

AO FAST FACTS (2021-22)

When was Apple Orchard founded? 1971

Founder: Lee Albright, MA

Current Director: Martina Albright, Ph.D.

How many students? 98 (2.9 years to 6 years)

Teacher to Student Ratio: 1:6 or 1:7

Percentage of Students who identify as of Color: 25%

Total number of staff members: 24

What does the program emphasize? Play-based nature learning with a strong focus on social-emotional skills with an antiracist antibias perspective in our classrooms.

Where are you located? In a renovated barn on a working farm in Brookline, Massachusetts

What animals are in your barn? 1 miniature horse, 2 goats, 1 donkey, chickens and ducks

What animals do you see? Turkeys – turtles – rabbits – salamanders – mice – red tail hawks – frogs – geese – snakes – praying mantis – bees – deer – fox – herons and 2 long horned highland steer.

How much time do you spend outdoors? We are outside all day except for 45 minutes unless the weather is particularly poor.

What Early Education Best Practice do you follow? We are a blended program of Reggio Emilia, Montessori and socio-dramatic play which is incorporated in our extensive use of the outdoors.

What are your hours?

10 spots for early drop off:

7:30 am – 8:15 am

Morning Program (5 days)

8:15 am – 12:00 pm

Sandwich Club Program (flexible)

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Do you offer scholarships? Yes – 21% receive some tuition assistance

Are parents involved? Yes, encouraged, but not required

Where do Apple Orchard students live?

Boston, Brighton, Brookline, Cambridge, Chestnut Hill, Dedham, Dorchester, Dover, Hingham, Jamaica Plain, Malden, Milton, Natick, Needham, Newton, Plymouth, Roslindale, Waban, Wellesley, Weston, West Roxbury