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 Early Head Start to Head Start (preschool). 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:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Early Head Start** | **Head Start** |
| **Age** | 6 weeks until 36 months | 3-5 yr olds |
| **Focus** | Promoting mobility, language development as well as social skills and independence. | Fostering social and emotional development and early academic skills. |
| **Curriculum/Activities** | Play base learning, there is a little more structure to the day- for example the children all have meals together and nap at the same time.  Opportunities for group play, creative expression and problem solving.  Childs schedule is more individualized. | More structured learning time. Opportunities for learning experiences that help with social interactions, teamwork and conflict resolution.  Offers more large group experiences.  There is no formal nap time in the daily schedule. However, if a child is tired, the teachers will offer a cot for the child to rest. |
| **Environment** | A few defined areas to create intentional play spaces. | More defined areas. |
| **Teacher Role** | Teachers are facilitating exploration, guiding social interactions and fostering independence.  The ratio is 1 teacher to 4 children with a total of 8 children with 2 teachers. | Teachers facilitate, guide and foster all learning experiences and activities.  Teachers allow children to have more independence.  The ratio is 1 teacher to 7 or 8 children with a total of 14 up to 16 children for 2 Teachers. |
| **Schedule** | 12 Months | 10 months (September-June). May also have different days off or half days. |
| **Learning Genie** | Teacher will input all daily information such as all meals, diapers/toileting, naps as well as the two-way communication tool.  Teachers will share weekly School Readiness activities through LG. | Teachers will use this as a form of communication with families.  Teachers will share weekly School Readiness activities through LG. |