

the Nature Preschool at IRVINE

Ages 3-5



DAILY CLASSES OF NATURE-BASED CURRICULUM

Preparing your youngster for
kindergarten and beyond



Mission Statement

The mission of The Nature Preschool at Irvine is to provide hands-on opportunities for learning and skill development through nature-based inquiry, creative arts, and outdoor exploration to develop a lasting appreciation for the natural world.

WHAT MAKES THE NATURE PRESCHOOL SPECIAL?

We share our love and respect for nature.

Our students meet live animals and explore wild places.

We garden, compost and recycle.

Together we invent and build with natural materials.

We taste sap, smell skunk cabbage and unearth insects and salamanders.

We develop an appreciation for the simple, joyful aspects of nature and learn what it means to be an active, connected part of the natural world.



Our Educational Philosophy

Childhood should be joyful and wholesome! We believe it is every child's right, as an integral part of the natural community, to develop a foundation of academic skills *through* encounters in the natural world.



Curriculum

Our emergent curriculum is a holistic approach to learning. We embrace your child's ideas and celebrate seasonal outdoor discoveries. With comparable attributes of Reggio Emilia, Montessori and Waldorf approaches, we address the cognitive, physical, social and emotional skill development of every child.

To support each child's learning path we:

- Provide a supportive, safe learning environment to encourage discovery, questioning and experimentation;
- Offer sensory opportunities with live animals, natural objects, artifacts, trail games, out-door interpretation and creative arts activities;
- Engage cognitive growth and problem-solving skills through hands-on games and activities;
- Develop physical motor skills through active learning and play;
- Promote social skills and positive self-image through group play and cooperative learning;
- Cultivate emotional literacy and empathy to develop self-esteem;
- Nurture self-expression, creativity and reflection;
- Celebrate diversity of all living things and the individuality of children and families



Note: Our preschool is fully licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR SCHEDULE & PRICING

We offer morning and afternoon classes for children ages 3 to 5 years old with half and full day options. *(Children must be 3 and toilet proficient by September 1 of the year in which they are applying.)*

Full Day

Monday, Wednesday and Friday	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	\$6,400 per year* or \$640 per month
Tuesday and Thursday	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	\$4,500 per year* or \$450 per month

Half Day (Mornings)

Monday, Wednesday and Friday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	\$4,350 per year* or \$435 per month
Tuesday and Thursday	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	\$2,900 per year* or \$290 per month

Half Day (Afternoons)

Monday and Wednesday	1-3:30 p.m.	\$2,400 per year* or \$240 per month
Tuesday and Thursday	1-3:30 p.m.	\$2,400 per year* or \$240 per month

** A 10% down payment is due with the Enrollment Contract. The "per year" fees already include this down payment.*

Irvine's Unique Campus

Irvine is the only private, nonprofit nature center in the region. We are an environmental education organization. Our mission is to educate and inspire current and future generations to explore, respect and protect nature. At Irvine, we guide learning. We live green. We foster respect. We thrive outdoors.

Irvine provides the perfect place for nature-based learning. Our green building is family-friendly and full of animals and artifacts for discovery. Classrooms keep busy hands learning and doing. Our lush trails, gardens and natural outdoor classroom are an ideal setting for exploration and play.

Staff

Our talented staff is experienced in both early childhood and environmental education, and they are passionate about nature-based education and student-centered learning. Our teacher to student ratio is 1:8, which allows educators to provide maximum support during our learning adventures.



ENROLLMENT

Attend an Open House
or contact the director,
Karen Madigan,
to learn more at
443-738-9223 or
MadiganK@ExploreNature.org

Ready to enroll?
Submit an application
(found at
www.ExploreNature.org)
to get started!



11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117
443-738-9200

WEB: WWW.EXPLORENATURE.ORG
BLOG: WWW.EXPLORENATURE.ORG/PRESCHOOL-BLOG