

Lead Preschool Teacher

- Daily, lead and learn alongside a group of 8-10 children (ages 3-4.5 or 3.5-5), serving as a co-researcher, resource, facilitator and advocate, utilizing the outdoor environment to the greatest extent possible.
- Under the leadership of the Program Director, implement a curriculum framework that encompasses social understanding, the arts, language development and literacy, scientific inquiry, and mathematics, and:
 - Employs a social-constructivist approach
 - Cultivates curiosity and wonder about the natural world and is rooted in a sense of place within our local ecosystem.
 - Uses projects about real life concepts that are of interest to the children (emergent curriculum)
 - Inspires children to investigate and research
 - Builds understanding of processes, and encourages critical thinking and discovery
- Develop curriculum maps and ideas for daily work and extended project work and collaborate with other teachers in staff meetings.
- Develop spaces (indoors and outdoors) and materials that provide a stimulating environment for exploration for children and support daily, weekly, and long term goals and needs.
- Develop individual relationships with each child and learn about his or her unique personality and needs, and strong, positive and productive relationships with all families whose children are enrolled in the school, particularly those in teacher's core group.
- Adjust teaching approach based on individual children's needs; create a climate where children feel safe to learn and contribute; and provide support and feedback to children.
- With Program Director, brainstorm and discuss concepts and creative ideas for program development, school development, and activities and schedules.
- Enthusiastically participate in daily personal reflective practices and note taking, and in visible learning, such as documentation displays, online journals, photography and video and in developing children's portfolios.
- Use daily and weekly documentation and assessment rubrics to maintain ongoing assessment of each child's special interests, abilities, and areas for development.
- Plan for and lead parent conferences for parents of each core child two times per year.
- Work with other core groups of children as needed, both to share areas of personal expertise with other teachers and children, and as a substitute as needed.
- Develop knowledge of early child development theories and approaches such as those in Reggio Emilia, Italy and the Project Approach, the Forest Schools and nature-based learning.
- Attend annual Back to School night and lead orientation for families of children in your class.
- Assist in maintaining the school spaces and caring for school animals and garden.
- Participate in school-based and other professional development opportunities, some of which occur outside of school hours.

- Assist in developing the annual professional development plan for the school community and host workshops.
- Support the smooth operation of Eastern Ridge; willingly pitch in as needed to support the daily needs of the school and children.
- Participate in occasional school events and programs that occur outside of regular school hours (see school calendar)

Required Qualifications

- 3-5 years + teaching or other experience with multiple young children at one time.
- Degree in early childhood education strongly preferred.
- Love of nature and being outdoors in all weather; respect and appreciation for creatures, including insects, small wildlife and birds, and a true appreciation for the need for children to get muddy, dirty and wet.
- Practical experience with Reggio Emilia Approach and/or a nature-based approach.
- Ability to effectively work with children individually and in groups. Excellent group management skills.
- Ability to thrive in a collaborative, evolving environment.
- Compelling and inspiring ability to communicate respectfully and wholly with children.
- Demonstrated ability to understand and balance the needs of children, parents, and other staff.
- Up to date CPR/first aid certification.
- Ability to move about and stand for up to 8 hours.
- Ability to lift up to 40 lbs.

Hours, Compensation, and Benefits

- This is a full time, year round position. Starting salary \$20-\$23/hour, based on experience
- 4+ weeks of scheduled paid holidays plus 14 days PTO
- \$18.50 bi-weekly cell phone stipend, plus annual \$50 allowance for a waterproof phone case
- Medical, dental and vision insurance options
- Opportunity to work with and learn from a supportive team of teacher/mentors in a progressive, mostly outdoor, nature-based preschool setting