

Grassroots Learning Co-op Programs: 2025-26

Grassroots Learning: Learn, Play, Grow

Fostering respect, curiosity, and independence through hands-on, Montessori inspired learning.

Preschool Co-op (Ages 2–3)

Core Focus: Respect for self, others, and the environment

Learning Through Play and Exploration

- **Developmentally Appropriate Play:** Student-led discovery through natural materials.
- **Sensorial & Practical Life Activities:** Pouring, sweeping, cutting, and caring for our things.
- **Art & Music:** Open-ended creative time to explore rhythm, color, and sound guided by a monthly artist and musician focus.
- **Outdoor Discovery:** Nature walks and sensory play in natural settings.
- **Grace & Courtesy Lessons:** Learning kind interactions and cooperation.
- **Gentle exposure to letters and numbers:** Gentle introduction through play, song, art, and storytelling.

Teacher Role: Acts as a guide, introducing materials explicitly once, then allowing free exploration. Focuses on play, art, music, and appreciation for nature.

Lower Elementary Co-op (Ages 4–6)

Core Focus: Respect for each other and appreciation of materials and opportunities

Blending Montessori and Play-Based Learning

- **Montessori Materials:** Students will be taught to independently utilize our Montessori materials for student-led learning times. (math manipulatives, movable alphabet, sensorial work, etc.)
- **Practical Life & Culinary Arts:** Cooking, measuring, cutting, polishing, cleaning, and caring for the classroom environment.
- **Outdoor Learning:** Nature studies and environmental stewardship.
- **Daily Journaling:** Encourages writing, expression, and basic grammar skills. Students begin tracing, move to copy work, then to phonetic spelling.
- **Math & Reading Small Groups:** Structured lessons by teachers followed by independent exploration.
- **Art & Music Integration:** Monthly focus on an artist and musician, exploring their works, life, and replicating their style.

Teacher Role: Facilitator of learning, offering balance between structured lessons and independent discovery.

Upper Elementary Co-op (Ages 7–9)

Core Focus: Independence, responsibility, and respect through self-directed learning

Developing Leaders and Independent Thinkers

- **Hands-On & Project-Based Learning:** Multi-week, cross-curricular projects.
- **Reading in Book Clubs:** Group discussion, literary analysis, written responses and book reviews.
- **Writing Process:** Drafting, revising, editing, and publishing (often on typewriters).
- **Mathematics:** Small-group instruction with real-world applications. Introduction to computer based math program.
- **Culinary, Gardening, Art, & Music:** Thematic units, seasonal lessons that have cross-curricular ties.
- **Outdoor Education:** Nature journaling, environmental science, woodshop, and stewardship projects.

Teacher Role: Mentor and guide fostering autonomy, conflict resolution, and creative problem-solving.

Program Progression Overview

Age Group	Core Focus	Learning	Teacher Role	Academic Approach
2–3 (Preschool)	Respect for self, others, environment	Play-based, sensorial	Gentle guide	Informal exposure
4–6 (Lower Elementary)	Respect & appreciation of peers and learning environment	Montessori academics + hands-on	Facilitator	Small-group, hands-on
7–9 (Upper Elementary)	Independence & responsibility	Project-based, self-directed	Mentor	Formal instruction in small groups or 1:1

Rooted in Respect. Growing Through Experience.

Growth Plan: 2026–27 School Year

Expanding with Our Students

Grassroots Learning will continue to grow alongside our community of learners, offering enriched programs and expanded age cohorts:

- **Preschool Co-op (Ages 2–4):** Building on our foundation of play, respect, and exploration, the preschool class will expand to include early four-year-olds, focusing on leadership, cooperation, and readiness for the lower elementary program.
- **Lower Elementary Co-op (Ages 5–7):** Students will deepen academic engagement with continued Montessori materials, small-group reading and math instruction, and cross-curricular projects. The expanded age group allows for peer mentorship and continuity of learning.
- **Upper Elementary Co-op (Ages 8–10):** Older students will take on greater independence and responsibility through advanced project-based learning, student-led initiatives, and mentorship of younger cohorts. Curriculum will continue to blend creativity, academics, and environmental appreciation.

This growth supports a continuous learning pathway from early preschool through upper elementary, preserving the co-op's values of respect, independence, and connection to the natural world.

At Grassroots Learning, every child is guided to discover their own rhythm, curiosity, and confidence—building a foundation for lifelong learning and connection to the natural world.