

## AO FAST FACTS 2022

**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. We believe children learn stereotypes and prejudices at this age, so we use an anti-bias antiracist lens for all of our curriculum.

**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?**

Early drop off – 10 spots: 7:30 am – 8:15 am

Morning Program (5 days): 8:15 am – 12:00 pm

Sandwich Club Program (optional) 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Do you offer scholarships?** Yes – 20% 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, Stoughton, Waban, Wellesley, West Newton, Weston, West Roxbury