



## Working in the “classroom” with different ages

A common question asked of teachers at SIDE is “how do I teach my children when they are in different school years?”.

- The needs of children at different year and age levels vary hugely.
- Younger children need constant supervision but older children need help too.
- There are the siblings who are not at school.
- All these need to be managed with the day-to-day tasks associated with having a family and travelling.

### Some tips ...

#### Timetable

- Draw up a timetable together and discuss with your children how you will work with them.
- Provide for individual instruction time for each child.

#### Independent activities

- Provide easily managed activities your child can go on with while waiting for help from you, for example, reading a book, finishing work, drawing, researching or using a computer.
- Before you begin work for the day, ensure that each child has the equipment or materials needed for independent work time.

#### Indicating attention required

- Use the red dot, green dot system so you know when one of your children needs help. This is a simple but effective strategy.
- The red dot facing up means “I need your help”.
- The green dot facing up means, “I am okay”.

#### Group activities

- This is ideal for SIDE families.
- Do the same activity together but expect different outcomes for different age groups.
- Discuss how to make it work for you with your class teacher.

#### Older siblings

- Use an older sibling to explain things to and support younger children.
- Older siblings enjoy the responsibility, and they generally love reading to, or working with their younger brothers and sisters.

#### Seating

- If your children distract each other, try a partition, or seat children so they cannot annoy each other (where space permits).