

The Genius of the Multi-age Classroom

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The traditional three-year age range of a Montessori classroom (whether it is 3-6 year olds or 6-9 or 9-12) allows your child the experience of being both student and teacher. The three-year classroom sojourn allows your child to gain confidence and comfort from a familiar environment where he or she feels so much at home.

The “freshman” who enter the classroom at three (or six or nine years of age) enter a new and exciting environment filled with amazing things to do and to learn. It is the culture of a Montessori environment to share what you have learned so they are accompanied by other experienced learners who guide, direct, encourage and teach. Your child develops real “mini-heroes” from the older classmates. They have real life models to emulate and to look up to.

As your child passes from being a freshman to becoming a sophomore they now begin the process of sharing what they have learned with the new freshman while they are still learning from their older classmates. The process of teaching generates confidence as well as a deep satisfaction in helping.

Soon, all too soon, they become the seniors of their classroom, knowledgeable of many of the mysteries their education has revealed – writing, reading, math, botany, geography, geometry and language. Their senior year develops leadership skills, deepened feeling of responsibility, initiative and service as they help guide and teach what they have been learning.

Their journey through this exciting, but safe, environment has developed the beginning skills for a life-time of success. They have learned to be generous and kind. They have learned how to learn and how to share what they have learned. How to lead and how to follow. They have become confident in their abilities and are ready to explore a new environment and learn new mysteries.

Their three year stay has served them remarkably well in the multi-age classroom.