

Everwild Nature Preschool:

Where Little Minds Flourish in Nature's Wonderland

Everwild Nature Preschool is a Nature Immersion Preschool that welcomes children ages 3-6 years old with a maximum capacity of 14 preschoolers. We operate under a Family Childcare License by the State of Minnesota through Olmsted County Community Services. A copy of the Licensing Rule may be obtained from Olmsted County Community Services-Child Care Licensing, or you may review our copy. We are mandated reporters and required to report any suspected abuse or neglect.

What is a Nature Preschool? Nature Schools, also referred to as forest schools, are unique because they are a type of early childhood education that is held mainly outdoors in all weather. The curriculum is primarily play-based focusing on exploration, experimentation, collaboration, and creativity.

Why Nature Preschool? A nature-based preschool combines environmental education with early childhood education to create meaningful outdoor experiences that are developmentally appropriate. Exposure to nature has been shown time and again to be critical to our physical, social, emotional, and intellectual health.

Experience: With over 25 combined years of experience in the Early Childhood Education Field, our goal is to provide a supportive, nurturing, educational environment that is developmentally appropriate for each child's intellectual, emotional, and social needs. Through daily positive interactions with peers and staff, our goal is for the children to build caring and trusting relationships. Each child is unique developmentally and encouraged to flourish and grow at their individual pace. We are facilitators of learning and will provide learning opportunities and guidance for the children as they actively navigate and propel their education through curiosity, questions, reading, crafts, exploration, and a variety of small and large motor activities.

Hours and Days of Operation: Everwild will operate as a preschool. We will follow the Rochester Public School calendar. We open the Tuesday after Labor Day and conclude our school year the Thursday before Memorial Day.

We offer morning and afternoon sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Morning session drop-off is between 8:30 and 8:45am. Pick-up for Morning session is between 11:30 and 11:45am. Afternoon session drop-off is between 12:15 and 12:30pm. Afternoon session pick-up is between 3:30pm and 3:45pm.

Nutritional Meals and Snacks: We will provide a snack during morning session and afternoon session that will consist of at least 2 of the food groups. If you choose for your child to take part in our Lunch Bunch option between 11:45 and 12:15pm, we do not provide lunch. Parents are responsible to pack a balanced lunch for their child. We will provide milk.

Food Allergies: If your child has a food allergy, please let us know. An action plan for emergency care must be completed by the family physician. When a child has a severe food allergy (extreme and rapid reactions, or allergic to many foods, etc.) or those requiring a special diet (gluten free, strict vegan, kosher, etc.) we reserve the right to request that families bring their child's food that has been prepared according to their individual needs.

Birthdays: We are happy to celebrate birthdays with the children. Feel free to bring a commercially prepared treat to share with everyone.

Non-Discrimination Practices: Everwild does not discriminate based on race, creed, national origin, religion, sex, or disability.

Illness and Exclusion Guidelines: To contain and prevent the spread of illnesses, children with the following symptoms will be excluded for attending classes.

- A temperature of 100 degrees or above
- Vomiting within the last 24 hours
- Diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Strep throat (must be on medication for 24 hours before returning to class)
- Head lice
- Other contagious illnesses, as the provider deems appropriate.

If your child has any of these symptoms, please contact me, but do not bring him/her to school.

If your child develops any of these symptoms during the day, we will call you and expect you to pick up the child as soon as possible. This is to prevent exposing the other children and our staff to the illness.

Immunization records must be updated as shots are administered. We required a printout from the clinic.

You must notify us immediately if your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness or parasitic infestation. We will notify you if your child has been exposed to any illnesses.

I must have your permission to obtain emergency medical care or treatment. This will only be used if we cannot reach you or if you are delayed in arriving at the emergency facility. We will make every effort to call and contact you.

Written permission to administer prescription and non-prescription medication is required.

Fire Drills, Storm Drill & Evacuation: We will conduct monthly fire and storm drills. During severe storms, or civil defense warnings, children will take shelter in the basement of our school until the danger has passed. Should it be necessary to evacuate the school due to fire, gas leak or other situations that make remaining in the school unsafe, the children will relocate to the far Northeast corner of the property.

Transportation: We do not transport children at any time.

Custody Arrangements: When parents do not reside in one household, the parent listed on the registration form will be considered the child's primary parent. I will communicate with the primary parent. Everwild will only release the child's information listed on the registration form unless legal documentation is provided. Requests for releasing a child's records must be made in writing.

No-Smoking, Substance Abuse Policy: Smoking is not allowed in or around Everwild Nature Preschool at any time ever. Everwild prohibits employees, helpers, substitutes, and volunteers, when directly responsible for the children, from abusing prescription medication or being in any manner under the influence of a chemical or alcohol, to the extent that the use or abuse has or may have a negative effect on the ability of the person to give care or is apparent during school hours. We will train employees, helper, substitutes, and volunteers about this substance use policy.

Alternative/ Substitute Caregivers: We may use a substitute for planned absences or in the event of an emergency. A criminal background check is completed for all substitutes. All substitutes have completed the required

training. We will try to provide advance notice if there will be a substitute providing care for your child(ren).

Personal Belongings: Please do not bring toys or personal items from home. We will not be responsible for anything that is lost or broken.

Pets: We currently do not have any pets in the school facility.

Insurance Coverage: We carry liability insurance on our school. A current certificate of coverage for insurance is available for inspection upon request.

