

## **Mixed Age Classrooms**

Our preschool classrooms have a mix of 3, 4- and 5-year-olds. This mixed-age setting creates an atmosphere where children learn to help and be helped by their peers. Children gain an appreciation for the accomplishments of others while simultaneously being naturally challenged by them. As children progress, those on the younger side want to model the activities and behaviors of those who are bit older, while the older children take on a leadership role in the classroom, mastering skills in the process. Mixed-age classrooms also tend to be more nurturing and less competitive.

Benefits of Mixed-Age Classrooms:

- Children have similar academic success as same age classrooms while gaining more social-emotional skills.
- Children learn to accept developmental differences.
- Older children experience expanded learning through teaching younger children.
- Younger children stretch themselves when playing with older children.
- Children who encourage others to follow rules follow rules better themselves.
- Mixed-age mirrors family life.
- Mixed-age rooms offer a range of materials and activities to children, appealing to different levels of skill and interest.
- Mixed-age rooms promote an environment in which children's uneven development is not viewed as a deficit but is accepted as a normal part of human growth.

To read more about how this mixed-age classroom setting contributes to our early childhood education philosophy at St. David's Center, [click here](#).