

Co-oping Agreement

A cooperative nursery school gives parents the unique opportunity to be part of their child's first school experience. As the name implies, in a cooperative everyone's active participation is important to making it work. The children are happiest when they, their parents, and teachers work together openly and "cooperatively." Suburban Nursery School has functioned in this manner for the last fifty-plus years, despite its being run by unpaid parents.

Please find below an outline of your responsibilities as a co-oping parent.

1. Co-oping: Each parent is expected to "co-op" at Suburban. On a scheduled day, the child's mother or father assists the teacher and performs all necessary tasks as indicated by the teacher. The parent must arrive on time; failure to do so unfairly shifts the burden of work to other parents.

2. Parent Meetings: At least one parent from each family is required to attend all parent meetings. There is an orientation meeting at the beginning of the year for all families, and one or two meetings throughout the year for each class. At year's end, we have another meeting to elect the new Board. Teachers may, at their discretion, cancel or add more meetings if they determine there is a need. Your attendance and participation at these meetings is valuable and necessary; failure to attend the annual, school-wide meetings (in September and April) without an excused absence from the president will result in a fine of \$50.

3. Committee or Board Service: Each parent is asked to help with the work of one of the committees which help run the school (membership, housekeeping and maintenance, newsletter, hospitality/social, art, science, and fundraising) or serve on the Board. Parents are welcome to attend Board meetings, which are held monthly.

4. Open Communication: We stress the need for open, frank, and fair communication among parents, the Board, and the teachers. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please share them with the teachers, with a Board member, or with your class representative. You will be listened to. Grumbling and grouching is destructive and doesn't solve anything.

5. Set Up/Pack Up/Clean Up Nights: One parent is required to come to the school on two clean up nights during the year. You will also be scheduled for *either* school set-up *or* pack-up, but not both. Regarding clean up nights, we do not have an outside cleaning service, so it is up to the parents to keep the classrooms and the play room clean. Dads *or* moms are welcome.

Clean up nights are scheduled in advance, for Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. You will be given your dates early in the year. If it is not possible for you to attend your assigned date, please make arrangements to switch with another parent in advance. If you fail to attend or make a switch, you unfairly increase the burden on the other parents and you will be fined. For the sake of fairness, we have instituted the following fine schedule: \$50 for the first missed occurrence, \$75 for the second missed occurrence, and \$100 for a third missed night.

Families with multiple children in the school may be asked to pick up a third clean up night or perform some extra service to the school.

I have read Suburban Nursery School's Co-oping Agreement and understand what is required of me. I hereby agree to meet my co-oping responsibilities.

Family Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent signature: _____