



Starting a Kindergarten Co-op

(This also works for any preK or primary grade.)

1. Connect online

--Facebook is a tool you can use to find local homeschool families.

type in the search bar the name of your town or county or state along with the word "homeschool" or words "home school." You can find groups to join where you can post and ask other parents to meet in person.

--If you do not have Facebook or social media, you can go in person to the library and ask the librarian. Many homeschoolers utilize libraries during the school day. If you see school-aged children there during the weekday, they are likely homeschooled. Strike up a conversation with the parent. The same is true for parks and museums.

--Once you connect, ask the other parents if they are interested in forming a small group together.



2. Plan an in-person meeting with all interested parents.

--Tell everyone to bring a list of their ideas and their calendars of availability throughout the year.

--Once together you may want to brainstorm:

How long do you want each meeting to be?

What day of the week?

What activities need to be planned each time? (We did a couple of read-aloud picture books, craft, song or game. You could also add a "Show and Tell" time slot)

--What parties need planning/holidays to celebrate?

--What field trips do you want and who will plan each one?

--Rotation of who will host the co-op

--Allow children to meet each other and play.

3. Maintain a calendar with updates and regular communication between parents.

--I used a private Facebook group where we could communicate, tag each other, share photos and files, etc.

--You might want a website or an app, depending on the talents of the parents you have in your group.

--Keeping the communication open is good for spontaneous meet-ups like play dates and park days.

--Plan a Kindergarten graduation.