



ASSISTANT TEACHER @ Youngset Cooperative Preschool

About Youngset

Picture this: a preschool where kids run the show (in the best way), parents aren't just dropping off and rushing out, and two of the most respected early childhood educators in Portland are ready to show you the ropes.

That's Youngset.

We're a play-based preschool, which means we believe kids don't need worksheets to learn, they need room to explore, get messy, ask a hundred "why" questions, and figure things out through play. Curiosity is the curriculum. Our job is to build the kind of warm, joyful environment where that curiosity gets to run wild, and where every child develops the social, emotional, and academic foundation they need to walk into Kindergarten ready and confident.

We're also a co-op, which is a little unusual and, honestly, kind of magical. Parents and family caregivers work side by side with teachers in the classroom on a rotating basis. It's not a "drop and go" school; it's a school built by the community that attends it. The result is a place where every single kid is genuinely known, not just by their teacher, but by a whole village of grown-ups who show up for them. That kind of closeness is rare, and it's the heart of what makes Youngset special.

Founded in 1967, Youngset has been doing this a long time, and doing it well. We're a stable, well-loved nonprofit with deep roots in the community. Alumni send their own kids here. Teachers stay for years, sometimes decades. That kind of longevity doesn't happen by accident; it happens because people genuinely love this place.

Who You'll Work With

You'd be joining classrooms led by **Teacher Sandy** and **Teacher Emily**, our two lead teachers, and honestly, this is one of the best parts of the job.

Between them, Sandy and Emily bring years of hands-on experience, deep early childhood education expertise, and the kind of instinct for kids that you can't learn from a textbook. They're respected and adored by families across the school community, and they've built classrooms where kids feel safe, seen, and excited to be there every single day.



If you're earlier in your career and looking for a place to really learn the craft of early childhood education, this is about as good as it gets. This isn't just a job, it's an apprenticeship with two of the best in the business, inside a school community that will make you feel like family from day one.

If you're a seasoned teacher who isn't looking to fully run your own classroom right now, but wants meaningful work alongside people who genuinely love what they do, this role fits just as well. Working with Sandy and Emily means being part of a real teaching team, with the flexibility of a schedule that ends at 1:30 and colleagues who make the work feel good.

The Role

As Assistant Teacher, you'll split your time between our Junior Class (3-4 year olds, max 13 per day) and Senior Class (4-5 year olds, max 15 per day), working shoulder to shoulder with a Lead Teacher and two parent helpers in every room. Think of yourself as the connective tissue of the classroom: the person kids run to, the extra set of hands the Lead Teacher counts on, the idea machine behind fun projects/activities, and eventually, the person capable of stepping in and running the room yourself.

The school day runs 8:15am to 1:30pm, Monday through Friday, with occasional extended days for Board meetings. We generally follow the Portland Public Schools calendar, with some summer responsibilities built in.

A day in this role looks like:

- Rotating between the Junior and Senior classrooms on a schedule set by the Lead Teachers, so you get real experience and time with both age groups.
- Jumping in alongside the Lead Teachers setting up the classrooms for the day, engaging during preschool sessions and Lunch Bunch, no two days are quite the same.
- Maintaining, ordering, and organizing classroom supplies
- Stepping up to substitute for a Lead Teacher when needed.
- Building a true teaching partnership with the Lead Teachers not just supporting them, but learning to think like them.
- Guiding and supporting our parent classroom volunteers (a fun, unique part of co-op life).
- Showing up to staff meetings as requested by the Lead Teachers, because a great classroom runs on great communication.



What You'll Bring

- At least two years of experience working with preschool-aged children.
- Bonus points (a lot of them) if you're working toward, or already hold, a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Child Development & Family Studies, Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary Education with an early childhood focus, or something equivalent.

Before your first day, you'll need to have:

- A clean criminal background check.
- Current First Aid and CPR certification for children.
- Up-to-date immunizations and a negative TB test.
- RRCAN certification.

And ideally, you're someone who:

- Communicates warmly and clearly with parents and fellow teachers.
- Brings energy, flexibility, and a genuine sense of humor to the room.
- Leads with a gentle, kind, and caring nature, kids can feel the difference.
- Shows real confidence and leadership when working with children, even while you're still learning the ropes.

Compensation & Benefits

Because this position is so critical to the school, an annual salary between \$20,000 to \$23,000 is offered (~\$22-\$26 per hour). Summers off, 7 days of paid time off, and school holidays. This position offers incredible work-life balance.

Application

To apply, please send the following to hr@youngsetpreschool.com:

1. Cover Letter
2. Resume
3. Three professional references (list of 3 people whom we may call)