

**South Puget Sound Community College Affiliation with the
Lacey Parent Cooperative Preschool
Two Programs Under One Roof!**

A cooperative preschool is a learning place for both children and adults. The child is enrolled in the preschool program and one or both parents are enrolled in a credit bearing parent education course at South Puget Sound Community College at no additional charge. These parent education workshops include child development, child guidance techniques and age appropriate learning activities for young children. We also cover various other topics of interest to parents. The workshops are held at the preschool once a month either in the daytime or in the evening and are taught by the college instructor whose title is the Family Educator. Sometimes the Family Educator will arrange for a guest speaker to conduct the workshop. The other portion of the course is the parent helping you do in the classroom. In addition to seeing your child interact with others and getting to know the other children, you can apply the theories and skills you have learned during the workshops in the classroom setting.

So we have two programs under one roof. The children's preschool and the parent's college course.

The Family Educator also acts as a resource for the parents and can give you feedback on any issues or questions you may have about parenting. She also is an advisor to the preschool board as well as being a consultant to the teacher. She works with the parents and teacher to ensure that the co-op offers a quality experience for children.

In addition the college provides liability insurance for each registered child who attends the preschool program.

The classes we offer are designed to facilitate discussion and sharing between the parents in addition to learning new skills and information. Parents also often find comfort in knowing that other parents share similar experiences, concerns, or frustrations. Parents in the co-op have reported an increased understanding of child development, education, and parenting skills.

In the event that a parent is unable to attend a parenting class, there is always an opportunity to do a "make up" project of your choosing. Examples would be: doing an activity at home with your child or attending another parenting event such as a PTA meeting at your other child's school.