

This is to clarify HGG's policy on classroom placement as children move from classroom to classroom throughout the school. We encourage you to check out your Parent Handbook for more general information regarding classroom placement and to share this information with other family members who are involved in your child's care to avoid some of the confusion that tends to surround these policies.

It is important to understand that our classrooms are specifically designed to be mixed-aged groups and that we do not move children on their birthdays. Upon enrollment, your child will be placed in a group based primarily upon his or her chronological age. However, each child's move to the next classroom is based on a number of things. First, availability of space in the next classroom is essential. Second, developmental readiness based on teacher assessment which includes not only cognitive and language skills, but social skills as well. Lastly, chronological age is considered, as we are much more concerned with your child's developmental readiness. As the time for the "big move" approaches, parents are advised and the child's teachers start preparing the child. During the days before the actual move date, the child will visit the new classroom several times.

The majority of moves take place between July and September when our oldest children leave to start Kindergarten which leaves openings to move children up to the next class. Therefore, if your child has not moved by September, you can assume your child will be a part of his or her current program until the following September. Please be assured that because the program is designed for mixed-aged groups, all the Head Teachers adapt their programs to stimulate and challenge all of the children and meet their individual needs. If this is a concern for you, your child's Head Teacher will be happy to meet with you to give concrete examples of how these needs are met.

Approximate age groups in September are as follows:

- **Turtles and Bears:** Under two
- **Little Lambs:** Twos and younger threes. Includes a Transition Program for oldest Lambs to participate in the Penguin program on a regular basis. *Some children will be part of the Lamb program for two school years.*
- **Praising Penguins:** Older threes and fours. Penguins is our Pre-K program, with curriculum designed to prepare children for Kindergarten. *Some children will be part of the Penguin program for two school years.*
- **Giant Giraffes:** The oldest twenty-four children at HGG who are enrolled and on the rosters in the Giraffes or one of the Penguin classes on the first day of the March before moves begin. *A child may spend a second year in the Giraffes if the parent decides to delay the child's Kindergarten start date.*

We hope that having this information will help to clarify our policies on classroom placement. If, in any way, this policy is still confusing to you, please feel free to stop by and chat.

