriculum
Allows the individual child to learn at their own pace	Progresses at the teacher's pace
Reality oriented	Role-play and fantasy oriented
Specific plans for materials – sense of order	Random placement of material – no specific place
Child chooses activities according to own needs and interests	Teacher decides what the child has to learn
Learning environment is centered on the child	Learning environment is centered on the teacher (adults)
Self-education thru self-correcting materials	Use of reward and punishment in motivation
Recognition of the sensitive periods in each child	All children are treated alike
Employs Multi-sensory materials to develop specific skills	Employs play materials for non-specific skills
Liberty to speak (without disturbing others) as she/he pleases	Silence is frequently enforced
Focus on developing the child's wholesome personality	Focus on imparting maximum quantum of knowledge



Public vs MSOSV Montessori Kindergarten

English/Language Arts



MSOSV Kindergarten (3rd Year)

Reading

- Students read sight words, phonetic words of any length, understand consonant and vowel diagraphs

Writing

- Write original and paraphrased sentences that include a subject and a predicate with inventive spelling, demonstrating knowledge of letter sounds, proper spacing.
- Students in the MSOSV naturally begin to use cursive writing, creating paragraphs with proper indenting, punctuation, and legible writing.

Literary Response and Analysis

- MSOSV kindergarten students are able to discuss stories read together including asking and answering questions.
- Students are able to recall key details of stories as well as ability to identify supporting details of an idea using appropriate vocabulary.

Public Kindergarten (Common Core)

Reading

- Students know about letters, words and sounds.
- Apply knowledge to read simple sentences.
- Students identify the basic facts and ideas in what they have read, heard or viewed.
- They use comprehension strategies to answer questions.

Writing

- Students write words and brief sentences that are legible.

Literary Response and Analysis

- Students listen and respond to stories based on well-known characters, themes, plots and settings
- Students speak in clear and coherent sentences.
- Students develop brief recitations and oral presentations.

Pulling it all together: All MSOSV Kindergarten students write and illustrate a narrative story, a wonderful family keepsake for the end of the school year.



Public vs MSOSV Montessori Kindergarten

Math



MSOSV Kindergarten (3rd Year)

- MSOSV Kindergarten students are able to demonstrate the concept of “zero”.
- Success with linear and skip counting from 1 – 9,999,999. (identifying verbally and writing)
- Performs addition, multiplication, division and subtraction with large numbers, writing and recording equation problems.
- Know geometric shape names and able to create patterns with different shapes
- Students can identify and understand the value of money, penny, nickel, dime, quarter, dollar bill.
- Able to solve binomial and trinomial cubes – introduction to algebra.

Public Kindergarten (Common Core)

- Students use objects (counters, connecting cubes, tiles to represent two quantities and compare them.
- Fluently add and subtract within 5.
- By the end of K, students understand small numbers, quantities, and simple shapes into their everyday environment.
- They count, compare, describe and sort objects.
- The students begin to develop a sense of properties and patterns.

STEAM

Elements of STEAM are introduced in the Montessori program with weekly math, science, and art subjects including the study of the impressionists as well as independent art through several different mediums. The STEAM program enables the Kindergarten students to develop the much-needed critical thinking skills which also contributes to one thinking for themselves.



Public vs MSOSV Montessori Kindergarten Science



MSOSV Kindergarten (3rd Year)

Cultural Studies – Cosmic Curriculum

- Students work with the Cosmic Curriculum which combines the Physical, Life and Earth science disciplines into one that includes the study of plants, animals, biomes without political borders such as weather, land and the animals that live there.
- Outcomes: MSOSV students are competent in classifying and identifying as well as writing about different habitats including the past, with dinosaurs and space with the stars and planets.
- MSOSV students understand the monthly and yearly calendar as well as where they live, they know their address in relation to the street city and planet.

Public Kindergarten (Common Core)

Physical

- Properties of materials can be observed, measured and predicted.

Life Sciences

- Different types of plants and animals inhabit the earth

Earth Sciences

- Earth is composed of land, air, and water

History and Social Science

- Students in K are introduced to basic and casual relationships emphasizing geographic and historical connections between the world today and the world long ago.



Public vs Montessori Kindergarten Student Experience



MSOSV Kindergarten (3rd Year)

Students learn at own pace

Students teach themselves and younger children

Based on natural development

Understanding through experiences

Students explore environment

Motivated by intrinsic reward and accomplishment

Uninterrupted work cycles

Multi-age classrooms

Learning matched to social development of student

Public Kindergarten (Common Core)

Students learn from a set curriculum

Students taught as a group with teacher

Based on standardized curriculum

Based on scheduled subject matter

Students assigned to a desk

Motivation based on rewards and punishment

Block time, period lessons

Single grade classrooms

Learning without emphasis on social development

New Meta Study: Montessori Education Leads to Positive Student Outcomes

