



PEOPLEPLACE
Cooperative Preschool
BOX 644 CAMDEN, MAINE 04843 | (207) 236-4225

Dear Peopleplace Family,

Spring, 2017

Peopleplace is a school founded on the belief that a preschool experience involves the parents as well as the child. Peopleplace is a cooperative based on family involvement. Therefore, it is expected that families participate in our program in various ways. Certain tasks are required while others more flexible depending on each family's availability and/or special skill set. While parents are encouraged to take the opportunity to spend time in their child's classroom, there are many ways to give your valuable time. You will be provided with a *Commitment Form* and *Parent Contract* at the time of enrollment.

The Peopleplace curriculum is inspired by the educational system in the municipal child care programs of Reggio Emilia, Italy. This "philosophy," known as the Reggio Approach, is founded on several key concepts:

- Relationships are at the forefront of learning.
- Children do not learn in isolation but through their connections and explorations – with one another, with the environment, with their teachers, with families and with the broader community.
- All children have the potential to construct their own knowledge by engaging in social interaction and the materials provided in the school environment.
- The school is meant to be a welcoming space, designed to encourage communication between children, parents, and teachers.

We are very excited about our commitment to and connection with this wonderful Italian educational system. We feel it enables us to offer a unique and valuable experience for both young children and their families.

At Peopleplace, not only are we supporting the education and development of the child, but parents are also learning skills that they will use throughout their child's school years. Perhaps most importantly parents are learning how to advocate for their child through the relationships they build with the Peopleplace staff and one another. Our cooperative thrives because the families who join this community are committed to the success of the program. Parent involvement in all aspects of the organization is what has shaped Peopleplace into a program of the highest quality for young children. For instance, during a morning in the classroom, parents are able to see their child in new ways – how she participates in group settings, how she forms new friendships, how he learns to collaborate and problem solve, and how, over time, he becomes familiar with the rituals and routines embedded in the school day.

Peopleplace operates on a school year calendar, mostly in-line with the local MSAD #28 public school schedule (with some exceptions). Enrollment for the following year starts in the early spring. Admissions are based on a first-come first-served basis. An "in-house" registration period is offered to all current families at which time younger siblings may also be enrolled. Following this initial offering, enrollment is open to any new families. Children entering the toddler program must be 18 months by September 1st. Children entering the preschool program must be 3 years of age in September.

The registration fee and the first month's tuition must be paid to secure a spot for your child. The registration fee must be supplied with application to formally be on the list. That check will be deposited at that time and reimbursed if no spot is available for your child. First month's tuition is due August 1st. Tuition assistance is available and will be determined in mid-June, deadline for that application is June 1st. Please contact the Peopleplace office by phone, e-mail or in person for more information or to schedule a visit. Information is also available on our website at www.peopleplacecoop.org

Sincerely,
Sessa Salas
Director, Peopleplace