

## Welcome to the Bigelow Cooperative

In the spring of 1983, five families founded the *Bigelow Play Group*. They established a working cooperative, making decisions collaboratively and sharing administrative and housekeeping tasks. In 1985 Bigelow incorporated and moved to 0 Garden Street, Cambridge, where it would stay for the next 27 years. In 2012, our school moved to a new state-of-the-art education and care facility at 44 Park Street in Somerville, located within walking distance of Harvard and Porter Squares.

We currently serve 48 full and part-time children and their families, including children from three months to five years. Our recently-completed facility includes an outdoor play space, an indoor gross motor room and plenty of parking for pick up and drop off.

### Classes

Little Rainbow – 3 to 11 months  
Rainbow One (RB1) - 12 to 23 months  
Rainbow Two (RB2) - 24 to 32 months  
Rainbow 3 & 4 – 33 months to 5 years

**(Ages as of September 1<sup>st</sup>)**

*Bigelow Cooperative Day Care Center admits students without regard to race, cultural heritage, religion, political beliefs, disability, sexual orientation or marital status of parents.*

## Current Fees 2017-2018

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### Monthly Tuition and Fees

*All fees are subject to change.*

#### ¾<sup>th</sup> Day (8:30-3:30)

Class	5 days	4 days	3 days	2 days	1 day
Little Rainbow	\$2722	\$2236	\$1752	\$1269	n/a
Rainbow 1	\$2580	\$2120	\$1660	\$1201	n/a
Rainbow 2	\$2378	\$1958	\$1541	\$1125	n/a
Rainbow 3 & 4	\$2041	\$1691	\$1342	\$993	n/a

#### Extended Day (3:30-5:30)

Little Rainbow	\$746	\$598	\$450	\$301	\$154
Rainbow 1	\$707	\$567	\$426	\$286	\$142
Rainbow 2	\$658	\$527	\$396	\$265	\$132
Rainbow 3&4	\$522	\$418	\$315	\$211	\$108

#### Early Drop-off (8-8:30)

All Classes	\$319	\$254	\$194	\$125	\$65
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### Application Fee: \$50 (nonrefundable)

Applicants for Voucher slots are exempt from the application fee. Please request the income guidelines from our administration.



**Bigelow** Cooperative Daycare Center

A preschool and early learning center for children from three months to five years---walking distance from Harvard and Porter Squares.

Striving for a diverse community of families and teachers

**44 PARK STREET  
SOMERVILLE, MA  
CAMBRIDGE/SOMERVILLE CITY LINE  
(WALKING DISTANCE FROM HARVARD SQUARE)  
Tel: 617-623-5400  
Fax: 617-623-5455**

Visit our website at [Bigelowcoop.org](http://Bigelowcoop.org),  
or e-mail us at [info@bigelowcoop.org](mailto:info@bigelowcoop.org)

## The New Bigelow

Our new, state of the art facility at 44 Park Street is built with children in mind and features an indoor gross motor space and a dedicated playground. Please make an appointment to see our new home.

## Staffing Pattern

Bigelow offers excellent child/teacher ratios that often exceed the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and meet NAEYC guidelines. Many of our current teachers have been at Bigelow for over twenty years.

## Approach to Learning

Bigelow's program emphasizes a play based approach to learning. Our curriculum is inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy highlighting children as competent, capable learners. Each room has a routine which provides time for personal choices in play as well as more structured activities. Teachers emphasize hands-on experiential learning through age-appropriate social interactions, cultural awareness, and learning non-violent problem solving skills – all with an eye towards enhancing a child's positive self-image. We encourage creative development and offer anti-bias, theme and project based emergent curriculum.

The Bigelow Community is committed to including families of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. Our teachers are experienced in working with bilingual or non-English speaking children.

## Quality Education and Care

We provide high quality education and care for children ages 3 months to 5 years. We are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and are committed to its high standards for quality education. We rely both on a dedicated staff and parent involvement to give the children caring individual attention.

## Parent Involvement

Parents are a vital component to the operation of our school. Parents are viewed as partners, collaborators and advocates for their children. As members of a cooperative, all families at Bigelow are involved in the operation and governance of the Center. Families in Rainbow 1-4 participate in the classroom 4 hours per month. Infant participation varies depending on days your child attends. All families belong to one committee and these committees perform support services for the Center.

As members of the Bigelow community, parents and teachers meet together once a month to converse and set policy, ranging from questions of curriculum and building plans to staffing and budgetary issues. Two administrators conduct the day-to-day operations of the Center and implement community decisions.

## Snacks

Bigelow provides two healthy snacks each day. Parents provide lunch for their children.

## The Schedule

Bigelow is open year round on weekdays with the exception of the week before New Year's Day, the week before Labor Day and 11 holidays. Bigelow is also closed for s Staff Development Day in March.

Children enroll in the Center for a twelve-month period, typically from September through August. Bigelow does not have a separate summer program.

Children can attend 2, 3, 4, or 5 days per week. We offer the following schedules on a full or part-time basis:

Full Day	8:30-5:30
3/4 Day	8:30-3:30
Early Drop-off	8:00-8:30

## Diapers

Disposable diapers are provided for a monthly fee.

## Tuition and Fees and Deposits

Parent members pay all tuition fees on a monthly basis. A non-refundable deposit equal to one month tuition is required at the time of signing a twelve month contract. It will be applied towards the August tuition.

## Voucher Slots

In coordination with the Child Care Resource Center and other agencies, Bigelow offers voucher slots for eligible families. To qualify for a voucher slot, the total family income has to be at or below the median State income guideline. If you think you are eligible for reduced tuition, please call the Child Care Resource Center at 617-547-1063, or contact our office and ask for a copy of the eligibility scale. Families who apply for a Voucher slot do not need to pay an application fee.