Discipline: Discipline is a learning process and not a punishment. Misbehavior will be handled in a firm, consistent, and POSITIVE manner. Some methods used would be:

- Providing children with the reasons for limitations
- Giving positively worded directions
- Helping children to constructively express their feelings and frustrations to resolve conflict.
- Arranging equipment, materials, activities, and schedules in a way that promotes desirable behavior.
- Using fair, consistent, and developmentally appropriate limits tailored to the child's level of understanding and development.

No child will be ashamed, humiliated, or handled roughly. No corporal punishment will be used, even at the parent's request. Our philosophy on discipline is to help children gain respect for themselves, their peers, and their caregivers and teach constructive and positive alternatives when conflicts arise. The most honest form of discipline is the children watching and learning moral awareness from us daily.

Termination and Notice Procedure: If a Parent chooses to terminate the care for their child, a written notice of termination shall be provided by the parent or guardian a minimum of two weeks prior to the children's final day of attendance. A refund will not be given for the month's tuition already paid.

Grievance Procedure: If a parent is dissatisfied with any aspect of service their child is receiving, they may contact us through email, text, or in person to schedule a time to meet and discuss concerns.

Communication: We will communicate with parents and guardians through email, texts, and monthly newsletters. We will have conferences twice a year, once in the fall, and once in the spring.

Clothing

Clothing: As a Nature preschool, we spend most of our day outdoors immersed in nature. Children must have appropriate clothing and outdoor gear for the weather each day. Children can happily enjoy the outdoors for many hours, even in wet and cold weather, if equipped with the right clothing to keep them warm and dry. Please provide an extra change of clothing in their backpack as well.

Outdoor Gear & Layering Guidelines

Just a couple notes first:

- If these brands are out of your price range, check out secondhand shops or resale sites online--**they do not need to be brand new to keep your child warm!** Just check the labels to make sure they're 100% wool or synthetic.
- One full “nature school” outfit is plenty—we don't mind if they come to school wearing the same thing every day! Do not feel the need to buy multiples of these items unless you want to.
- You will see the phrase “**NO COTTON**” repeated often below—that is because cotton absorbs sweat/moisture and when wet, does not insulate! During the colder months, please do not send your child in cotton sweatpants/sweatshirts, as it will not do a good job keeping them warm and dry while they are busy exploring and playing outside.
- **Please label your child's clothing!** This makes it much easier for us to return your clothing to you when it gets lost. You can purchase [custom name labels](#) or just write your child's name in their clothes.

SEASONAL LAYERING

AUTUMN

dry 40-65 degrees

- thermal base layer
- fleece jacket
- fleece pants
- light wool socks
- fleece stocking cap
- rain boots
- sneakers

WINTER

snow 0-40 degrees

- thermal base layer
- fleece jacket
- fleece pants
- thick wool socks
- winter boots

SPRING

wet 20-65 degrees

- thermal base layer
- fleece jacket
- fleece pants
- stocking cap
- light wool socks

rain boots

SUMMER

hot 60-95 degrees

- **t-shirt**
- **lightweight pants**
- **light weight long-sleeve shirt**
- **baseball cap**
- **any socks**
- **water resistant closed toed shoes**

rain boots

THERMAL BASE LAYER

Worn next to the skin, keeping the body warm and dry, wicking away any moisture. Think of this layer in terms of a thinner wool or high-tech poly material. I'm big fans of merino wool thanks to their cooling/heating properties. I recommend opting for stretchy, lightweight base layer they can wear inside then translate to outdoor play. This will include a long sleeve, pants and socks that fit snug.

BASE LAYER + SOCKS RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Lands End - Thermal Base Layer](#)

[Iksplorer - Base Set](#)

[Amazon Essentials Thermal Toddler Set](#)

[Smartwool Socks](#)

[DarnTough Socks](#)

Good article on socks: ['Why You Shouldn't Wear Cotton Socks'](#)

FLEECE INSULATING LAYER

The second layer acts as extra insulation between the base and the outer layer. Mid layers are the part of the layering that really can be “fudged” more than any other layer. Fleece, down, or wool is best, but it doesn’t need to be top of the line or super technical to be effective. This will include

jacket, pants, and stocking cap.

FLEECE JACKET & PANTS RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Columbia Fleece Jacket](#)

[Patagonia Fleece Jacket](#)

[Polarn O. Pyret Wool Zip Up](#)

[LL Bean Fleece Pant](#)

[Lands End Fleece Sweatpant](#)

[Patagonia Baby Overalls](#)

FOOTWEAR

Boots that really keep kids' feet toasty in cold conditions are a worthwhile investment! Try to pick one that has good tread and can handle both ice and snow. You can even opt for rain boots that double as winter boots for the changing conditions.

Have your child wear their thickest socks when trying on winter & rain boots. You want to be sure there is enough room in the toe area for circulation.

WATER / WINTER BOOT RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Muck Boot Hale Multi-Season](#)

[BOGS Classic Winter Boots](#)

[Kamik Snobuster2 Snow Boot](#)

[Hunter First Classic Rain Boots](#)

[Amoji Baby / Kids Easy On Rain Shoe Boots](#)

[Buoy Rain Boots](#)

SNEAKER / WATER SANDAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Merrell Kid's Moab Waterproof Hiking Sneaker](#)

[KEEN Kids Newport H2 Closed Toe Water Sandal](#)

[Mishansha Athletic Hiking Shoes](#)