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## Our Teacher, Ms. Mieke

Mieke has been in education for over 20 years and has worked with us since 2005. In addition to her degrees in early education, she completed her Montessori training in 2012. Ms. Mieke blends her life-long love of learning with her humor, creativity, and compassion to build a unique learning community for students as



## Ms. Mieke's Teaching Philosophy

- Expectations go a long way!
- Treat each child as the individual they are.
- Look for the good in every child.
- Patience really is a virtue!
- Teach children to solve problems on their own.
- Children have a lot to teach.
- Delight in the small things.

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## Testimonials

*"We love YCP! The cooperative model fosters a sense of community and we enjoyed being a part of the school. Ms. Mieke is warm and caring; she demonstrates great patience and takes the time to know each child individually. Our daughter always looked forward to going to class and her unique needs were consistently met. The Montessori curriculum allows each child to work at their own level and pace. The school atmosphere is bright and cheerful. We recommend YCP to any family looking for a school they can really be involved in!"*

-The Burpee Family



*"The Montessori format of the class really drew us to the school. It gives kids a chance to be themselves and explore, while introducing them to structure and the classroom environment. The cooperative element was also really important to us. I loved being involved in the classroom, watching them learn, grow and play, seeing them make their first friends. Having the opportunity to take the first few steps of your child's educational journey with them is a beautiful thing. We have made and are still making many cherished memories at YCP."*

-Dannielle Murphy



**A Montessori Inspired Environment**

Ypsilanti Cooperative Preschool  
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Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

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[ypsicoop.org](http://ypsicoop.org)

## Our Program and Classes:

Our program is designed as an open play environment whereby children learn and develop as a result of carefully selected activities and materials, including field trips. Our main goal is to have children develop an adequate self-concept in a school setting. We feel that what children are able to learn depends largely on their feelings about themselves.



The YCP offers two classes. The “3’s Class” is for children who have turned three years old by December 1st, while the “4’s Class” is for children who have turned four years old by December 1st.

**The three year old preschool class has a total of no more than 16 children. They meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 12pm for a 34 week term.**

**The four year old preschool class has a total of no more than 20 children. They meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 12pm for a 34 week term.**

## What does it mean to be a “Cooperative Preschool”?

It means that we are a non-profit organization that is administered and maintained by the parents of current students. Parents assist our professional teacher, Ms. Mieke, in the classroom on a rotating basis and participate in the educational program of all the children. Parents, children, and teacher all learn together.

### “A family of families.”

-Parent Cooperative Preschool International



## Parents Are Required To:

- Assist in the classroom about 1-2 times a month and bring a snack on their assist day.
- Attend two cleaning bees or choose an opt-out option.
- Participate in the fall and spring fundraiser or pay the fundraising fee.
- Take on one year-long school job.
- Attend one mandatory membership meeting per semester.

## Our Montessori Environment

### Inside the Classroom:

Children will:

- Flourish in a peaceful, calm, and purposeful setting designed to meet individual needs.
- Interact with classroom supplies and materials that are strategically placed at their height for easy access.
- Find numerous places to learn and play and in many ways, such as: by themselves, in pairs, in small groups, in large groups, inside, outside, at tables, and on the floor.
- Learn a sense of autonomy as they serve themselves snacks, wash their own dishes, and clean up their own spills and messes.
- Freely move throughout the classroom, choosing activities that interest them or work with the teacher, individually, or in small group.



## Curriculum

YCP offers a Montessori-based curriculum which offers your child the opportunity to learn and grow at his/her own pace in an environment meant just for children — a “prepared environment.” Your child will be offered many opportunities to learn using materials designed to teach specific concepts in the areas of practical life, sensory, math, language, culture, geography, science, and art.