

WILDFLOWERS

PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE

Dear Potential Wildflowers Parent,

We are glad you found us! Maybe you already know about Waldorf education or maybe you are a new parent trying to figure out what environment is best for your precious child. Whatever brought you to us, we look forward to sharing more about who we are and what we do. Our goal is to protect the simplicity of childhood and create a nurturing space for young children where they are loved and allowed to freely be children. Based on the principles and practices of *Waldorf Early Childhood*, we are inspired by an education movement that began 100 years ago which emphasizes the basics of nature and “play-based ~ imagination-powered” child development.

Our staff consists of trained, licensed nurturers who provide high quality experience for each child. Our low child to nurturer ratio (1:6 or less) allows us to build strong relationships with the children. These relationships, along with a consistent rhythm to our days, weeks and seasons, give children the security needed to flourish. It’s from this place of security and comfort that the children learn, discover and experience each day.

We believe children learn best from real-life experiences that feel like home. We are not a large commercial center, but a small, private home setting that provides a warm, magical and nurturing experience for young children. Children’s eyes, fingers and imaginations enjoy the natural materials in a beautiful home. Imaginative play is the foundation for the program, providing a strong foundation for abstract thinking which is crucial for later academic success. The focus in Wildflowers Preschool is on the child’s social, emotional and physical development. Their creative and imaginative capacities are allowed to flourish as they discover and learn about the world through their experiences and interactions with those around them. We believe that this peaceful environment allows children to truly thrive. We observe the seasons of the year and celebrate them with festivals. We are not a traditional academic preschool.

It is important to us that, together with you, we form a partnership of care for your child. Our goal is to be your child’s home away from home. We invite you to participate in our waitlist application process.

Warmly,

Laura Henning

Richard Zavaleta

Founder/ Lead Nurturer

Assistant Nurturer

DAILY RHYTHMS

Incorporating principles of Waldorf Early Childhood Education, Wildflowers provides ample time and space for joyful and creative play, foreign language, nature exploration, artistic expressions, and healthy snacks in a caring environment that nourishes the senses and evokes a reverence for the wonders of the world around them. Simple, natural materials are used to develop imagination, concentration, coordination, language and number skills that will be revisited in the elementary years.

Wildflowers is in a beautiful Bench home with a lovely yard. We also enjoy easy access to Borah Park across the street. The blend of mixed ages (2.5-6) and temperaments creates a family-like atmosphere that enables children to keep the dreaminess and magic of childhood intact. Wildflowers is a wonderful stepping stone from home life to school. We are always media free to ensure the protection of early childhood. We are all weather people and are outside most of the day!

MORNING PRESCHOOL

Welcome and Free play

Daily Activity

Clean-up, hand washing, bathroom breaks

Morning snack

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

Outside play or walk

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 that the tasks of daily living are fun and joyful. The children learn to become social beings, able to help and be helped by those around them. They gain an inner well-being as they feel part of their world.

With all this in mind, we offer children opportunities to participate in these creative and practical activities: painting, baking, coloring, gardening, free play, games, songs, puppetry, story-telling, crafts and seasonal festivals. We go outside almost every day and in the warm months we're outside almost all of the day.

AFTERNOON CARE

Afternoon Care is for those who need care for the full day. It consists of lunch time, nap or rest time, crafts and indoor and outdoor play. All children have simple seasonal projects, healthy snacks.

**It is not recommended for children under 3 years old to start their day in the afternoon as it can be a difficult transition to nap.

YEARLY RHYTHM

Wildflowers strives to build strong relationships with our families and the community gathering that may include: festivals, field trips, and parent evenings throughout the year in tune with the seasons and holidays.

A complete calendar is provided each year by May. We observe all Federal Holidays as no-class days and generally follow Peace Valley Charter's school calendar for major breaks and Boise School District for weather closures.

We celebrate as a community a trip to an apple orchard in September and a pumpkin patch in October, Martinmas in November and Spiral of Lights in December and May Day Festival.

Our "Consistent Care" Philosophy

"Drop and go" childcare doesn't allow children, caregivers, and parents to build the relationships that are vital for children to feel safe and secure. Consistency is needed for these relationships to form and blossom so that children can truly thrive. Therefore, you'll notice some deliberate differences in our program in comparison with many traditional preschool facilities. We ask for a consistent schedule for our students and tuition rates are set with this in mind.

We do make exceptions from time to time, but in an ideal world, with the best interests of the school as a whole in mind, we prefer to hold to this scheduling consistency with consecutive days of care. For example, we don't offer M, W, F as a schedule option rather Th-F or Mon-Wed as an example.

Special notes:

While we support families to the extent that we are able, nurturers at Wildflowers are not responsible for toilet training. Children age 2.5 and above are expected to be out of diapers prior to starting class or in process.

