



PARENT PARTICIPATION - PRESCHOOL

Parent participation is at the heart of the Mulberry educational experience. At Mulberry, parent participation goes well beyond the understanding that involved parents improve student outcomes. Mulberry parents bring talents and enthusiasm to the classroom; and more hands means more small group work is possible, extending and enriching student learning. Moreover, our children have the opportunity to form personal relationships with many different adults in the classroom. As a result, we believe Mulberry students approach the world of adults with greater ease and confidence. And yet, while the focus of participation is on serving students, parents' gain is no less profound.

Mulberry parents have an unparalleled opportunity to be part of their child's educational growth. We learn to understand our own developing child in the context of developing peers. We build our own parenting skills by observing and practicing Positive Discipline as modeled in the classroom. And, just as the children do, we form friendships that last a lifetime.

Classroom Level Participation (Required)

- **Aide in Child's Class Once a Week (can be parents, grandparents, etc.)**

Multiple Children at Mulberry

Multiples in Preschool Only: Parents are asked to work one and a half classroom shifts each week. Teachers may request parents of multiples in preschool to work extra time based on the needs and best interests of the children and the educational program.

Multiples in Preschool and Elementary: Parents are asked to work one and a half classroom shifts each week. The full shift is worked in preschool.

- **Parent Education Meetings**

Attendance at 5 parent education meetings is required. Each year there will be approximately 10 to choose from. **These meetings are critical, as they allow for community building, cohesion of class culture, and a calm environment for parents to learn their roles related to participation.** At the beginning of the school year you will receive a calendar listing all of the meetings that will be eligible for fulfilling this requirement.

School Level Participation

- **Steppin' Out Auction Contribution**

Steppin' Out, our annual dinner-dance and auction gala, represents our largest fundraising effort each year. We ask every family to donate or solicit an item for the school's annual auction. A \$75 value is suggested.

- **Annual Campaign – Grow Our Mulberry Tree**

Mulberry's annual giving campaign occurs in November. Contributions are not required, but we encourage every family to donate if possible. Funds raised from this effort go toward supporting our program.

Other Opportunities to Participate

Throughout the school year there will be many other ways to participate in preschool. There are events (Thanksgiving Feast, Valentine's Day, etc.) that will need extra volunteers, as well as classroom tasks that the teachers will identify. Watch for sign-up sheets in the classrooms if you'd like to help out.