

國立教育廣播電台 英語奇育記

教育新聞中英對照參考

- 教育新聞中文摘要：

本集新聞將介紹美國公立學校 Latta Elementary School 希望能透過制度的轉變，讓學生有更好的學習品質！提到學校體制，蒙特梭利被視為其中一種著名指標，因為蒙特梭利學校的老師們不會像傳統學校的老師常運用講述法，而是在教室裡行走穿梭，觀察同學們分組進行各自學習進度並適時提供幫助，並讓每位學生擁有符合各自能力或步伐的學習計劃，因此 Latta Elementary School 便運用此制度革新，使學生用蒙特梭利式的教學，達到最佳的學習成效。

- 教育新聞英文摘錄：

Yuka: Today, our news is: A Public School Transitions to Montessori from Edutopia. In 2010, Latta Elementary School in South Carolina began transitioning from a traditional public school to a public Montessori school.

Sherry: I' m wondering is it common for a traditional school to transfer to a Montessori school?

Yuka: Actually, according to the news, such transitions are difficult.

Sherry: Then, why did the Latta Elementary School mean to do it? Couldn' t they just remain the same?

Yuka: John Kirby, the superintendent of the school district hopes to make learning more forward-looking and engaging for every child. He tasked district administrators with developing new schoolwide approaches to prepare their students to be successful.

Sherry: It sounds the school mean to transform their system spontaneously. Latta Elementary School 的校長希望能透過制度的轉變，讓學生有更好的學習品質！

Yuka: Yes! Actually, Latta Elementary School is in South Carolina. And South Carolina has the largest number of public Montessori schools in the U.S.

Sherry: Wow! It is a really good thing! Seems people there are aware of the education quality so much that lots of schools are eager to improve their teaching. By the way, what' s the difference between conventional school and Montessori school?

Yuka: Yeah, I' m going to explain it further. Start with their teaching philosophy. According to Aamada, a teacher in Latta Elementary School, "We are not just teaching them standards and content, but we' re trying to teach them how to be a person. They' re learning how to respect others. They' re learning to take care of themselves and their environment, not just two plus two."

Sherry: Does it mean they expect their students to care more about others instead of just focusing on themselves?

Yuka: That' s correct! Montessori schools emphasize student agency, cooperation, and self-directed learning. There are two main features of Montessori schools, one is mix-aged classroom and the other is individualized work plans.

Sherry: Let me guess about mix-aged classroom! Does it mean students from different grades would be mixed in a classroom and study together?

Yuka: That' s it. You can tell it from the words already. But would you like to guess the year range? 你要不要猜猜看學生大概幾歲到幾歲會被分在同一個班級？

Sherry: Is it three? I just guess it randomly. haha

Yuka: Well, you' re right! Schools are usually in classrooms with a three-year age range, 3 to 6 years old in one class; 6 to 9 years old in another and so on.

Sherry: I guess this way the older kids can really serve as those role models for the younger ones.

Yuka: Yeah. It allows older students to be leaders or mentors to help teach lessons while younger students have the experience of working with older classmates.

Sherry: The mixed-age classroom sounds great. But if students could teach and help each other, what should teachers do then?

Yuka: That's a good question! Teachers in Montessori don't stand at the front delivering the same information to 30 children while trying to keep all of them at the same page. Instead, the teacher would help students in a one-on-one setting or in small groups.

Sherry: 所以，蒙特梭利學校的老師們不會像傳統學校的老師總是站在講台前按本宣課，台下的同學拼命的抄筆記；而是，老師就在教室裡面走來走去，觀察同學們分組進行他們各自的學習進度並適時提供幫助，每一組別最年長的孩子就像是小老師，他帶領其他較為年幼的同學學習。

Yuka: Exactly! Montessori does all this with no grades, no tests, and no homework.

Sherry: Ohhhh! I'm so envious of it. I used to have tons of homework in my study years.

Yuka: Yeah, me too. Also, flexible classroom designs let students choose where they work and what they work on.

Sherry: You mean they don't even have their own assigned seats? They can decide wherever they'd like to go?

Yuka: That's what I mean about flexible classroom designs. In Montessori school, students have rugs that they work on. They have their lessons on that rug. As they get finished with the lesson, they can get up, they can go, and they can move.

Sherry: The rugs sound like their "portable" seats. By the way, how do students know what they need to learn or what mentors need to teach?

Yuka: Here comes to another feature of Montessori school, which is individualized work plan. Rather than whole class lessons, each student will have their own study lessons at a different pace. 另一個蒙特梭利學校的特色，就是每位學生擁有符合各自能力或步伐的「學習計劃」

Sherry: Then, how do teachers create the individualized works?

Yuka: Actually, teachers still instruct pretty much the same thing to all the students, but they aren't at the same pace. Individual child learns what they need to learn; some work together; some work individually; when they need help in any way, they'll let teachers know and they sit down and work together

Sherry: I guess this way, each student can fully engage in lessons and learn something new. They don't need to compare with others but just follow their pace and improve little by little.

Yuka: Also, it fosters each students' natural learning desire. Teachers would support students' learning needs.

Sherry: What do you mean by that?

Yuka: I'll tell you a real story to further explain. Here is an 8-year-old girl interested in long division after the teacher demonstrates some examples. One day, the teacher watched her create her own simple division problem, the calculations began to near the bottom of the page. The teacher quickly brought over more paper and some hours later when the girl decided she was done, there were so many sheets of paper taped to each other, from the ceiling to the floor.

Sherry: From the ceiling to the floor! I think children in Montessori can indeed follow their interests wherever that passion leads regardless what other kids in the class are working on.

Yuka: That's really true.

Sherry: Montessori teaching method seems totally different with conventional teaching. Did Latta Elementary School face any challenge while transitioning to Montessori school?

Yuka: Yes, of course they do. The school took five years to complete its transition. Some teachers confess that the transverse is tough for them for they have been in traditional school for almost 30 years.

Sherry: And it's difficult for them to move over to a complete different way of presenting lessons or setting up their classroom.

Yuka:對那些教書三四十年的資深教師來說，一下子要轉換他們熟悉已久的教學模式，甚至培養新的教學理念，實在是一件困難的事

Sherry: How about the outcome? I'm curious about if students change anyway.

Yuka: After the transition, the biggest impact is that their children become independent thinkers and very good problem-solvers.

Sherry: That' s wonderful! Under the circumstance, I believe students can definitely be more prepared and competent in the ever-changing society.

Yuka: Just like the superintendent of Latta Elementary School said, "Montessori is very much in tune to what' s going on in today' s world now: cooperative learning, helping your peers, learning at your own speed, being challenged. We are creating children who want to learn."

Sherry: That' s it. This is our news for today. Hope you enjoy it.