

Parent Commitments at The Unitarian Cooperative Preschool

What follows is an overview of the responsibilities involved in being a member of the Preschool. As a parent cooperative, enthusiastic participation on the part of parents and staff is crucial. It's helpful to parents who are deciding on the type of preschool experience that will work for their family to know what will be needed in terms of time and commitment.

1.) Working in your child's classroom:

Parents commit to working in their child's classroom two mornings per month, from 8:45-12:15. Their role is to assist the teacher by helping to supervise the children, helping with clean up, and facilitating play. Parents commit and schedule specific mornings at parent meetings.

2. Holding a school job:

Each family is matched with a job or project that supports the preschool. The School Jobs Committee looks at parent's skills, schedules, and interests in matching parents with a school job. Types of school jobs are quite varied, and can range from moving furniture on floor waxing days to serving on our Board of Directors. The School Job commitment is at least 30 hours per year, per family.

3. Room Cleaning and Work Party:

Keeping the children's environment safe and clean is everyone's job. Parents help by signing up to thoroughly clean their child's classroom once a year and also contributes four hours of help at our annual work party, scheduled for a Saturday in June. Work Party is a fun event where parents sand, paint and repair the children's equipment indoors and out.

4. Parent meetings and parent-teacher conferences:

Mandatory parent meetings take place four times per year. The first is a whole school orientation, where the teacher talks about her program, outlines their goals for the year, and answers questions. The next three are held at the homes of parents who volunteer to host. These meetings offer the opportunity to discuss the developmental stages of the children and the various activities in the classroom.

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for mid-year. These are an opportunity to talk with your child's teacher about your child's classroom experience. The teacher shares their observations and discusses any concerns you may have.

5. Fundraising:

After trying several ways of raising funds for school improvement, we have found that having two fundraisers a year is the best way to go. We hold an annual fundraiser for the Teachers, in which all money that is raised goes to cover teacher's health insurance, education, etc. Our second fundraiser is an annual auction that focuses on campus improvements, classroom upgrades, and play yard remodeling.