**Alternative Schools**

Alternative schools are different from traditional schools in many ways. They offer unique approaches to learning and cater to students who may thrive in non-traditional environments.

1. **Different Approaches**
   * Alternative schools use different methods of teaching compared to regular schools. Some focus on hands-on learning, while others find creativity or self-directed learning important
2. **Small Class Sizes**
   * Alternative schools often have smaller class sizes, which means students get more one-on-one attention from teachers. This helps them learn at their own pace and get the support they need.
3. **Personalized Learning**
   * In alternative schools, learning is often personalized to each student's interests and abilities. Teachers tailor lessons to meet individual needs, making learning more engaging and relevant.
4. **Focus on Creativity**
   * Alternative schools value creativity and encourage students to express themselves through art, music, and other creative outlets. They believe that creativity is just as important as academic subjects.
5. **Community Involvement**
   * Many alternative schools involve the community in learning. They may take field trips to local businesses, invite guest speakers, or work on projects that benefit the community.
6. **Freedom to Explore**
   * Alternative schools give students more freedom to explore topics that interest them. They may have fewer strict rules and regulations, allowing students to take more responsibility for their learning.
7. **Emphasis on Relationships**
   * Alternative schools want to build strong relationships between students and teachers. This creates a supportive and nurturing environment where students feel safe and respected.
8. **Conclusion**
   * Alternative schools offer unique opportunities for students to learn and grow in a non-traditional setting. They provide personalized learning, foster creativity, and prioritize relationships, helping students thrive in their educational journey.

A Few examples:

**Waldorf Schools (**International):

Waldorf Schools, also known as Steiner Schools, are based on the educational philosophy of Rudolf Steiner. They focus on holistic education, incorporating arts, music, and hands-on learning into the curriculum. Waldorf Schools can be found in many countries around the world.

**Montessori Schools** (International):

Montessori Schools follow the educational approach developed by Maria Montessori. They emphasize self-directed learning, hands-on exploration, and mixed-age classrooms. Montessori Schools are found in various countries and cater to children from preschool to elementary levels.

Mrs. Kolesová materials:

Alternative schools

***Alternative education****, also known as non-traditional education, describes* ***a number of approaches to teaching and learning other than traditional*** *publicly run or privately run* ***schools***. These approaches can be applied to all students of all ages, from infancy to adulthood, and all levels of education.

While *some have strong political or philosophical orientations*, others can be used by *teachers and students dissatisfied with certain aspects of mainstream* *education*. (1)

In 1896, *John Dewey* started an experimental school called Laboratory School at **the University of Chicago** to test ideas and teach children. In the Laboratory School Dewey and others created a community in which, they “were all on a piece of research together.” They tried to discover *how a school could become a cooperating community while developing in individuals their own capacities and satisfying their own needs*. (In fact, this is a central question for a democracy too.) (2)

*Educational alternatives*, *vary widely, but emphasize the value of small class size, close relationships between students and teachers, and a sense of community*.

Other words used in place of *“alternative“* by many educational professionals include *non-traditional, non-conventional, or non-standardized*, although these terms are used less frequently. (1)

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**Overview - přehled**

The founders of progressive education John Dewey and Francis Parker, and educational pioneers such as Maria Montessori and Rudolf Steiner (founder of the Waldorf schools) - *all insisted that education should be understood as the art of cultivating the moral, emotional, physical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of the developing child.*

The quality that distinguishes educational *alternatives* from traditional education is their *diversity/rozmanitost/*. Traditional schools are similar/podobné/ in many aspects/po mnoha stránkách/ to one another. However, each educational *alternative* tries to create and keep *its own methods and approaches* to *learning and teaching*.

*One aspect that distinguishes educational alternatives from each other is the curriculum* [kəˈrɪkjʊləm]*/učební plán/*. *Across these alternatives, we find that traditional subjects such as reading, writing, and mathematics are not always taught/vyučovány/ separately but they are integrated into the overall learning experience/zkušenost/.* *Other subjects like environmental education, ecology, or spirituality, which usually do not exist in more traditional school curricula, follow from the interests of learners and teachers.* *(1)*

# Montessori Method

The Montessori Method is both a *methodology and educational philosophy*. It was originally developed in the early 1900s by Dr. Maria Montessori as a way to educate poor or mentally handicapped children in her native Italy.

The main motto of Montessori's pedagogy is the statement: "Help me to do it myself." Most of Montessori schools are preschool or elementary schools. (3)

# Waldorf Education

It is based on the *educational philosophy of Rudolf Steiner*. Waldorf schools try to achieve a balance of practical activities, arts and academic work. He starts from the *practical activities* (especially in early childhood) to the *academic work* later.

Waldorf education is practiced in more than 900 private Waldorf schools located in about sixty different countries throughout the world.

# Dalton Plan

The Dalton Plan is an educational concept created by Helen Parkhurst. It is inspired by thinkers such as Maria Montessori and John Dewey. Helen Parkhurst wanted to achieve a *balance between each child's talents and the needs of the community.*

The Dalton Plan takes its name from an early trying of the system at the High School of Dalton, Massachusetts, USA in 1920. (5)

# Forest Schools

*Forest schools* are a type of outdoor education in which children visit forests/woodlands, learning personal, social and technical skills. They develop confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment".

They feel the role of trees in society, the complex ecosystem and recognize plants and animals.

However, the personal skills are important, such as teamwork and problem solving. (6)

Vocabulary

approach [əˈprəʊtʃ] přístup

infancy [ˈɪnfənsɪ] rané dětství

level of education - úroveň vzdělání

childhood - dětství

adulthood - dospělost

philosophical [ˌfɪləˈsɒfɪkəl] filozofický

dissatisfied with – nespokojený s čím

certain aspects [ˈæspekt] určité stránky, ohledy

mainstream education [ˈmeɪnˌstriːm]hlavní proud vzdělání

create a community [kriːˈeɪt] vytvořit společnost

satisfy own needs [ˈsætɪsˌfaɪ] uspokojit vlastní potřeby

research [rɪˈsɜːtʃ] výzkum

curriculum [kəˈrɪkjʊləm] učební plan, *pl.curricula*

alternative education [ɔːlˈtɜːnətɪv] jiné/náhradní vzdělání

mentally handicapped [ˈhændɪˌkæpt] mentálně postižený

overview [ˈəʊvəˌvjuː] přehled

diversity [daɪˈvɜːsɪtɪ] rozmanitost

publicly [ˈpʌblɪklɪ] veřejně, z veřejných prostředků

hands-on learning - praktické učení

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