



Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in Kids' Co-op Preschool. We have enclosed information about our preschool as well as a registration form. As you will see after reviewing the enclosed information, our program is "child-centered" and materials and activities are selected which allow the child to control his own learning as much as possible, and which will enhance the development of the child as a thinking, creative individual. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our program, please complete the registration form and return it with the non-refundable registration fee of \$75.00. If no openings are available, you can be placed on our waiting list. The non refundable waiting list fee is \$30.00 and is credited towards your first month's tuition.

As a reminder, cooperative preschools function only as well as its members. Participation is required in several areas of our operation. Parents work in their child's classroom on average two to three days per month, fill a committee position, which helps in the running of the preschool and participates in fundraising activities. In addition, to comply with Clark County licensing, parents who work in the classroom must acquire a Heath card from the Clark County Health District.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour.

Registration Dates for 2009-2010 school year:

- **Open Registration – Mar. 4, 2009 – We are currently enrolling for the 2009-2010 school year now!**

Sincerely,

Teri Johnston
Director

Why I Love My Cooperative Preschool!

Benefits for Children

- ❖ **Wonderful Developmental Preschool Program**
 - ✓ My children are appropriately prepared for Kindergarten and Elementary School.
 - ✓ The curriculum and facility meet or surpass local, national, and international education standards.
 - ✓ In America, cooperative preschools have embraced developmentally appropriate preschool programs for over 40 years.
- ❖ **Provides Rich Environment**
 - ✓ My children love the games, crafts, literature, music, manipulatives, science activities, tactile and sensory experiences.
 - ✓ It is a perfect child sized environment.
- ❖ **Creates a Very Happy and Positive School Experience**
 - ✓ The children learn by playing.
 - ✓ The children look forward to attending school.
 - ✓ They thrive in the security and sense of belonging.

Benefits for Parents

- ❖ **Educate Each Other on Parenting**
 - ✓ Helpful sharing between parents.
 - ✓ You see parents interact with their own children and with yours.
 - ✓ Strong Parent Education Programs, with guest speakers and workshops.
 - ✓ I have gained insight into my child's behavior.
- ❖ **Meet New Families with Shared Interests**
 - ✓ Old fashioned neighborhood relationships.
 - ✓ We share life's joys and successes.
 - ✓ I have made close friendships, with friends for life.
 - ✓ The school has special family events.
 - ✓ Co-op families rally to support each other in times of need.
- ❖ **Sharing Similar Family Values**
 - ✓ Co-op families have the same basic philosophy on raising children today.
- ❖ **Confidence in Classrooms, Serving on Committees, School Boards**
 - ✓ We take these skills with us into our children's elementary schools.
 - ✓ Co-operative preschool allows me to voice opinions, make proposals, set directions, & lead projects.
- ❖ **Take Joy in the Success of All the Children**
 - ✓ Co-op families see the children grow and advance.
 - ✓ All the families share in fun preschool experiences.
- ❖ **Take Joy in the Success of All the Children**
 - ✓ All the families help in the classroom and support the schools endeavors.

**For Further Information on a Cooperative Preschool
Near You Please Call: 656-6600**

www.kidscoop.org

Learning is child's play at Kids' Co-Op

Would you like to be an active participant
in your child's preschool experience?

Is your child ready to learn and grow
in a warm, loving preschool environment?

Kids' Co-op just may be for YOU and YOUR child!

Kids' Co-op is dedicated to the belief that building self-esteem is the first step in any child's education. We adhere to the philosophy that a child's natural desire to learn is fostered through play. Socialization skills are stressed and developmental readiness for future education is included in the curriculum.

Parent education and involvement is a key element within this non-profit preschool. Through participation, parents gain crucial insight into their child's development which is then carried throughout the child's educational years.

Our unique preschool and Kindergarten program was established in 1982 and is part of a nationwide network of parent cooperatives begun over 40 years ago. We are committed to ensuring quality alternative schooling for the young children of Las Vegas.

**For more information on Kids' Co-op, please call
(702) 656-6600 or visit us at www.kidscoop.org**

"KOOL DOUGH"

2 cups flour	1/2 cup salt
2 cups boiling water	3 tbsp. oil
2 pkgs. Unsweetened Kool Aid	

Mix all ingredients in a plastic bowl until dough forms a ball. Turn out on floured surface and knead for 5 minutes. Store in an air tight container.

