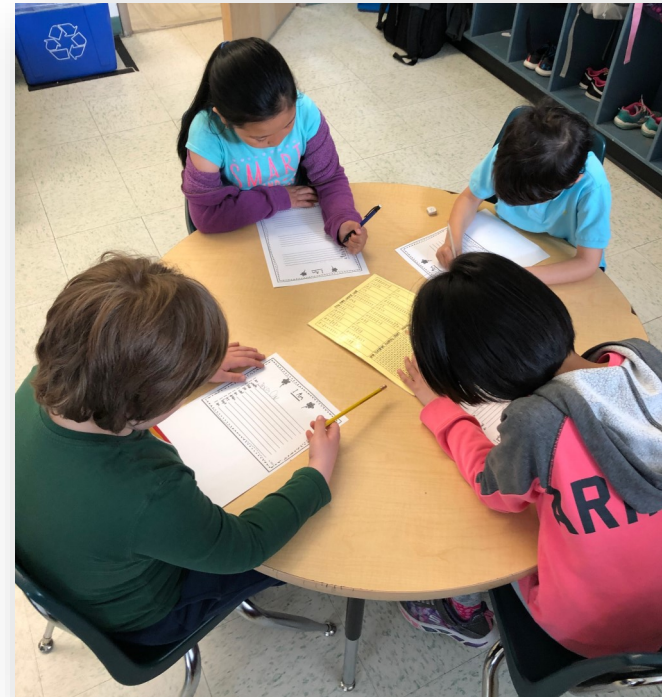




COLLICUTT SCHOOL
SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

MULTIAGE



Shared Responsibility
Natural Community
Differentiated Instruction
Small Group
Families
Needs
Social Relationships
Equal Voice
Independence
Direct Instruction
Learning in Depth
Learning Community
Peer Mentorship
Individual Strengths
Student Interests
Strong
Multiage
Groupings
Student
Diverse and
Natural
Family
Group
Continuum of Learning
Multiage

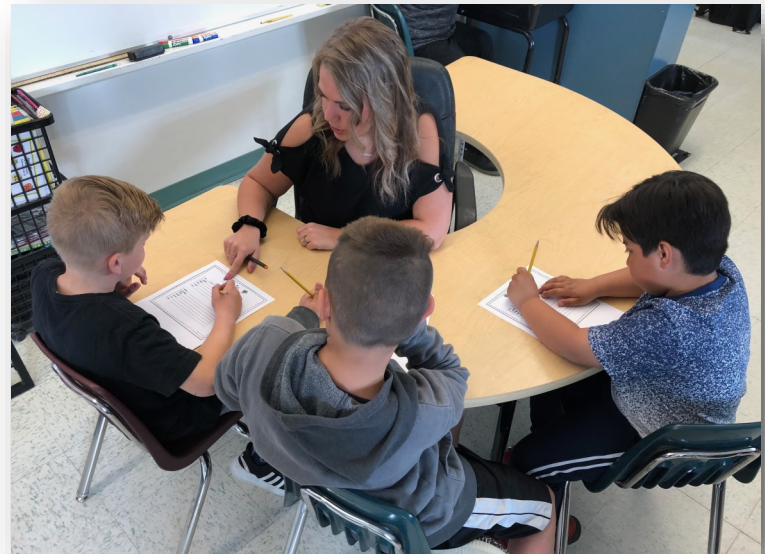
What is Multiage?

According to Manitoba Education and Youth, “Multilevel classrooms refers to student centred classrooms in which students learn across two or more grades and are taught by the same teacher for two or more years. In Manitoba, these classrooms are generally referred to as multi-age, multi-grade, and combined classes. Some schools/divisions/districts also use the term alternative programming or flex programs when one teacher has a broad age-range of students for two or more years.”

(pg. 1.3, **Independent Together: Supporting the Multilevel Learning Community**, MB. Education and Youth, 2003)

Parent Benefits of Multilevel Programs

- Families have the opportunity to develop a relationship with school staff over a longer period.
- Multilevel classrooms can reflect natural family groupings, siblings can be placed in the same classroom. This simplifies demands on families for attending class events, volunteering and communicating with the school.
- Families may experience less stress related to beginning a new school year and adapting to the expectations and routines of a new classroom.



Child Benefits of Multilevel Programs

- Children develop strong social relationships.
- Teachers get to know children in depth, planning for their individual strengths, needs and interests. Time becomes a positive variable.
- Continuity over two or more years helps diminish anxiety associated with moving to a new classroom and shortens the time it takes to learn new routines thereby increasing instructional time.
- Multilevel programs like other classrooms recognize that each student is at a different stage of learning and focuses on the developmental stage of the learner. Multilevel programs address curriculum concepts, skills and understandings over a two to three year period.

The Learning Community

Deliberately formed multilevel classrooms emphasize a continuum of learning, rather than maintaining grade differences.

Multilevel classrooms form a diverse and natural community, consisting of independent learners, the teacher, administrators, and supportive parents. This learning community is created through the gifts of diversity (in age, culture, learning styles, and abilities). Time enables the partners within the community to gain an appreciation of one another and allows for collaboration and reflection. Diversity creates a natural blend of community members.



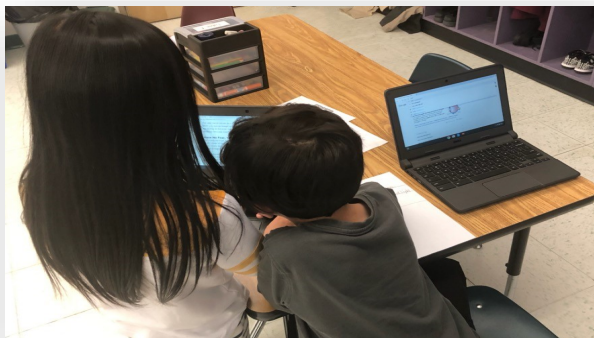
Multi-Age is where.....

All students are equally important in the classroom.

A student's value is not based on his or her age or stage of development. The learning community respects a "different but equal" approach by ensuring that all students have an equal voice in discussion and decision making".

All students play a role in each other's learning.

The learning community fosters interdependence and shared responsibility. Differentiated instruction occurs, using instructional materials that is student centered and developmentally and culturally appropriate to allow for SUCCESS—for all learners.



All children have an opportunity to mentor their peers through areas of their individual strengths.

Mentors are not always oldest (the best way to heighten your understanding is to explain it to someone else.) Students receive small/whole group and direct instruction based on their needs, interests, and learning styles **regardless of age.**

Each student has unique qualities that enrich the classroom.

The learning community celebrates and affirms each individual's strengths and accommodates differences and diversity. Children continue to work on concepts and be challenged over time.

