



Childcare Policy - Apprentice Agreement: 2011

If you have children and you're interested in applying to be part of our 2011 Organic Farming Apprenticeship program, you need to read this!

It is our intention to allow apprentices to not only cultivate their own farming and gardening skills but also to share this experience with their families. However due to the labor-intensive nature of the program, and the need for farm efficiency, you will need to abide by the following guidelines should you choose to bring your children to the farm:

1. Prior to bringing your children to the farm, you must complete and file a liability waiver for each child. Please understand that EarthDance is not responsible for any injuries as we are a working farm in an outdoor environment that is not child-proof.
2. EarthDance does not provide a childcare service. However, we do want to make it possible for parents to share this experience with their children. We envision the formation of a childcare cooperative for all parents who wish for their kids to be on the farm while they're working.
3. It is the apprentices' responsibility to coordinate with other parents in the program to form a cooperative in which one apprentice/parent is with all of the children while the other apprentices/parents work on the farm. (Time spent with the children does not count towards graduation hours, so supervisory time would be in addition to the 8 hours/week of field and market work.)
4. This childcare cooperative will take place on the farm and so the parent is expected to stay on the farm while the child/children are present.
5. You will provide your children with adequate food and water, weather appropriate clothing, and any other necessary items for your child's safety and comfort while at the farm. We encourage you to send educational material with your child such as reading material or educational games. There are currently no restroom facilities at the farm and so we do request that you have your child use a facility prior to arriving at the farm. If your child has special needs, for example: learning disabilities, behavior issues, or special disciplinary goals, you will communicate this to persons interacting with your child so that they are able to accommodate the child and honor your parenting.
6. Once the apprenticeship class for 2011 is announced, we will host a meeting for everyone involved in the childcare cooperative to discuss goals, activities, and get to know the children.

EarthDance will host various youth programs throughout the year, and apprentices are

encouraged to bring their children to any and all of these! *Unfortunately, we do not have further information about these youth programs at this time. Stay tuned!*

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