

# The Multi-Age Classroom Setting

*“At its most basic level, multi-age classrooms become educational communities, as opposed to mere institutions, in which learning is a collective activity where everyone takes turns being both student and teacher.”*

(<http://teachertombsblog.blogspot.com/2009/12/place-they-are-confident-they-belong.html>)

In the multi-age classroom, the focus is on building a community of cooperative learners, where each student is supported. Because of the variance in skills and social development, every child has the opportunity to explore his or her strengths. A mixed-aged class is like a small version of the real world. The norm becomes a broad range of abilities instead of the expectation that everyone is at the same level. Children in this setting will learn valuable lessons that will carry over into the rest of their lives.

Young children learn from older children, and older children get a chance to learn valuable leadership skills at a young age.

The older children in the classroom will benefit from the reinforcement of modeling a skill to younger children, along with a sense of responsibility and self-confidence. The younger children benefit from learning to work cooperatively and problem solve.

Students also benefit from a sense of security. In a classroom where all children have different academic and social expectations, children are less insecure about what they do and do not know. This will give them confidence to grow and learn.

## Additional Resources on Multi Age Classrooms

[Some Benefits of Multi-Age Grouping](#)

[The Multiage Concept Explained](#)

[An Ageless Approach: Why Multiage Classrooms Should Replace Fixed Grade Levels](#)