

# NATURE BEGINNINGS WELCOME PACKET 2026-27

## Overview

Nature Beginnings serves as an introduction to outdoor preschool. It's recommended for children ages 3-4 who have never done a program without their parents or caregivers, have had limited time doing so, and/or have not been in an all outdoor nature-based program before. We follow a simple schedule of play, stories, and group time, with an emphasis on learning to be part of a group, and of course having fun playing and learning in nature.

- **Potty training is required.** A potty training policy will be sent out to families with more details. Bathrooms will be accessible for students.
- Children must be 3 years old by September 1 to be in Nature Beginnings.
- Nature Beginnings is a school-year long program (September through June).

## Class Schedule

What will the class entail? Stories, friends and playtime outside! What more could a preschooler ask for?

- The class will be held OUTDOORS at the nature center, with one of our outdoor classrooms as home base.
- We will take advantage of our beautiful natural spaces, including the prairie, basswoods, pond, tamarack forest, and maple fields to hike and explore. We will also spend time on social-emotional learning such as greeting each other by name, listening to a story, and learning to take turns.
- We sometimes come inside for brief periods of time, such as reading a story by the fireplace in the lobby.
- Please note, we do not have snack during this class, so we recommend a good breakfast or snack before class.

## Class Options

Nature Beginnings is offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, or Fridays. Families choose one option to enroll in. Class is 9:00-11:00am on those mornings. Nature Beginnings is a school-year long program. The class follows the nature preschool calendar which is available [here](#).

## Communication

Communication between teachers, families and the preschool office will be on an app called Brightwheel. You will receive an invitation to your child's profile in your email, which will prompt you to download the app. This is where you can send a note if you are running late or will be absent, ask questions, or receive messages from your child's teacher. Teachers may also post pictures from the class on Brightwheel.

## Supplies

We recommend students wear weather-appropriate outdoor clothing. We will send along a guide for dressing for nature preschool. Please also bring a backpack filled with a change of clothing (pants, shirt, socks, underwear) stored in a plastic bag and a water bottle for your child with their name on it. Please contact us if you need to borrow any gear, we have plenty for all weather!





## Severe & Cold Weather

This is an outdoor class and we follow child care licensing regulations for being outdoors during severe weather. Since this is an outdoor-based class, we will cancel if the weather is unsafe for a good portion of the class. If we need to cancel class due to severe weather or extenuating circumstances, staff will notify families via Brightwheel in advance, no later than 8:00am the day of the class. There are no refunds for one canceled class. If more than one class is canceled due to severe weather, you will be offered a refund for that class.

## Payment

Nature Beginnings is \$110 per month if you are enrolled in one day per week, and \$220 per month if you are enrolled in two days per week. You will be charged on the Brightwheel platform, and payments are due on the fifth of each month (September through May). To un-enroll, we require two weeks' notice via email or Brightwheel message. Families will be expected to pay the next month's tuition if they notify after the two-week notice period.