



Adapting for Multi-Age - Eight Steps to a Successful CHAI Lesson in the Multi-Age Classroom

Getting the most out of multi-age classrooms requires planning and deliberate design. The following tools and resources will help make your classroom as successful as possible.

1. Inform parents of the multi-age class plan and its potential benefits (These include: opportunity to nurture; social participation; intellectual benefits).

2. Carefully review all CHAI lessons in surrounding years to ensure continuity (i.e., if the class is using Level 3, the educator and the teacher should be familiar with Core Levels 2 and 4 as well).

3. Explain to the class its unique characteristics and, together with the students, establish expectations and rules based on these. (These might include: helpful behavior towards other classmates; reasonable limit setting by older students on their availability to help younger students, etc.)

4. Have enough diverse curricular materials available to satisfy a wider age range.

5. Devise ways to monitor the learning of each child (i.e., evidence of understanding).

6. Invite students of different ages to restate in their own words the important teaching points you want them to retain. (For example, "Who can tell me something important about the blessings we say before and after the *Sh'ma*?")

7. Structure lessons so that the students can work in groups. Assign tasks appropriate to each student's ability.

8. Make your own learning a priority and take advantage of professional development opportunities. Even if you are an experienced classroom teacher, take advantage of the training support available for CHAI curriculum users. Read articles and use supports available in the field for teachers of multi-age classrooms. Teacher training options currently available through the Union include: CHAI summer faculty retreats, online classes, and consultations with your regional educator.