INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Co-op Family Center is an Early Childhood Learning Center (near 24th & Patterson; inside Spencer View Family Housing) that works with children as young as 2 months old and up through fifth grade!

Nature plays a big role in our day-to-day experiences…it can be used to access bigger ideas. For example: How does nature affect one’s mood? (Social-Emotional Development); What does that smell like? (Sensory Input); Why is there moss on this tree? (Critical Thinking, Ecology).

We bring natural elements into classroom spaces, in our backyard (playground) area, and we do lots of outdoor excursions!

We here at the Co-op want to instill a sense of love and respect for nature…and this is where we need you!

Timeline & Hours

Hours are flexible during the day/weeks to work with student schedules; and length of internship depends on number of enrolled credits. We are able to offer 1-4 credits of internship experience (30hrs per 1 credit).

We hope to have our intern start week 1 so that they can experience a full term from beginning to end! If you want to take more than four credits, you can extend into the following term (we are open over the summer as well). Communicate with supervisors and academic advisors about this option.

*Interns are required to submit to background check
Supervision

*Kim Frank – *Lead teacher in PreK/K Classroom & Outdoor Environment Specialist

**Admin Team – Either Ben (Pedagogista), Estee (Director), Tami (Business Manager)

***Cory – Lead Teacher in Wobbler Classroom

* Main Supervisor

** Ben will most likely be the Admin presence, while Tami will most likely not be a part of this.

***Cory may not be a part of supervision meetings…Cory is an open resource due to creating this position, and having had many internship experiences through my time at the University

Goals & Responsibility

1. Help to design Environmental Internship Position:

   *This can be an on-going ‘policy book’ for Interns, by Interns*

2. Other Potential Responsibilities...

   o Meet with each classroom per week (15-30 minutes); maintain open and honest communication between leads and admin

   o Maintain playground cleanliness;

   o Create organized and functional systems for current materials and storage areas;

   o Meet with the Board’s Outdoor Environment Committee and act as a liaison with Board and teacher’s thoughts/ideas;

   o Work to bring more natural elements into our outdoor space (i.e. vegetation, wood climbers, natural water collectors, etc.);

   o Work with children and classrooms on outdoor projects; offer ideas of your own as well;

   o Improve on our knowledge of ecology and ways that natural elements work together (and how we can support this in our outdoor space);

   o Assist in greenhouse and other plant-growing;

   o Help design this Internship Experience to keep offering positions in future;

   o Senior Project: Varies depending on project ideas. You will work closely with Kim, and supervisor, to make sure your senior project will be a long term benefit for our school. Brainstorm with supervisor.