



Primary Caregiving for Directors

Helping Hands Tip Sheet



What is Primary Caregiving?

Primary caregiving means caring for a specific group of children in a specific classroom.

Did you know?

When teachers are caring for children in primary groups, creating a staff schedule is much easier.

When children remain in the same classroom with the same teacher, parent satisfaction increases greatly.

Teacher turnover is reduced when job satisfaction increases. This occurs naturally when teachers develop relationships with each other and the children in their primary group.

Primary Caregiving Goals:

1. Children are grouped by age so they move to the next age group together.
2. Children are assigned to a primary and secondary Teacher.
3. Children and Teachers remain with these groups for the length of time they will be assigned to a particular classroom, such as the school or calendar year. Other than infants, children do not move to the next age classroom unless most of the group is moving too.
4. Children and Teachers develop close relationships.
5. Teachers providing breaks and covering for days when the primary Teacher is out of the classroom are the same person consistently.



Brain Development

When children remain in the same primary care group, they develop positive relationships with their teacher and children in their group. Healthy social and emotional development means children are ready to learn!



Next Steps

- Group children by birthdays as much as possible so they move to the next classroom together.
- Place children in classrooms for the calendar or school year.
- Schedule Teachers based on children's attendance patterns for individual groups rather than for center attendance.
- Assign Teachers to a specific classroom and keep them there all day, everyday.