

WILDFLOWERS

PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE

"We don't rush childhood."

Dear Potential Wildflowers Parent,

Welcome to Wildflowers! Whatever brings you, we are glad you found us. As a parent you have many choices in the type of education your child receives. The following information will give you more insight into our philosophy, structure and how you can apply.

Childhood is the most important time in everyone's life. It is the time to plant the seeds for dreams and imagination. We provide a consistent daily rhythm for children through our art activities and our experiences in nature. Children form a "community" that helps them grow and blossom in our small, personalized program. Children learn and play with friends through activities like gardening, painting, singing, seasonal projects, storytelling, puppet shows and games. Children are exposed daily to a bilingual Spanish/English environment spoken by our experienced, trained teachers who create a warm environment with a consistent rhythm. Our community is low technology and high connection!

Wildflowers is inspired by the principles and practices of Waldorf Early Childhood and is unique in the Treasure Valley as the only member of WECAN. As part of the international Waldorf community, we support the decades of research in developmental psychology which demonstrate that daily free play, handwork, and daily connection to nature are the most effective ways for young children to develop. Through these we promote the deepest kind of learning by encouraging children to become self-directed learners who explore, develop curiosity, problem solve and gain social/emotional skills. It also provides a strong foundation for abstract thinking which is crucial for future academic success. Children love daily access to our beautiful, interactive outdoor play area & gardens. There is Joy, Humor, Happiness & mud!

It is important to us that, together with you, we form a partnership of care for your child. We invite you to participate in our application process that is open year-round and can be made a year in advance. Please contact us for questions not answered in this document.

Warmly,

Laura Henning

Founder/ Director/Lead Nurturer

Young children live in their senses; all that they learn comes from their direct and immediate experience of daily life. Our programs are designed to honor and to build healthy relationships with children and their families.

DAILY RHYTHMS

Wildflowers is a wonderful, gentle stepping stone from home life to school, a home away from home. Incorporating principles of Waldorf Early Childhood Education, Wildflowers provides ample time and space for joyful and creative free play, nature exploration, and artistic expressions. We provide a health conscious, caring environment that allows children the time and space to experience the wonders of the world around us. Simple, natural materials are used to develop imagination, concentration, coordination, language, and number skills that will be revisited in the elementary years. Research shows that learning in early childhood comes from engaging and interacting with the people, places, and objects, not devices. We are 100% media free and naturally focused. Our bilingual environment enriches children's language skills. We are also all-weather nature people and we are outside much of the day, every day!

Wildflowers is in a private home which has a separate space from the family living space dedicated to the school with a lovely enclosed yard. We also enjoy easy access to Borah Park across the street. The blend of mixed ages (2-6) and temperaments creates a healthy atmosphere that enables children to develop lifelong, developmental skills.

PRESCHOOL CLASS

Free play inside or out

Daily Activity (painting, beeswax molding, bread making, craft, food chopping etc.)

Clean-up, hand washing, bathroom

Morning snack (all organic/non-gmo fruits, vegetables and whole grains)

Circle time (includes Spanish, finger games, songs, movement)

Outside play, nature walk or park visit

Clean-up, hand washing, bathroom

Lunch

During the preschool years we seek to awaken and support the child's creative and playful nature and to nurture their sense of wonder and gratitude. The concept is fostered through the tasks of daily living which are fun and joyful. The children learn to become social beings, able to help and be helped by those around them. We try to model an atmosphere of gratitude, reverence and wonder for the children, believing that this, rather than our outer expectations for their good or polite behavior, will grow naturally in them. We use Kim John Payne's Soul of Discipline as our discipline framework.

With all this in mind, we offer children opportunities to participate in creative and practical activities: painting, baking, coloring, gardening, free play, games, songs, puppetry, story-telling, crafts and seasonal festivals.

YEARLY RHYTHM

Wildflowers builds strong relationships with our families and the community through gatherings that may include: festivals, field trips, and parent evenings throughout the year in tune with the seasons and holidays. We are here to support your home life.

A calendar is provided each year with scheduled breaks. We observe most Federal Holidays and generally follow Peace Valley Charter's calendar for major breaks and Boise School District for weather closures. Our family handbook is provided upon enrollment.

Our "Consistent Care" Philosophy

Consistency is needed to build relationships that are vital for children to feel safe and secure. For these relationships to form and blossom so that children can truly thrive. Therefore, we offer consecutive day schedules for our students and tuition rates are set with this in mind.

