

WHAT IS A COOPERATIVE?

A **Cooperative** preschool is best defined in the meaning of cooperate: "To work or act together jointly; unite in producing an effect." All parents cooperate in assuming the responsibilities of maintaining and operating the school. Thus, the Cooperative is only as good as the efforts put forth by its collective members. Choosing a **Cooperative** preschool means that parents are choosing to take an active role in their child's education.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Being part of a **Cooperative** means that everyone helps in the running and maintenance of the school. Parents are required to participate in two maintenance duties, one class clean, and one class party throughout the year. Parents will commit to the maintenance duties, class clean date and selection of class party at orientation. **If a parent fails to sign up for their duties, class clean and class party, the Hospitality Board Member will assign them. Failure to fulfill these responsibilities will result in a \$50 fine per responsibility.** Parents may also be asked to help replenish some school supplies as needed. This can include bringing in paper towels or cleaning solutions, etc.

- o Two Maintenance Duties- Various jobs and activities throughout the school year.
- o One Class Clean- Only one parent needs to participate. Parents come to the school on the scheduled "Class Clean" day and help thoroughly clean the classroom and playground. This is not considered a maintenance duty but is in addition to the maintenance duties.
- o One Class Party- Parents will choose or randomly be selected to plan and participate in one class party. Two parents from each class will work together in the planning of their chosen party. This is not considered one of the maintenance duties.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Once enrolled into the *Beecher Preschool Cooperative*, a parent's involvement is the key to its success. Involvement is a vital element to your child's academic and social development. A Room Representative, from each class, will assign days for the school calendar year in which your child will be the "Leader" for that day and you will be the "Helping Parent." For example, a child enrolled in a classroom of ten children; on average your child will be the "Leader" and you the "Helping Parent" approximately once a month.

When your child is the "Leader" he/she will bring in a book to be read by their "Helping Parent" during circle time as well as one "show and tell" item. In addition, your child will lead the class in various activities throughout their class time.

As the "Helping Parent", you will be responsible for providing the healthy snack for the class that day. This includes any paper products or plastic utensils needed. Parents are also expected to take an active role in the classroom activities that day. This includes but is not limited to assisting children with their work in class, helping them to and from the bathroom and setting up snack time with your child. At the end of the day, the "Helping Parent" is also responsible for the clean-up duties scheduled for that day as well as filling out the "Classroom Recap" form.

By having your child as the "Leader" and you as the "Helping Parent" for that day, it builds your child's self esteem and fosters positive child/parent interaction. It also allows the parent to see first hand how the classroom works and how their child interacts with their classmates.

If a parent is unable for any reason (e.g. work, illness, younger siblings at home, etc.) to be the helping parent for their child, they may have a family member or friend take their place **as long as their replacement has completed an adult physical form and volunteer application/background check with the school.** You can also trade dates with another student. Should a parent be unable to find an acceptable replacement, the school must be contacted in advance so that we can provide a substitute. The parent will be responsible to pay **\$15 per class for the substitute found by the Preschool.** In addition, the parent is also responsible for sending the snacks for that day since their child will still be the "Leader."