

# How Multiage Benefits Students

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## **Instruction is geared toward individual student needs.**

Children have many developmental levels and learn in many different ways. In a multiage class, the child learns on his/her own developmental timeline.

## **Children spend 2-3 years with the same teacher.**

This enables the student to build a secure relationship with the teacher and allows the teacher to get to know the child, therefore improving the quality of his/her education.

## **The child is a member of the multiage family unit.**

In a multiage classroom, community is the emphasis. The closer the community atmosphere is, the more secure the children feel. This often results in improved quality of performance.

## **Respect for individual differences is respected.**

In a multiage class, the teacher understands that each child is unique and has a unique way of learning. The class understands this as well. The result is a non-threatening, non-competitive atmosphere.

## **Flexible grouping.**

Because learning is based on the individual, there is no need to group, classify and organize children. Student learning and playgroups are fluid and heterogeneous. Students are constantly working and playing with different peers based on interest. Ability and age grouping is not the focus. There is never a need to hold a child back or rush him/her into the next group simply because of his/her birthday.

## **Cross-age learning is experienced.**

Students learn to help one another. This is not a requirement in a multiage class, it just happens naturally. Not only do children begin to depend on one another, but they also get a chance to experience what it might feel like to have siblings of older and younger ages and be an older or younger sibling.

## **Focus is on success.**

Progress is not measured by what a child does not know, but what a child does know. The child moves forward, building on prior knowledge.

## **Improved self-esteem.**

The security, community, familiarity and continuous progress of a multiage environment allow the child to see the good in himself. He sees how successful he can be and becomes empowered.

## **Children develop the skills to become lifelong learners.**

Student choice and interest is always considered. The students begin to think of learning as exciting and fun, rather than a chore. Students are allowed to see things through to the proper end so that they may engage in another thought-provoking activity with enthusiasm.