Parent Participation Requirements

Our parents are responsible for participating in the Kids' Co-op in the following ways:

- Attend the mandatory 2 hour orientation.
- Attend "Love and Logic Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun! Creating Happy Families and Responsible Kids." This is a 5 week parent training program designed by the Love and Logic Institute, Inc. Times and location TBD. This class requires an additional fee and must be taken and completed the first semester your child is enrolled in Kids' Co-op.
- Attend monthly parent business meetings held in the evening on the 2nd Monday of each month (September-May).
- Participate monthly (usually 2-3 times per month) in your child's classroom as either Art or Snack Parent completing the assigned responsibilities which are posted in the classrooms. Parent Participation is an important part of you and your child's experience. We want you in the classroom. Please reserve the use of subs for illness or unavoidable situations. Parent Participation schedules are distributed and posted by the class coordinator. You must be prepared to start by 8:45 am on your scheduled workday for set-up and stay at school approximately 30 minutes after class for clean up.
- Participate as a member of a working committee with an assigned regular task or as a member of the Board of Directors.
- Participation is encouraged for **all** sponsored fund-raisers. Participation in the following fundraisers is **mandatory**:
 1. Annual Auction (Spring) by acquiring (or helping to acquire) donations, serving on a planning committee and working the required shifts either before or during the event
 2. Entertainment Book or Cookie Dough Sales (Fall).
 3. Additional **mandatory** fundraisers may be added at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- Assist 3 hours for set-up of classroom in August.
- Required cleaning of the school approximately 2 times during the school year, approx. a 2 ½ hour commitment each time to be performed with other families.
- Pay monthly tuition payment and any other fees incurred. Tuition is due on the 1st of each month and no later than the 5th of each month. Tuition is pre-paid one month in advance. For example, September tuition is due August 1. Late tuition is subject to a late fee. Returned checks are also subject to a returned check fee. If tuition is not paid by the 30th day of the month it is due, your child will not be allowed to attend class.
- Maintain current Clark County Health District Food handler/Childcare Health Card. Keep all information up to date and current with required copies in the office files. Maintain North Las Vegas Childcare Work Card **if** you volunteer in the classroom more than 20 hours per month and/or if you are a teacher or teacher substitute.

But Why a Co-op?

James L. Hymez, Jr. Ed. D.

Past President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children

That's a good question. A cooperative preschool will demand a great deal more time from you. It will demand more effort and more commitment than would a school to which you simply pay tuition. So the question is worth asking: Why go to all the extra trouble?

The answer, I think, does not lie primarily in what a cooperative preschool experience will do for your child. A good co-op and a good plain-preschool-school will have very similar goals. They will both work toward rounded social and emotional and physical and intellectual development. And they will have very similar programs: the same art, music, science, and math experiences, good literature, language, social studies, physical activities, play.

I believe that co-op children do get some special breaks - we'll talk about them later. But I am sure that in a co-op you - the adults, parents, mothers and fathers - gain the most. A cooperative preschool has to be an excellent school for young children but a co-op offers a bonus. It offers some very significant advantages to the grownups.

A co-op is your school as much as it is your child's school. You work in it. You give your energy and your ideas. You put yourself into the school. You help to shape it and to make it whatever it becomes. Today, in so many parts of our lives, something vague and faraway seems always to run the show: "establishment", the bosses, City Hall. Many of us don't feel we have much of a role to play. Not so in a co-op. The very opposite, in fact. A co-op is parents PLUS the well-trained teacher. There is no "George." No one else to do the work, no one else to blame. Parents who choose co-ops find this full involvement welcome.

Co-op mothers and fathers take their school responsibilities seriously. They read books and articles and pamphlets about early childhood development and education. They meet often for parent discussions. It has been said - but the people weren't complaining, just describing: "Co-ops are the meeting-est places!". Mothers and fathers confer frequently with the teacher. Most important of all, parents work directly in the classroom with the children, as aides or teacher-assistants or parent-helpers - whatever word you want to use. On a regular basis, co-op parents see their child's behavior in the group, they see other children's behavior, they see a school program at work.

Co-op parents do fuss a little at times because of the extra demands and the meetings. But despite any gripes they are sure this all pays off. They end up knowing a great deal about education, and this matters to them. Co-op parents tend to be hipped on good education. They don't want the ordinary, they want the very best for their children. They also end up knowing a great deal about child development and about their own child in particular. To co-op parents, helping a child grow well is a matter of first-rate importance. Their own adult lives take on more significance because they are "in" on such a vital process. The cooperative preschool offers the adults still other benefits. One frequent outcome is that parents find new friends for themselves at school. Sharing the joys as well as the headaches and backaches of making a co-op a good school brings adults very close together. In today's impersonal, everyone-for-himself world, such close human associations are rare. Co-op parents relish them.

