Transitions can be hard for children and here at CEO we do our very best to make every transition as smoothly as possible. It has come time for your child to transition from Head Start (preschool) to a Universal PreK (UPK) or a 3pk. With that, we would like to point out a few differences between the two programs to help with the transitions. Please see below the major differences:

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Head Start Classrooms** | **3pk/UPK Classrooms** |
| **Location** | In CEO OCFS regulated centers.  | 3pk/UPK can be in one of the school districts buildings or they can be in a CEO OCFS regulated center. Children attending Van Rensselaer Elementary School are offered buses.  |
| **Focus** | Fostering social and emotional development and early academic skills. | Fostering social and emotional development and early academic skills. |
| **Curriculum/Activities** | Play base learning with structured learning time. Opportunities for learning experiences that help with social interactions, teamwork and conflict resolution. Creative Curriculum is fully utilized in the centers with children participating in classroom studies. Children eat in the classroom and cannot bring outside food in.  | More structured learning time. Opportunities for learning experiences that help with social interactions, teamwork and conflict resolution. Follows district curriculum guidelines. Creative curriculum is utilized as an assessment tool. At some sites children eat in the cafeteria, have an opportunity to bring in a school lunch or order from a school menu.Some sites children have opportunities to experience gym, library or music class and often combine with another class to do so.  |
| **Environment**  | 14-16 children per classroom with 2 teachers.  | 16-21 children per classroom with 2 teachers.  |
| **Teacher Communication** | Teachers utilize Learning Genie. | 3PK/UPK typically use Parent Square. Very similar to Learning Genie.  |

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child’s Center Manager.