

**Benefits of Mixed-Aged Classrooms
In a Nutshell**

Socially

Youngest	Oldest	All	Adults
Learn social skills from older children	Learn leadership skills more competently than when in same age	Family atmosphere	Gets to know children better
Will learn how to help from older children	Learn to modify behavior when socially interacting with younger children	Can bond with multi-ages	Gets to know parents
Learn to accept limitations better	Learn teaching abilities	Learn life skills	Can provide greater support as know each other better
Learn to seek help appropriately	Facilitates efforts rather than try to outdo	Does not have to relearn routines	Less children going through separation or other emotional challenges at one time
Learns about cooperation	Learn to regulate own behavior better	Learn nurturing and helping skills (parent education)	Greater flexibility in enrollment
	Peer pressure less/less competition	Parents get to know each other better	
	Grow in responsibility	Less time learning routine, adults, and peers	
	Learns about cooperation	More likely to feel more successful and less likely a failure	

Intellectually

When have to wait for an adult or older child for help, learns delayed gratification	Increased opportunities to practice their skills by being a “teacher”	Children have ample opportunities to sharpen communication skills by “reading” feelings and wishes	Learn about helpers abilities by observing with younger child
May participate in more complex play	Have to “know” what he/she teaching	Can work at own level	Less likely to compare children’s abilities
Exposed to more mature problem-solving skills	Increased competence in own abilities	Less time learning routine, adults, and peers	More likely to address individual differences between and within children
More control over own learning	Learns how to respond to requests for help		Less pressure to get all children at the same place at the same time
	More control over own learning		Less time spent getting to know children & parents
			Facilitate rather than teach