



EduKids

The SCOOP: *A New Monthly Email for EduKids Parents*

Moving Up: What That Means and Why

Young children continually amaze us! They literally grow and change before our very eyes. And because of this, we understand the importance of being highly responsive to their interests, needs and challenges as they move through infancy, toddlerhood and their preschool years.

At EduKids we pride ourselves in thoughtful and appropriate *moving up* timing and strategies. Moving up means the transition your child makes from one group and classroom to the next. EduKids is licensed to care for children beginning at 6 weeks old.

Infant to Young Toddler Classrooms

Children stay in the infant classrooms until they transition to the young toddler group. Very high family and center connections are paramount to happy and positive experiences for all. Typically children transition between 15 and 18 months old. While age is the most prominent dictator for the move up from the baby room to young toddler room other factors weigh in. These are;

1. Body Abilities

Children are able to sit in chairs at a table instead of highchairs for eating.

Children are able to sleep on a cot instead of in a crib while at the center.

Children are pretty good at standing, walking, using utensils, washing hands and playing with toys designed for more interactions in movement and exploration.

Note: all of these body abilities of the Young Toddler Class have very high teacher support and assistance.

2. Timing

Children thrive and grow in consistent environments. While growth in skills and abilities is incredibly quick in infancy, skills don't always blossom at the same time! Best practices in care dictate a transition that looks at the whole child and continuity of environment for comfort and care. A traditional rhythm in group settings is a change of class for children at the beginning of September. January also is a natural marker in this rhythm. While unique circumstances present themselves at times, your child will move up with their friends under primary consideration of body abilities and timing.

Young Toddler to Older Toddler Classrooms

The developmental job of toddlers is to learn language and the exploding skills in this area are at the forefront for moving children from a young toddler group to older. Because they are natural climbers, walkers, dancers and players their bodies become sturdy and strong quickly – now their language catches up! January presents a high transition marker for toddlers. Chronological age begins to be forefront in moving children up at centers from this point on. Older toddlers bond with their friends and are now considered age eligible for kindergarten in two years. Typically children in the older toddler room turn 3 between January and the following December. This keeps them as a group moving through the center. Environment and curriculum engages early learners in multiple layers of high interest and focused experiences designed for fun, friendship and *figuring it all out!*

Older Toddler to 3 Year Old Classrooms

Considered early preschool, children move up into the 3 year old room in September when they are district age eligible for kindergarten 2 years later. This is the primary focus of moving up into the 3 year old class. Your child's high success in independent potty skills is critical; while staff assist and work with children and families, there are no changing areas in this classroom. Self- help skills in dressing, independent choices, cooperative participation, processes of eating and clean -up of used toys and classroom areas are noted in this transition.

3 Year Old Classrooms to 4 Year Old Kindergarten Readiness Classrooms

The formal Kindergarten Readiness Preschool year is for children who are district age eligible to enter kindergarten the following September. This is the guide for move up and into the 4 year old classroom; all EduKids Preschool Classes and all UPK classrooms. Guided curriculum and exciting lessons prepare our EduKids to move up into kindergarten strong & healthy!

Never hesitate to talk with your center director about your child.

EduKids is a strong advocate and partner for children and families and all questions and comments about care, early education and moving up formalities will be addressed with families at any time.