For example, we offer Monday-Tuesday rather than Mon and Wed as a two-day schedule option.

Waldorf Resources

If you are unfamiliar with Waldorf education, please take time to review these websites and articles. They contain valuable information relevant to our philosophy.

www.waldorfearlychildhood.org

www.whywaldorfworks.org

<https://www.simplicityparenting.com/>

Article on saying "good job" https://violetgardenpreschool.com/home/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Good_Job.pdf

This video is a good broad overview <https://youtu.be/B-ZSeepDmPE>



WILDFLOWERS APPLICATION PROCESS

Wildflowers provides a holistic, Waldorf-inspired, play-based, arts and nature infused early childhood experience for children approximately 2 to 5 years old. WF families value our early childhood philosophy and choose an environment that provides a healthy, balanced, and nurturing childhood experience.

Preschool Class - 8:30am to 1pm with an option for 2, 3 or 5 consecutive days a week

Extended Care available until either 4, 4:30 for 2, 3 and 5 days

- Our maximum class size is 12 children with 2 adults or 1:6 ratio.
- A limited number of openings are available for each age.
- Applications may be made up to 18 months in advance of desired start date for priority for younger children and siblings.

PROCESS

If you'd like to apply for an open spot or have a confirmed place on our waitlist, please complete the steps below. After we receive the application, fee and child profile, we will schedule a private tour/interview with you and your child. If it is a good match for everyone, you will be notified via email/text when we have an opening available.

Step ① Lottery Application and Fee

We accept applications year-round. Staff is available prior to applying for any questions via email or phone. Begin the application process by applying on our [Wonderschool site](#). When we receive your application, you will be sent an invoice for the \$50 application fee and a child profile form.

Upon receipt of your application and fee you will be sent a confirmation email and follow up student profile and be contacted for step 2 to continue the process and schedule a private interview/tour. (Application does not guarantee enrollment.)

STEP ② Child Profile, Schedule a Tour/Interview

The next step in the process is answering a more in-depth child profile which will be emailed to you after receipt of your application and fee and prior to attending a family tour and interview. Upon receipt of the profile form you will be contacted for a tour/interview that includes your child and ideally both parents. It generally lasts 45 minutes and is a conversation between the parents and the teachers, as well as time for the teachers to observe your child during play. This process is intended to help us become better acquainted with one another and for your family to see our space, meet us and ask questions. These are usually in the afternoons at around 3:45pm.

Step 3 Acceptance and Enrollment

Following step 2, if we have space open and it appears that Wildflowers is a good fit for everyone, you will be sent an email with an enrollment offer. You will have 24 hours to respond to the offer. If you decline enrollment when offered or are unable to be reached within 48 hours, you will need to repeat the process to be considered again.

If you accept the enrollment offer, you will be sent an enrollment packet, service contract, the Family Handbook and other documents. These must be filled out and submitted within 3 calendar days.

Final Step: Fees

A place for your child is guaranteed upon receipt of the following by the deadline:

- All the enrollment documents
- service contract
- a non-refundable \$350 new child enrollment fee

Fees and documents are submitted via Wonderschool.com and are non-refundable. If you need a spot held for you before you can begin care, there is an additional tuition holding fee.



Service Rates

Tuition rates are based on an annual tuition and divided into equal monthly payments based on average 4 weeks per month. Rates take into account national holidays, spring, winter and summer breaks and in-service days that are necessary for teacher training each year.

Preschool: 8:30 am to 1pm

| Days | *2 days | 3 days | 5 days |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tuition age 2.5+ | \$375 month | \$540 month | \$780 month |
| Tuition under 30 months | \$400/month | \$575/month | \$850/month |

Full Day: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (option for 4:30pm)

| Days | 2 days | 3 days | 5 days |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tuition age 2.5+ | \$500/month | \$680 month | \$1,000 month |
| Tuition under 2.5 month | \$540/month | \$740/month | \$1,100/month |
| Extended Pickup To 4:30pm | \$60/month | \$100/month | \$160/month |

- Our \$250 yearly materials fee and snacks are included in our monthly rates.
- Non-refundable, one-time enrollment fee \$350
- You are free to pick up at any time in the afternoon, just give us notice.
- Extra Day Drop-In subject to space availability: \$45 Preschool Day/\$60 Full Day