

A Note to Staff:



Transitioning Children and Parents to the Next Age Group

Sooner or later, children move to the next age group. For some children, parents, and primary caregivers, this is a time of anxiety. For others, it is a time eagerly anticipated, and there are few tearful looks backward. Successful transitions depend on good planning and recognizing and understanding the perspective of children and parents. Some things to keep in mind and to communicate to families:

- **Make the room experiences fit regardless of the child's age.** Sometimes children cannot move up until there is a space in the next group. These children get stuck in a group waiting for an opening. Sometimes children get moved up a little earlier than expected in order to take advantage of an opening. Because of this, it is important to make sure the group works for children at both ends of the age spectrum.
- **Moving up does not indicate advanced development or intelligence.** Care must be taken to avoid giving the impression that there is something competitive about moving up, that it is like graduation or some indication that the child has superior skills and abilities.
- **Facilitate ample opportunities for a child and her parents to visit in the new room.** Most children need more than a few days of visiting a new group to feel comfortable. Preparing for transitions is an ongoing process that begins a long time before the actual move.
- **Be flexible when considering transitions.** Parents should get the message that although the child is ready to move, if age, development, or family situations make the transition inadvisable at the time, teachers will adapt the situation to fit the child.