



Week of November 2nd, 2015

People may wonder how the day to day works in a multi-age classroom. This week I'd like to give some examples of how our multi-age program works and how it benefits all of the children.

Often times the first thing people think about in this situation is that the younger children benefit by learning from the older ones. Yes, this is true and is often a natural and wonderful benefit for the younger children.



There are also many benefits for the older children as they are able to reinforce and deepen their understanding of a skill by teaching it to a younger child. In our class this happens all the time. I see it on the playground as the children climb trees, inside during a game of "Sneaky Squirrel", and while doing all kinds of literacy activities.



One of the most important parts of a multi-age classroom is being able to individualize activities based on a child's interest and ability. Children are able to learn at their own pace and learning is

continuous, not based on what a child should know at a certain age. This week we had several different literacy activities which played out differently with each child. Some of the children are still learning the letters in their name while others have mastered this concept and are now learning to write their name with uppercase and lowercase letters. The great part is, this is not based on age but instead it is based on what each child already knows.



Of course, don't forget about the perk of having the same teacher for more than one year :) I feel so lucky to teach your amazing children for more than one year and help them enjoy their early childhood experiences. Last year was great and I got to know each of your children very well, but this year is a whole new level of relationship and trust. This was such an amazing feeling and benefit for me as the school year began and there were so many friendships and routines that were already in place. And of course for Luca, this is our first of several years together to continue our relationship :)

In addition, the children have several years to get to know each other as well. They may start at The Ridge as one of the younger ones and end up as a six year old ready for elementary school. Think of all of the different roles they will take on and the depth of their friendships throughout those years.



There are also so many times throughout the day where age just doesn't come into play. Our class loves to build together. This week there was an all-class creation that was built over the course of 2 days. All of the children had something to add to the block structure. They watched, they

shared, they communicated with each other and it was a pleasure to watch this all happen. A three year old called it a car and later on a four year old thought it looked more like a village. The next day a five year old turned it into a doll house for mini figures. I watched children of all ages model healthy social behaviors and learn from each other. It was a great week at The Ridge!

