Nature Preschool

at Irvine Nature Center

Daily nature-based, child-centered classes for children ages 3 to 5
MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of The Nature Preschool at Irvine is to foster appreciation for the natural world while providing children with hands-on experiences for skill development in all areas of learning.

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.
WHAT MAKES THE NATURE PRESCHOOL SPECIAL?

TOGETHER WE...

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 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, outdoor interpretation, and creative arts activities;

- Engage cognitive growth and problem-solving skills through hands-on games and activities;

- Develop 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

*Irvine's Nature Preschool is licensed and accredited by:*
**SCHEDULE AND PRICING**

We offer morning and afternoon classes for children ages 3 to 5 years old with half and full-day options; before care is available for an additional fee.

*Children must be 3 years old and toilet-proficient before their first day of school.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Tuition (monthly)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full days, Monday – Friday</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
<td>$11,645 ($1164.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full days, M/W/F</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
<td>$6845 ($684.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full days, T/H</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
<td>$4800 ($480)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mornings, T/TH</td>
<td>9am-noon</td>
<td>$3105 ($310.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoons, T/TH</td>
<td>1pm-4pm</td>
<td>$3105 ($310.50)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**EARLY BIRD BEFORECARE**

Early Bird Care is a BeforeCare option that takes place from 8:30–9 am, offered to students in morning and full day classes.

5 Days per week: $160/month; 3 days per week: $96/month; 2 days per week: $64/month; 1 day per week: $32/month

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**THE FERN CLUB AFTERCARE**

Enrollment in AfterCare is for a semester or year. While it is not required to enroll now, spots are limited. Fern Club is open 2–6pm, every day the Nature Preschool is in session*. While students may be picked up at any time, tuition is a flat rate regardless of actual pick up time. There is no AfterCare at this time for children enrolled in the morning preschool class. Please note that families enrolling in AfterCare receive priority consideration through March 1st.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days per week</th>
<th>Full Year (Sept. – May)</th>
<th>Fall Only (Sept. – Jan.)</th>
<th>Spring Only (Feb. – May)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 days</td>
<td>$4590 ($510)</td>
<td>$2550 ($510)</td>
<td>$2040 ($510)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days</td>
<td>$2754 ($306)</td>
<td>$1530 ($306)</td>
<td>$1224 ($306)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>$1836 ($204)</td>
<td>$1020 ($204)</td>
<td>$816 ($204)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days (4–6pm)</td>
<td>$918 ($102)</td>
<td>$510 ($102)</td>
<td>$408 ($102)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>$1080 ($120)</td>
<td>$600 ($120)</td>
<td>$480 ($120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day (4–6pm)</td>
<td>$540 ($60)</td>
<td>$300 ($60)</td>
<td>$240 ($60)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Aftercare will not be provided during monthly Preschool Staff Meetings held on pre-determined Mondays. A school calendar including these dates will accompany contracts in February. ** Only students enrolled in the T/H afternoon class are eligible for the 2 hr option (4–6pm).
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.

IRVINE'S 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 1:7.5, which allows educators to provide maximum support during our learning adventures.

For more information or to schedule a tour contact Katie Rooney, Director of The Nature Preschool, at 443-738-9223 or RooneyK@ExploreNature.org

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