**Early Childhood Internship**

**Overview:** BOPN builds joyful communities of children and teachers connected to each other and their outdoor environments through discovery and play. We believe that children are intrinsically motivated to learn, and that they do so by exploring the world around them. Our programs are located on the grounds of the Arnold Arboretum, in the North End, and Wellesley.

**Intern Role:** To assist with teaching children ages 15 months through 6 years under the supervision of experienced Lead Teachers

Please note: Internship hours at BOPN’s full-day program may count toward teacher licensure through the Department of Early Education and Care. Please let us know if you are interested in a preschool and/or toddler teacher license so that we can design the internship to meet the state requirements.

**Schedule and Hours:**

Internships may take place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 1 – 5 days/week. We ask interns to commit to at least 3 hours/week.

BOPN offers half-day programs at multiple locations for children ages 2.9 through 6 and a full-day program near the Arboretum for children ages 15 months through 6 years. We will work with you to come up with a schedule that best meets your educational goals. Internships are typically 1 – 9 months long.

**Location:** outdoors at the Arnold Arboretum, Christopher Columbus Park (North End), or Massachusetts Horticultual Society (Wellesley)

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

·      Nurture the spirit and curiosity of each child while promoting respect and community

·       Assist the Lead Teacher to be responsible for the health and safety of each child. This includes helping children stay comfortable in various weather conditions and managing risk in an outdoor setting

·       Use a nature-based and play-based approach

·       Gracefully and professionally communicate with teachers, parents, and the wider community

·       Attend an orientation and meet with a Lead Teacher to set goals for the internship. Do weekly check-ins, a mid-point meeting and final meeting with your Supervisor.

·      With guidance from a Lead Teacher, design and lead a project related to early childhood education and/or environmental education

·       Attend professional development related to outdoor early childhood education

·       Maintain regular attendance and punctuality

**Qualifications:**

·      Strong interest in exploring the field of nature-based early childhood education

·       Curiosity about the natural world and ability to convey a sense of awe and wonder to the children

·       Embrace a wide variety of weather conditions as unique and interesting, part of the ebb and flow of the natural rhythm and seasonal changes

·       Ability to meet the physical demands of the position (including carrying a supplies bin)

**Please note:**

* This is an unpaid (volunteer) position
* Background checks and references are required
* While BOPN has a friendly relationship with the Arboretum, we are separate organizations and the Arboretum is not involved with organizing or operating BOPN's programs.