

Move-up Policy (moving into a new room)

Here at Little Red we have six different schoolrooms; the infant room (must be 8 weeks to attend), the younger toddlers, the older toddlers, the oldest toddlers and two rooms that make up the preschool. You may notice that there aren't specific ages attached to the rooms. The ages in each room are much broader and are not based off of birth-date alone. This is because we try to base our moves on many different aspects (explained below). It also becomes hard when ages are attached because we don't always have the room to move the children up at that specific age, which can be confusing and frustrating for some people. With that being said, we do have "general ages" listed for licensing reasons. They are as follows:

- Chickadee: 8weeks to 12month (and walking)
- Chipmunk: About 12 months to 20-ish months
- Pika: About 20-ish months to about 2 ½ years
- Snowbunny: About 2 ½ years – 3 ½ years
- Brown Bear: About 3 ½ years to 4 ½ years
- Black Bear: About 4 ½ years to 5 ½ years

Another important note to make, is that we also don't like to base move-ups off of concrete "milestones". This is because through our education, research and years of experience in Early Childhood, we have learned that children reach milestones at their own pace and most of the time, it's their own form of the milestone they reach; not the "documented" milestone per say. We know that children's learning and experiences come gradually to the child as they grow, and learn. More importantly, some children that have reached every developmental milestone and may seem advanced may struggle with attachment or social/emotional milestones. Thus, here at Little Red, we move children based on what is developmentally and emotionally appropriate for each specific child. Which, in turn, may be the hardest way to move children; but I can assure you that it does guarantee the continuity of care.

The process of moving a child up is usually as follows:

- (1) Is there availability in the next room?
- (2) If there is availability, we communicate with teachers in the room to find out who they believe may be "ready" to move
 - "Ready" meaning: emotionally, physically, verbally, socially, cognitively and, last but not least, age. We look at all of these aspects together.
- (3) We then speak with the parents of the children that we are considering to move. Are they flexible with their days of the week? Do the days we have available work?
- (4) If the parents agree on the days, we let them know the dates the children will move; taking into consideration that they will need to visit the next room for at least a week before hand.



- (5) A notice is put out to the other parents in the room (both the room the child is moving from and the room the child is moving to) stating that there is a “move-up” happening. This allows everyone to stay on the same page.
- (6) An update is put out to the teachers. One to the room the child is moving from, and one to the room the child is moving into.
- (7) The child moves.
- (8) We then wait until there is availability to move more children. Meanwhile, the teachers keep us posted on who they believe should be moving next.

And that, in a nutshell, is what “moving up” at Little Red is all about. Please let us know if you have any questions, comments or concerns, as we would be happy to address them. This should, however, give you an overview of our move-up policy and how it works. With all that said, please keep in mind that we are looking out for the best interest of each and every child and we move them as it is available, necessary and appropriate. The continuity and the best of care for your child is our first priority! Thank you.

