



NATURE is a Wonderful Teacher!

Throughout the preschool year we offer many hands-on nature-based, science rich learning experiences. With preschool age children it is the process not the product that is most important in learning. They will have so many years of schooling ahead to learn to sit still in desks, be quiet, walk in straight lines, listen and wait patiently.

The preschool years are made for making first friendships, creative expression, exciting discoveries, being loud and exuberant, not sitting still, being full of movement, laughter, silliness and fun. Nature Preschool is a wonderful place to learn the skills needed before entering a formal Kindergarten program. Learning in an active natural environment will help your child to succeed in elementary school and beyond. We also believe in using teachable moments to capture a child's thirst for learning. When a child shows interest in something new we may read books to find out more about the topic, or make a great creative art project, and add items pertaining to the topic to our classroom. This shows creates lifelong learning habits by showing a child that learning can be self-initiated instead of just Teacher directed.

We believe curiosity is to be encouraged and celebrated! Children have things to teach us too and all we have to do is take the time to listen and get on their level. The early years are developmentally the most important and they are the foundation for all future learning. Yes, our preschool is a magical childhood wonderland, creative and inspired, fun and full of active learning, however we also meet the Following Education Standards:

- ▶ NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) curriculum requirements met in the Growing up WILD curriculum
- ▶ Head Start guidelines-Our preschool exceeds the developmentally appropriate practices of their early childhood requirements.
- ▶ North Carolina FOUNDATIONS we follow the guidelines and addresses all of the 5 domains for early childhood education including Approaches to Play and learning, Emotional and Social development, Health and Physical development, Language and communication development, and Cognitive development. Under these Domains a wide range of sub- domains offer learning that takes place in every area of development including:

[North Carolina Foundations Guidelines for Early Childhood Education](#)

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, Growing Up WILD provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills. Growing Up WILD is a multi-award-winning program having received the 2009 Family Choice Award and the 2011 Renewable Natural Resource Foundation Excellence Award. Our Nature based Preschool program " Exceeds " the standards for a 5-star childcare rating, the NC foundations guidelines, Head Start standards, and NAEYC accreditation. Our preschool curriculum "Growing up Wild" follows the North Carolina Foundations learning objectives which are directly aligned with the common core standards for entering Kindergarten.

Additional Growing Up Wild Resources:

[Additional Information about the "Growing Up Wild" Curriculum](#)

[NAEYC Standards met by "Growing Up Wild" Curriculum](#)

[Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework Met by "Growing Up Wild" Curriculum](#)

Project Learning Tree was developed with preschool educators and early childhood specialists, Project Learning Tree's Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood includes experiences that engage children in outdoor play and exploration. It is specifically designed for educators who work with children ages three to six. Topics include exploring nature with five senses, meeting neighborhood trees, and experiencing trees through the seasons. Standards Alignment Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood provides a structured alignment to the following early childhood accreditation programs:

[National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\) Head Start Child Outcomes](#)

[Framework North American Association for Environmental Education \(NAAEE\) Early Childhood](#)

[Environmental Education Guidelines for Excellence](#)