

What Are Our Values/Philosophy?

- A question we rarely ask ourselves is whether what we are doing in our lives is in alignment with our values.
- Choosing to educate outside the education system means that you have complete freedom to create your co-op in any way that feels right for you.
- Ask yourself: What is important to me? What do I value? What does my family value?
- The answer to these questions will be your foundation. They will be where you return to whenever you have questions about your co-op that you are unsure of.
- Knowing your values is an important starting point before you invite others to join you.
- Having those who join the co-op agreeing upon a core set of values and what you are wanting to achieve together can help to avoid major disagreements in the future.
- The freedom of creating something in alignment with our values is a new challenge for most.
- You need to ask yourself...
 - What do I really want?
 - What do I want as the foundation for my children's learning?
 - What is the foundation I want for the people I choose to have around me?

- Write down your values and what you want.
- If you are a group starting up a co-op, do this activity individually first and then come together to share.
- Despite the drive to avoid discord, it's important to have an honest conversation around what is important to each of you. Discuss the possible challenges that may arise due to a difference in values or what each of you want for your kids.
- When inviting others, be specific and unapologetic about what your group is about and what is important to you. It's OK if what you are creating isn't suitable for everyone. It's more important to create a harmonious group than a large group.
- It's not a bad thing to be transparent and firm about the kind of people you feel comfortable being around and for your kids to spend time with.
- Be intentional about this.
- It's ok to not accept people into your co-op if you are uncomfortable with them or their values seem to be out of alignment with the co-op's.

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