

A Day in the Life of a Co-op Kid

- Mom or Dad, will drop you off at 9:00, either on the playground or in your classroom, where your teacher will be waiting to greet you.
- You will have free play for about 30-45 minutes as you ease into your day and wait for all your friends to arrive.
- Next comes circle time and the most formal part of your morning. You will find your name on your sit-upon as your teacher leads the class in some combination of the following (but not limited to) - stories, songs, fingerplays, science experiments, calendar work, counting or letter practice, pattern exploration, yoga and mindfulness, discussion about the weekly theme, and demonstrations of the daily art projects.
- The biggest chunk of your morning will be spent in free-play in your classroom. During this time, you will have the opportunity to explore, create, and play all around your classroom with options open to you such as,
 - the easel,
 - playdough table (playdough freshly made by Co-op teachers),
 - art table (with 2 crafts each day),
 - housekeeping center,
 - dress-ups,
 - writing center,
 - science center,
 - blocks in all shapes and sizes,
 - book corner,
 - small toys such as dinosaurs, cars and garages, trains and train tracks, people and dollhouses, animals and barns,
 - a small table with manipulative toys and games, like Playmobil, gears, or lacing cards, that build your math skills and fine motor development,
 - larger toys on the carpet that will be rotated in and out of the classroom,
 - a sensory table that will be wheeled into your classroom and will be filled with all kinds of fascinating things to touch and explore like water, dirt and plastic bugs, colorful dyed rice, dried pasta, rocks, foam, ribbons to cut, beans to drive trucks through, along with all of the tools needed to measure, cut, scoop, and pour.
- After free play, you will help clean up the classroom and get ready for snack. Your class will sit down together to enjoy a healthy snack brought by the snack helper. There will be lots of fun and interesting conversation!
- Your day will end either on the playground, or in the classroom or Co-op garden, where Mom or Dad will pick you up. You will have lots to tell and lots of art projects to take home and share with your family as we look forward to our next time together!

A Day in the Life of a Co-op Parent Helper

- Your teacher will greet you when you arrive and give you a brief run-down of the day's plans with any special information you need. Be sure to dress for playing and getting messy!
- During the first part of the morning, you will play with the children and help everyone feel comfortable as they arrive and say goodbye to mom or dad. When on the playground, expect to be running, chasing, pushing swings, building sandcastles, pulling wagons, kicking balls, making mudpies all while helping the teacher supervise safety. If you are in the classroom, be ready to get down on the floor to play, read books, build blocks, rock doll babies, participate in picnics, build train tracks, line up dinosaur parades, and follow wherever the preschool imagination leads.
- At circle time you will sit on the floor with the children. Be ready to sit near, and lend support to, any child who is learning how to stay focused at circle time.
- During free-play time, you will likely be assigned to supervise one of the art projects. Once that is complete, you will move through the room talking and playing with the children and helping the teacher to supervise and engage all students. Your guidance at clean-up time will help ensure a quick and orderly transition to snack.
- If you are the snack helper, you and your child will clean the tables and set the snack up for everyone. Co-op will provide paper plates, cups, napkins, and water pitchers and you will bring a healthy snack. The teacher, and other parent, will help the rest of the class wash hands and get ready for snack time.
- During the last 30 minutes of class, you will help clean up the classroom and place the artwork out on tables for parents to pick up. Then you will likely go home, pat yourself on the back for giving so generously of your time, and have a well-deserved afternoon nap!