

Benefits of Mixed-Age Classrooms



Looping and Mixed-Age Classrooms

One of our core beliefs is that strong, positive relationships – built through warm, sensitive, responsive interactions – provide the foundation for a child's long-term social, emotional, and cognitive development. We know that children's school success starts with relationships between the child and teacher, as well as the family and school. We work to optimize this relationship-based model through looping and mixed-age classrooms.

Looping

Looping is the process of keeping children with the same teachers over multiple years. Toddlers will have one teaching team until they move to preschool. After transitioning to preschool, children have the same teaching team until they go to kindergarten. Looping allows our teachers to build deeper relationships with children and families and tailor the classroom environment to the needs of each child. Looping also provides a great benefit to children's peer relationships, as children can build community, learn from one another, and maintain friendships as they age. If individual or program needs warrant a transition in teaching teams, ECE Program specialists, supervisors, and teachers work closely with families to plan transitions and build relationships with new peers and staff.

Mixed-Age

As an inclusive childcare setting, we understand all children develop at different rates, regardless of physical, emotional, cognitive, or social differences. Our goal is to meet each child's developmental strengths and needs by fostering their relationships with their teachers and peers. To optimize the potential to learn from their peers, each classroom will have children who range in age: Toddlers will be 16 months to 3 years old, and preschoolers will be 3 to 5 years old.

Benefits of Mixed-Age	Benefits of Looping
<p>Children are better able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accept and appreciate developmental differences.• Expand their play skills through exposure to peers with highly-developed play skills and increase their creativity and flexibility when playing with peers who have less-developed play skills.• Nurture relationships by tailoring their words and actions to match different abilities.• Increase their patience and collaboration with peers and reduce bossiness and competition.• Gain leadership skills by experiencing peer models of classroom routines and expectations.	<p>Looping supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building deeper relationships between families, children, and teaching teams.• Individual strengths and needs, as teaching teams have greater familiarity with a child's development over time.• Children taking on leadership roles as they grow in the classroom community.• A teacher's ability to tailor curriculum to the interests and needs of the classroom community.• Children learning through repetition and consistency with a familiar peer group and teaching team.