



Mixed Age Groups

FOR CENTERS

Where possible, ensure that children are kept in cohorts, keeping the same children together and avoiding groups/cohorts contacting one another. Whenever possible, keep the number of children and providers in stable groups of 10 or less. Prioritize keeping family units in the same group (i.e. an infant, 2 yr. old and 4yr. old from the same family would be in the same group). Have a strong policy in place to practice and support social distancing between groups.

- Provide meals and snacks in the classroom.
- Choose toys and materials that are open-ended. When you choose items that can be used in varying ways (i.e. blocks, craft supplies, foam shapes, balls), children of different abilities can use these items in a developmentally appropriate way.
- Ensure all materials accessible to infants and toddlers are safe for that age group. Consider gating off an area for items not safe for younger children.
- Consider providing a safe area for non-mobile infants rather than using holding devices to keep infants out of traffic areas.
- Put tape on the floor every six feet anywhere the kiddos are required to line up and wait-bathrooms, etc. Add transition strategies so waiting in line isn't necessary.



Montana Child Care
Resource and Referral Network

Sources: http://www.eccpct.com/Customer-Content/www/CMS/files/Tips_for_Tots_4/4_4_ECCP_Tips_for_Tots_Family_Daycare_Managing_Mixed_Age_Groups.pdf

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/learning-environments/article/using-mixed-age-groups-support-continuity-care->