Getting Involved in Montessori Research

Participants

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MontessoriLife

Wilmington Montessori School

Educational Research Categorized as Quantitative or Qualitative

Quantitative Research

- The collection and analysis of **numerical** data to describe, explain or predict phenomena
  - Survey
  - Correlation
  - Experimental research
  - Database analysis

Qualitative Research

- The collection, analysis and interpretation of **narrative** and **visual** (non-numerical) data
  - Ethnography
  - Case-study research
  - In-depth interviews

Example

QUANTITATIVE	QUALITATIVE
Are there differences in the number of times adolescent girls and boys ask/answer questions in a Montessori environment?	What are the social experiences of adolescent girls and boys in a Montessori environment?

Mixed Method Research

Quantitative and Qualitative Data is collected and analyzed.

A Ray of Light: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Understanding Why Parents Choose Montessori Education
(Emily Zarybnisky, 2010 Dissertation)

Zarybnisky Dissertation

- "Comparisons were made between public and private Montessori parents to explore the overarching themes and to determine differences that existed between the two types of parents."
- Quantitative Data – Written surveys analyzed statistically
- Qualitative Data – Interviews analyzed by coding themes

Zarybnisky Dissertation

Results indicated:

"Public and private Montessori school parents valued similar factors and characteristics with a few significant differences."

"Public Montessori parents valued diversity and free tuition while private Montessori parents placed higher value on academic programming."

AMS Research Mini-Grants

- To encourage research bringing fresh insights to the practice, theory, history or effectiveness of Montessori education.
- The Mini-Grants include two categories:
  - Funding research studies related to Montessori education
  - Providing support for the presentation of Montessori research at conferences, with a priority given to presentations at non-Montessori conferences.
- Range from $200 to 2,000, contingent on available AMS research funds and scope of proposals received.

MRX/AMS Research Collaboration

- Montessori Records Xpress – Online record keeping system for Montessori teachers
  - Over 400 schools and 1,400 classrooms
- Pilot program with Early Childhood classrooms to understand complexity of Montessori education implementation
- For more information, visit… https://www.montessorirx.com/research.html