Co-op parents don't object to the financial benefits either. Who doesn't want to save money today? A cooperative preschool always costs less than a comparably good private school. The reason for this is simple. Co-op parents pour their time, energy, sweat, and skills into their school. They do menial work, they do dirty work, they do professional work, they do no end of school jobs

"for free" that parents in other schools pay money to have someone else do. Co-op parents, of course, pay tuition but in straight cash-out-of-the-pocket (because of all the work-out-of-the-hide) a co-op is a bargain.

You have to be clear on the "for "free" part, however. Co-op parents pay less cash but they obligate themselves to some very definite responsibilities. Co-op parents must do their school jobs, for one thing. This work cannot be "just fitted in" if a parent happens to feel like it or if the time happens to be convenient. The parents' contribution is essential. Co-op parents must be self-disciplined so the work gets done. Co-op parents also obligate themselves to work on getting along with the other parents. Having close associations with co-workers is not always a picnic. Disagreements - on management, on child-rearing, on education - do arise. Co-op parents must be able to thrash out differences and to settle them with good feelings so school-life can go forward.

Co-op parents also obligate themselves to a special relationship with the trained preschool teacher, the professional director. This is a delicate and unusual relationship. In a co-op, parents play a key part but no school can be great without a strong, trained leadership. In a co-op, professional leadership is essential but no co-op can be great without the full utilization of the talents and insights of parents. Co-ops call for a rare mixture of mutual trust and respect among adults of differing backgrounds.

Now a word about the special gains co-op children make. There are at least two I'm very aware of. Number one: Co-ops usually have more adults present than do standard preschools, with the trained teacher on hand plus several parent-assistants. The extra hands and minds can mean greater richness and variety in the co-op program; they can mean the chance for more attention and more help for individual children. These are real virtues, not to be sneezed at.

You have to recognize, however, that there may be some tradeoffs where co-op children sometimes lose a little because of all the adults around. Especially at the beginning, parent-assistants may not be as skilled as regular preschools' paid aides at the beginning, but usually only for a short time. And, some children may act up in different ways when their parents are in the group.

Gain number two: in a co-op, "school" doesn't end at twelve o'clock, nor does it end on Friday. A co-op child is apt to be surrounded by a common point of view twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. The child is apt to get more consistency in guidance and more richness in stimulation, home and school and school and home.

But despite all the pluses for children and all the pluses for parents, I know that co-ops are not for everyone. Some adults do not want to take on added obligations. Some do not have the time in their lives for a co-op's demands. Those mothers and fathers who choose co-ops and who stay with them are the ones who, better than I, can answer the question: "Why a co-op?" I think they would say that a cooperative preschool is one way of getting a good early education for your child and an amazing way of getting some very pleasing experiences for yourself!

Having been a part of a co-op, I would go along with them. But you have to decide if a co-op fits your life. If it does, you are lucky, and I think you will be very pleased.

Kids' Co-op Preschool & Kindergarten

2009-2010 Tuition and Fee Schedule

Monthly Tuition

3 Day Tuition	\$225 /month
2 Day Tuition	\$150 /month
Kindergarten (9am to 1pm, including lunch)	\$400 /month
Enrichment Two Day a week program	\$100 /month
Multiple Child Discount	\$ 20 /month
Lunch Bunch	\$ 5 /day
Tuition Late Fee (After the 5 th , of the month)	\$ 10
Returned Check Fee	\$ 10

Registration/Supply Fees – Non-refundable

Building fund	\$ 200 /year, per family
Registration -Preschool	\$ 75 /year, \$ 40/additional child
Registration -Kindergarten	\$ 75 /year, \$ 40/additional child
Enrichment (for non co-op Kindergarten students)	\$ 75 /year
Kindergarten Supply Fee	\$ 50 /year
Enrichment Supply Fee	\$ 50 /year
Wait List	\$ 30 /family
Key Fob (1 time required fee)	\$10

Buyout/Member Fees

Working Parent Substitute (This fee paid directly to the substitute in cash)	\$ 20
Working Parent Substitute with Snack (This fee paid directly to the substitute in cash)	\$ 30
School Set-up Buyout	\$ 100
Required Cleaning Buyout (2-3 hour shifts) (This fee paid in cash to the office to give the buyout family)	\$ 100
Cookie Dough Buy Out	\$100
Entertainment Book Buy Out	\$100 or 10 book minimum
Auction Buyout	\$ 300
Business Meetings, after 1st missed meeting	\$ 100
Committee non-compliance fine	TBD by Board of Directors
Love & Logic 5 Week Class	\$ 75/person \$ 110/couple

All fees are subject to change annually – the above fees are accurate until June 30, 2010.