



## Health Connections

## Teaching Styles

One teaching style that utilizes the theory of andragogy is the Montessori method of teaching. This teaching style encourages children to direct themselves in learning and play activities instead of the teacher leading them through activities. Children can explore their own interests through the five senses and can learn to guide themselves at their own pace. This andragogy style of teaching differs from the pedagogy style of teaching because the Montessori teacher is less direct in instruction.

Montessori teachers prepare the environment around the children and supply activities that are both self-directing and self-correcting. Children are

placed in classrooms by three-year age groups. These classrooms foster social interaction, in which the older students can help explain what they have learned to younger students. This also reinforces the older children's learnings. From exposure to watching older students, the younger students can direct their own activities to test, recreate, and gain experiences.

### Speaking Activity

Compare the pedagogy teaching style to the andragogy teaching style. With a partner, debate the pros and cons of each teaching style.



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**1-11** Independent learning can mean reading about developments in your area of interest.

Some people believe that development is self-directed from the earliest stages of infancy. This is termed **andragogy**. Proponents of andragogy believe that a child interacts with his or her environment very early in life, directing learning as growth and change occurs.

Which is correct? Probably a combination of both pedagogy and andragogy is an accurate assessment. Young babies and children direct much of their learning as they explore their world. Parents and caregivers provide stimulating experiences that promote learning. As people mature, they become more independent and self-motivated, **1-11**. Learning environments appropriately change from teacher-directed instruction of pedagogy to self-directed instruction. Andragogy utilizes experiences and maturing social roles of the learner. Guidance and mentoring can be used. For example, as a teen takes on more responsibility by babysitting children, the teen learns what works and does not work in keeping the children safe and entertained. The children's parents may leave instructions, but the teen learns the responsibilities of the job through self-directed learning.