

FAMILY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM & ANNUAL PARENT MEETING

MLLC is a cooperative and its successful operation and programming requires the participation of each family. From the very beginning of MLLC, parent interest, involvement, and support have guided our programs and operations.

The Learning Center's Annual Parent Meeting and Family Participation Program allows this philosophy to continue and for our entire community to benefit from the abundant talents and interests of our families. The program also enhances each child's experience in the Learning Center by creating a "village" of support that includes many caring adults and allows for everyone to participate in our important work.

Whether sharing knowledge in the classroom, serving on a committee or as a board member, or helping keep the learning center clean and in good repair, parent involvement is an essential element of the Learning Center.

At least one parent/guardian/family representative must attend the **Annual Parent Meeting** in September. Important policy and operational information is covered during the meeting.

As part of your enrollment agreement and to support the work of the Learning Center, each family is required to volunteer at least 25 hours or pay an equivalent amount.

- Each family is required to contribute a minimum of 25 volunteer hours each program year (June 1 - May 31). Volunteer Log Sheets will be provided and completed sheets will be requested in mid-December and mid-May.
- All participants must turn in their final participation log by the last day of the program year or will be charged the \$500 fee for not participating in the volunteer program.
- Volunteer hours not completed by May 31 will be invoiced at \$20/per hour with payment expected June 15.
- Members who do not have the time or who are unable to participate in one of the options above may pay a "buyout" fee of \$500 to be released from these responsibilities.

Volunteer opportunities will be provided, and expectations communicated throughout the summer and the program year. Below are examples of family participation that fully support the Learning Center and your children. We welcome your ideas and skills!

- Serve as an active member of the Board of Directors or the Fundraising Committee. *Note that the Board is currently recruiting members - from both LC families and the community at large. The Fundraising Committee always welcomes new members.*
- Actively participate in and support our fundraising events – for the Learning Center as a whole and to meet individual classroom goals. *Fundraising events have included the Ski-a-thon, Run for It and the Holiday Tree & Wreath Sale. Bring your new ideas and energy!*
- Contribute your specialty or passion to our academic programming (e.g., garden program, math specialist, reading assistant). *These must be coordinated with the Director and Classroom Guide to support our learning goals.*

- Coordinate, create, organize field trips and special events. *These must be coordinated with the Director and Classroom Guide to support our learning goals.*
- Contribute to weekly classroom cleaning and hand-towel laundry. *All classrooms and bathrooms must be thoroughly cleaned each weekend.*
- Commit to sidewalk snow removal for a weekday throughout the winter months. *This must be completed before 8:15 a.m. on Learning Center operating days.*
- Set-up and tear down MLCC special events. *Major events include our Holiday Celebration, International Potluck, and the End-of-Year Program & Picnic.*
- Help maintain and repair our facility. *We need a cadre of fixer-uppers who will keep us running smoothly, perform minor repairs and assist with classroom improvements!*
- Be a substitute on-call. *Sickness and life sometimes wreak havoc with our staffing. Be there to fill in.*
- Help our Guides with special projects and preparing materials. Copy, laminate, collate, gather... *Coordinate with any Guide and the Director. Because... Many hands make light work!*
- Additionally, each family is strongly encouraged to register for the **Kroger Community Rewards** program if you shop in Elkins. *Recruit friends and family to do the same.*

While the **Family Participation Program** helps keep program fees down, more importantly, the program provides a unique learning experience for our children. It cultivates a real sense of community and gives parents the opportunity to work with staff or classroom materials and meet other parents while making a very real contribution to the Learning Center. When children see the adults in their lives active in their education, it shapes their perception of the importance of education and strengthens their learning experiences.