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| **Traditional Classroom** | **Early childhood Environment** |
| Textbooks, pencil and paper, worksheets and dittos | Easily accessible, prepared learning activities which engage children and teach specific skills.  |
| Working and learning independently | Working and learning both independently and in small groups Strong emphasis on social skills  |
| Teacher lead instruction | Child lead instruction |
| Individual subjects | Holistic learning including all aspects of a child’s development |
| Block time, period lessons | Uninterrupted work times  |
| Single-graded classrooms | Multi-age group |
| Students passive, quiet, in desk or at tables  | Child directed work , including activity, talking, with periods of spontaneous quiet, freedom to move, engaged children working on the floor or a table  |
| Bright, institutional, visually busy classroom | warm nurturing environment, soft furniture, rugs, naturally soothing environment,  |
| Large group | Small group |
| Product-focused report cards | Process-focused assessment, skills checklists, mastery benchmarks |