



## An Introduction to Combined Grades

### WHAT IS A COMBINED OR MULTI-GRADE CLASSROOM?

Combined classrooms group students from two or more consecutive grade levels. All classrooms include children with a wide range of skills, abilities and attributes. A combined classroom is simply one of many ways that a school may organize or group students to meet their needs.

### WHY WAS MY CHILD CHOSEN TO BE IN A COMBINED CLASSROOM?

The quality of teaching and learning in a combined classroom is no different than in a single grade classroom. Considerations for creating an optimum learning environment focus on children's learning profile including: Learning Styles; Learning Needs; Social Skills, and many other factors.

### WHAT BENEFITS CAN A COMBINED CLASSROOM OFFER MY CHILD?

- Continue to develop their independence, responsibility and leadership skills.
- Foster relationships beyond their own grade level.
- Reflect the world beyond school.

### WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY?

Students in combined classrooms achieve as well academically as those in single grade classrooms.

Students appear to benefit from the spirit of co-operation and mutual help that exists in a combined classroom.

Instructional strategies that emphasize cooperative learning and subject integration support improved learning in the combined grade classroom. (Lataille-Demore,) 2007

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON COMBINED GRADES

Learning and Teaching in the Multilevel Classroom:

<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/support/multilevel/chap1.pdf>

Combined Grades: Strategies to Reach a Range of Learners in Kindergarten to Grade 6

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/combined.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/combined.pdf)



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**WILL ALL STUDENTS' LEARNING NEEDS BE MET IN A COMBINED CLASSROOM?**

To meet the diverse needs of students, teachers use developmentally appropriate instructional strategies and assessments to create effective learning environments. In addition, many curricular outcomes are similar across grade levels enabling teachers to integrate instruction regardless of grade level.

### HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED?

**1**

Get involved in your child's school life

Ask about their day - school work, friends, their teacher. Let them tell you about the best part of their day, and about what was not so good. This will help you share their successes and uncover any problems.

**2**

Stay connected with the school

Talk to your child's teacher. Ask questions. This can be as simple as sending a note to school with your child. Or check with the school to see if you can volunteer to help.

**3**

Make learning fun

Learning is not limited to the classroom. Simple activities can build your child's skills and confidence. Talk about prices on a trip to the grocery store to help older kids with math. Make reading fun for younger ones by pointing out the words all around you - on street signs, posters and even cereal boxes!

Alberta Education has many tools to help both teachers and parents.

Visit  
[www.alberta.ca/ministry-education](http://www.alberta.ca/ministry-education)

### ENSURING SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Faith formation is the core of our Catholic education community.

Literacy, numeracy and the social-emotional well-being of all students are foundational to ensure they *not only have the knowledge to succeed, but skills and competencies demanded of their future world.*

(Alberta Education 2013)