

Project-Based Learning in Multi-Age Settings

Tips and Strategies



Rock by Rock projects are great for multi-age settings in microschools, homeschool or school. Students can work in groups ranging from K-2, 3-5 and K-5. Projects can even support 6-8 students to engage with younger peers. This guide provides some quick tips and ideas about how you can support multi-age learning in your setting using projects from Rock by Rock or your own projects.

Multi-Age Support Strategies

1

Centers Model

Set-up centers - 2-4 centers a week - and have students rotate from center to center. Potential centers include: a) hands-on b) online c) literacy/ shared reading.

2

Strategic Pairings

For some parts of a project-based learning experience (individual lessons, final projects) strategically pair students to work together. Consider pairing students with complementary strengths.



3

Team Norms

Before beginning a project or activity, set norms for the group. Have all students contribute ideas for how the multi-age group will work together effectively. Create a list of 3-5 norms to refer back to them to praise students embodying the norms.

4

Shout-Out Key Skills

Each project should focus on a key transferable skill or skills (creativity, speaking, problem solving). Preview the skills before the project so all students know what they will be working on. Then empower students to "shout-out" their peers when they show them using or growing in those key skills.



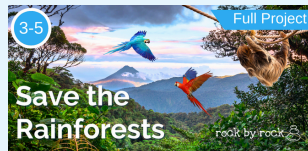
You can implement projects where all students are working on the same project or you offer choice of projects. Here are three ways you could offer multi-age groups choice.

Option 1: Same Project and Topic for All Students



All students work in a multi-age group or groups to engage in the same topic and all students produce the same kind of final project. For example, all students make a model, produce a video, make a prototype or create a podcast.

Option 2: Same Topic, Different Final Projects



All students engage in the same topic but they work with a multi-age small group to choose and produce their own final project.

Option 3: Different Topic & Different Final Projects



Small groups or multi-age pairs can choose their topic to study or research AND choose the final project they create to take action on that topic.

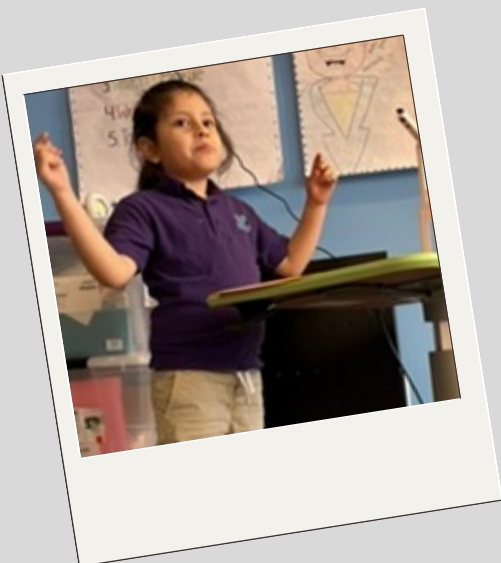
There are lots of ways to empower students in multi-age groups to play leadership roles and take ownership of their own learning. Here are a few tips and ideas.

Leadership Roles

Assign students a leadership role or let them choose a leadership role so each member of a small, multi-age group has a clear role to play during group work. Sample leadership roles are included in the bottom of this guide.

Student Led Reflection

Give students daily or weekly time to reflect on their learning process to help them reflect on what and how they are learning. You should choose the reflection questions that work best for your students and their needs. Questions can focus on academics, life habits, collaboration, culture, you name it. You can have students take turns leading the reflection discussion. This is great for building discussion, listening skills and confidence for all ages.



Student Led Showcase

All projects should end with a public presentation of work. A public showcase where students present to peers and/or family / community is a great way for students to share their projects, build confidence and communication skills and know their project made an impact on real people.

The showcase is typically planned by teachers, mentors or guides, but students can also plan their own showcase. Empower a group of students to plan the event, create the agenda, send out invitations, and MC the day of the event.



Our Small Group Roles

1

Facilitator

Help the group stay on task.

This Week: _____

2

Reflector

Shouts-out teammates showing progress on key skills.

This Week: _____

3

Materials Manager

Manages hands-on materials and /or notebooks.

This Week: _____

4

Presenter

Shares with the rest of the class what the group learned that day.

This Week: _____

5

Recorder

Writes down key notes and ideas in team Mission Log.

This Week: _____

6

Questioner

Asks the group questions to be sure they are thinking through all ideas.

This Week: _____

Bring Your Microschool Vision To Life Through Projects

Rock by Rock was developed in partnership with home and microschool educators to make it easy to implement real-world, project-based learning experiences.



A Program Designed with Microschools in Mind:

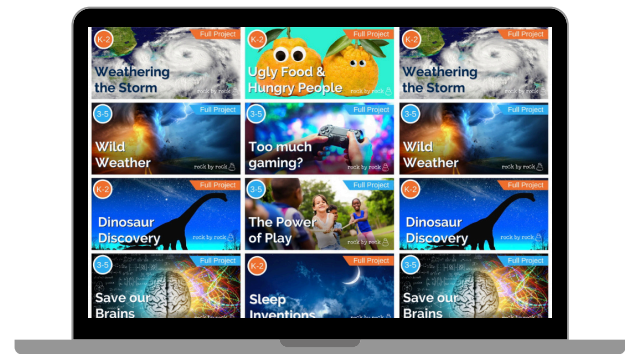
- Supports **personalized** or **small group** learning
- **Easy** for novices & empowering for veteran educators
- Supports **multi-age** learning
- Supports **diverse learners**
- **Flexible**: Pick your projects in any order



Real-World Project Library

Our library of fully planned projects gives you a springboard to make project-based learning achievable in your context. Each project is a journey of inquiry that puts kids in the driver's seat to solve a real-world problem. All projects:

- Blend **online** & **hands-on** learning
- Support **science** & **ELA** standards-aligned curriculum
- Feature **life habits** and values
- Support the **Science of Reading**
- Feature **diverse, real-world professionals**
- Empower kids to solve a **real-world mission**
- Provide **all the learning experiences** you need to get started



Want to Learn More?

Visit Us Online: rockbyrock.com

Set-up Time to Chat with our Microschool Ambassador:

Missy Morgan-Clarke: missy@rockbyrock.com



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