Resources

Please have a look at these websites. They contain valuable information.

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](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

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.

Wildflowers provides loving, Waldorf-inspired, relationship-based care for children 2.5 to 6 years old in a home environment with dedicated indoor and outdoor space located next to Borah Park where daily "life" is the curriculum. Our maximum preschool class size 12. Children must be potty trained before starting care.

We seek families who value our early childhood philosophy and who want an environment that provides a healthy, balanced and nurturing childhood experience. A limited number of openings are available for each age.

Preschool 8:30am to 12:15pm with an option for 2, 3 or 5 days a week.

Afternoon care is from 12:15 to 4pm

Extended Care past 4 pm is available for additional fee with prior arrangement.

APPLICATION STEPS

Step ① Complete Waitlist Application

Complete and return the application form along with the non-refundable \$50 waitlist application fee. It is an ongoing waitlist and applications are considered on a space available basis. Staff is available prior to applying for any questions or information via email or phone. General new enrollments are June and September. Please submit completed waitlist application to:

Wildflowers Child Care
c/o Laura Henning
6420 W Randolph Dr
Boise, ID 83709

Make check, cash or money order to "Wildflowers Child Care"

You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of your application and fee and be added to the waitlist. You will be contacted for step 2 to schedule a tour and continue the process.

STEP ② Schedule a Tour, Interview and Follow-Up Questionnaire

The next step in the process is answering a more in-depth questionnaire prior to attending a family interview. Interviews include the child and hopefully both parents and generally lasts 30-45 minutes. It is a conversation between the parents and the teacher, as well as time for the nurturers to watch the with the child during play. This process is intended to help us become better acquainted with you and your child and for your family to ask questions. Tours are usually in the afternoons. You will also be provided with the Family Handbook.

Step 3 Acceptance and Enrollment

Following step 2, if there is a space for your child, you will be sent an email with an offer of enrollment. If you accept the enrollment offer, you will be emailed an enrollment packet and service contract. These must be filled out and submitted by the due date stated on the letter, usually 7 days. Current immunization documentation, state exemption form or personal vaccine exemption statement needs to be provided to us at least a week before your child starts care.

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 \$160 new child enrollment fee
- at least 25% of the materials fee are received by the deadline in your letter.

Fees can be submitted by cash, Venmo, Zelle, check or money order payable to "Wildflowers Child Care" attached to your enrollment documents and are non-refundable. If you need a spot held for you, depending on circumstances like summer break, there is an additional holding fee.



WAITLIST APPLICATION

Today's date: _____

Preferred Start Date: _____

Preferred enrollment options: ___ Morning Preschool ___ Full Day Care ___ Afternoon Care

Preferred number of days to attend _____ (2, 3 or 5 days)

Other information:

Child's Name: _____ Current Age: _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Child's Birthday: _____ Gender: _____

<p>Mother's/Guardian Name: _____</p> <p>Phone number _____ Email _____</p> <p>Occupation _____</p> <p>Father's/Guardian Name: _____</p> <p>Phone number _____ Email _____</p> <p>Occupation _____</p> <p>Main Contact Person _____</p> <p>Preferred method and time of contact _____</p>
--

Siblings:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>School</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Include \$50 Waitlist Application Fee (Doesn't guarantee enrollment)

1. How did you hear about Wildflowers and what brings you to apply?
2. Do you have any experience with Waldorf education? If yes, what?
3. Describe the care your child has previously had. Where and how long? (Regular in-home caregiver other than a parent, preschool, family member?)
4. What interests your child? What does he/she like to do? How much media exposure does your child have?
5. What questions might you have for us?

Tuition Rates 2022-2023

Tuition rates are based on an annual tuition and divided into equal monthly payments based on 4 weeks per month for 3.75 hours a day for Preschool and 7.5 hours for Full day and between \$6 - \$10/hr. Cost per day is less as the days of care increase. It is easier for everyone to have the same cost each month and take into account national holidays, spring, winter and summer breaks and in-service days that are necessary for teacher training each year.

Preschool Class - 8:30 am to 12:15 pm **Afternoon Class 12:15 pm to 4:00 pm**

2 days	3 days	5 days
\$300	\$420	\$590
Materials Fee \$150	Materials Fee \$170	Materials Fee \$200

Full Day Class 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

2 days	3 days	5 days
\$390	\$560	\$890
Materials Fee \$160	Materials Fee \$190	Materials Fee \$250

- Rates are subject to yearly inflation increase that are effective in June of each year.
- Materials Fee is once per contract year.
- There is non-refundable one-time enrollment fee \$160
- 5% sibling discount is gifted to families and is applied towards second enrolled child's tuition.
- Extra Day Drop-In Rate: Half-Day \$35, Full- Day \$50 per day, subject to space availability and prior approval