



# Anchorage Cooperative Preschool

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Tel: 907-279-0923 [www.acpre.org](http://www.acpre.org)

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*Where families and children learn together*

Anchorage Cooperative Preschool is a community of families who strive to embrace active parenting and our teachers who understand the developmental needs of our children and the importance of a families' continued involvement.

## Our Program

The curriculum at the Anchorage Cooperative Preschool is a child-centered philosophy that incorporates family and community values and lifestyles. Specific activities emerge from the children's interests and ideas.

The following is a list of goals for ACP children, yet each child's development is taken into account: a child who is just becoming socially active is only beginning the long process of sharing, taking turns and being a good friend. Positive social and emotional interactions are the main focus while academic endeavors are used to enhance the overall experience.

- To learn through play and exploration
- To learn by doing (rather than demonstration)
- To understand how to be a friend
- To take turns
- To share with others
- To listen to others
- To help others
- To stand up for themselves (to be heard and respected)
- To try new things
- To increase attention spans
- To value themselves as individuals and group members
- To be willing to make mistakes and learn from them
- To be excited about discovery and learning
- **To have fun!**

## Philosophy

We believe it is important for our students to have experiences individually and with other children and adults in a safe, positive and accepting environment. Children explore to discover their own interests and abilities, and are exposed to new ideas and concepts. We believe it is essential for family members to be in the classroom learning and participating with their children.

## What is a "Cooperative" School?

The families who are enrolled in the Coop are the owners of our school. ACP is run entirely by members of the organization. Families are directly involved in educating, managing, and raising funds for our school.

The Board of Directors oversees the operations of the Coop. It is made up of active and former family members, and interested members of the community.



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## Participation

At the preschool everyone (children and adults) contributes ideas and energy. We facilitate the incorporation of the culture of each family into our program. Children and adults learn more about each other by spending time together and through sharing foods, customs, languages and ideas.

Everyone can help make our school better by asking questions and making positive suggestions. We want to keep improving our school by trying new ways of doing things.

## Benefits

When adults participate in their children's preschool there are many benefits for the child and family:

- Adults observe children as they play and experience their similarities and differences;
- Adults support one another and learn new parenting skills;
- There is continuity between home and school;
- Families share their talents, experiences, interests and skill;
- Children are exposed to different ways of doing things;
- Children understand that their school and education are important to their families.
- Families become part of a caring and supportive community.

Active family participation creates the spirit and atmosphere of "our" school. We create this school together; it belongs to all of us. Our school is a positive and accepting place for all children and families.

## Coop Families

**Committed • Caring • Flexible • Creative • Contributors**

Coop families are committed and engaged in their children's learning and in the flourishing of the Preschool.

Families care about, support, learn from, and communicate with each other and with the teacher and Board of Directors. They consider themselves part of a team, and work together in all aspects of the school.

Creative ideas and energy are contributed by all families, thus incorporating the culture and lifestyles of each family into our program. This can only be done when families get involved! Children and adults love to learn more about each other by spending time together sharing foods, customs, languages, interests and ideas.

Overall, Coop families are flexible – willing to adjust their schedule or work load to help others.