



Position: 2024-2025 Lead Teacher, Full-time or Part-time
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Start Date: August 26, 2024, 2024-2025 school year contract
Address: 240 E Gowen Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19119

About The Big Backyard

The Big Backyard Nursery School (BBY) is an established cooperative preschool located in the Mount Airy neighborhood of Northwest Philadelphia. Each day we work to foster emotional, social, and intellectual growth of our children by making each of them feel safe, respected and loved. At BBY, parents actively participate in their child's preschool experience. The school boasts a 5:1 child to adult ratio, with a teacher, a co-teacher and a cooperating parent in every classroom every day. The BBY school day is centered around the large outdoor space or "Big Backyard," and we aim to get children outdoors, exploring nature every day as part of their school experience. Our wonderful playground includes swings, slides, riding toys, climbers and plenty of space to run around. The educational emphasis at The Big Backyard is on **learning through play**. A thematic approach helps capture children's imagination and encourage depth of engagement. We create a rich learning environment and encourage children to explore, make choices, try out ideas and collaborate with their peers. Art, drama, sensory play, music, mathematics, science and stories are a consistent part of our program. Circle time helps teach children about being part of a group, taking turns and following directions.

We are looking for a Certified Teacher, who is creative, energetic and loves the outdoors to join our team of seven early childhood professionals and 45-50 diverse co-oping families who work together to provide a unique space for our children to play and explore at their own pace.

Job Description

Classroom Responsibilities

- Ensure that all students feel safe, respected, and loved every day
- Implement a curriculum provided for you that was created by our staff in a classroom of 3-5 year olds
- Facilitate children in their play and encourage each child's individual strengths, while helping them feel valued
- Reinforce positive interactions between children and model appropriate behaviors
- Maintain a safe, neat, and focused learning environment
- Foster positive family relationships in order to support the development of each student and the cooperative model

School Responsibilities

- Assist in fundraisers and other school events, approximately two weekends/semester
- Perform necessary support duties including (but not limited to) student arrival and pick up
- Adhere to standard staff hours: 8:30am-4:00pm daily

Qualifications and Credentials

- Certified in early childhood education with a teacher's license for Pre-K/Kindergarten
- Experience in a preschool setting strongly preferred, first-time teachers encouraged to apply
- Demonstrated track record of working effectively with young children as part of a team
- Exhibit initiative, resourcefulness, creativity and flexibility
- High investment in the care of young children
- Willingness to be outside in all types of weather and use the outdoors as part of the classroom

- Work under the supervision of the BBY director and ability to work as a team
- Complete all required criminal and child abuse background checks prior to start date:
 - PA State Police Clearance
 - PA Child Abuse Clearance
 - Cogent Federal Fingerprinting

Compensation

- Teacher salaries at the Big Backyard are competitive and based on experience

Note to Applicants

- The Big Backyard is an equal opportunity employer. Employees are selected on the basis of ability without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation, in accordance with federal and state law.
- All of our staff are fully vaccinated and boosted and adhere to the school COVID protocols unless there is a certified medical exemption.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit a resume, detailed cover letter, and 3 references to Judith Mercuris, BBY Director at bby.school@gmail.com, and Zoë Rankin, BBY Parent at zoe@balanceded.com
Subject: Lead Teacher Position