



Position Statement on Mid-Year Transitions from Toddler House to Children's House

When considering transitioning a child from Toddler House to Children's House, we take in consideration many factors. In the spirit of following the child, the guidelines provided below are just that, guidelines and not policies. In addition, each child being a unique individual, our guiding principle will always be "Are **this** child's needs met in his/her current environment?" The decision of transitioning a child mid-year is carefully made in concert with the parents. In no way should it be looked at as a sign of precociousness.

- Any mid-year transition is contingent upon availability in Children's House. At this time, FCM does not "reserve" Children's House slots for possible mid-year transitions.
- The existing class dynamic and the transitioning child's personality are carefully considered. A dialogue between the TH and CH teachers takes place to evaluate the best possible match for that child and the existing classrooms.
- The age of a child is looked at carefully. Knowing that the optimal age to enter Children's House is **around** the age of three, we want to support this ideal start time.
- When a child is no longer connecting to the materials of the Toddler House environment, this triggers the question of "Is this child having his/her needs met?" When an environment no longer meets the needs of children, there is a notable shift in their level of engagement in work.
- We consider the child's social and emotional needs and abilities. Is the child ready to be part of a larger social group? Is the child able to follow directions?
- Independence in a child's work is an important factor. Can the child accomplish age-appropriate tasks on his own, without requiring adult intervention, guidance or assistance along the way?
- Independence in toileting is another factor. One of our CH requirements is for children to be toilet trained.

Transitioning Schedule

Mid-year transitions will take place in January at the return of the Holiday break. In order to plan for a smooth transition, classroom visits will be offered to Toddlers regularly between November and December depending on the availability of the CH teachers. Short visits will be arranged at first, slowly increasing in time and/or frequency.

For children starting in Toddler House mid-year, the phase-in schedule of the beginning of the year will be followed.