

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 home-based program. We work and free play with our friends through activities like gardening, painting, singing, seasonal projects, storytelling, puppet shows and games. Children are exposed to a bilingual Spanish/English environment spoken by our experienced, trained teachers who create a warm environment with a consistent rhythm.

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 dedicated space separate from the family living space and 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 loving, Waldorf-inspired, play-based, arts and nature infused early childhood experience for children approximately 2 to 6 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 or 5 pm for 2, 3 and 5 days

Full Day Care – 8am to 5pm: 2, 3 and 5 consecutive 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.
- Children must generally be able to independently use the bathroom before starting care.
- 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 lottery list, please complete the steps below. After we receive the application, fee and questionnaire we will schedule an individual 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. We lottery for open spots from our list year-round.

Step ① Lottery Application Forms and Fee

We accept applications year-round. Begin the process by completing and returning the application form along with the non-refundable \$50 application fee. Staff is available prior to applying for any questions or information via email or phone. Application does not guarantee enrollment.

Please submit completed waitlist application to:

Wildflowers Child Care
c/o Laura Henning
6420 W Randolph Dr
Boise, ID 83709
or via email as a PDF to wildflowersboise@gmail.com

Fee payment via cash, check "Wildflowers Child Care" or Zelle to 2083404498.

Upon receipt of your application and fee you will be sent a confirmation email and follow up questionnaire and be contacted for step 2 to continue the process and schedule a private interview/tour.

STEP ② Questionnaire, Schedule a Tour/Interview

The next step in the process is answering a more in-depth questionnaire which will be emailed to you after receipt of your application and prior to attending a family interview. Upon receipt of the questionnaire, 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 nurturers to observe your child during play. This process is intended to help us become better acquainted with you and your child and for your family to see our space, meet us and ask questions. These are usually in the afternoons at 3:45pm.

Step 3 Acceptance and Enrollment

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

If you accept the enrollment offer, you will be emailed an enrollment packet, service contract, the Family Handbook and other documents. These must be filled out and submitted by the due date stated on the letter, usually 3 calendar days.

**** We accept all legal forms of vaccine exemptions. Current immunization documentation, state exemption form or personal vaccine exemption statement must be provided to us at least two weeks before your child starts WF.*

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 are submitted by either cash, Zelle (to 2083404498), or check 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 Class: *8:30 am to 1pm

Days	*2 days	3 days	5 days
Tuition	\$375 month	\$540 month	\$780 month
Early Drop-Off	\$40 month	\$60 month	\$100 month

*2 preschool days are only available for children under age 3.5

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

Days	2 days	3 days	5 days
Tuition	\$500 month	\$670 month	\$1,000 month
Early Drop-Off	\$40 month	\$60 month	\$100 month
Extended Pick-Up to 4:30/5pm	\$40/\$80 month	\$60/\$120 month	\$100/\$200 month

Full Time Option: 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday \$1,300/\$64 day

***Early Drop Off Option:** 8am drop off is an additional \$5 per day, paid monthly.

****Extended Pick up:** until 4:30pm additional \$5/day; until 5pm additional \$10/day, paid monthly.

- Non-refundable, one-time enrollment fee \$350
- Our materials fee is now added to our monthly rates.
- Yearly \$50 Reenrollment fee (January)
- You are free to pick up at any time, just give us notice.
- Extra Day Drop-In subject to space availability
- Change to 8am to 5:00pm will begin September 2024



Today's date: _____

Preferred Start Date: _____

Preferred enrollment options:

Preschool __2__ 3__ 5 days Full Day __2__ 3__ 5 days Full Time 8am-5pm _____

Other information:

Child's Birthday: _____ Gender: _____

Child's Name: _____ Current Age: _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Main Contact Parent _____

Parent 1 Name: _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Occupation/Employer _____

Parent 2 Name: _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Occupation/Employer _____

Siblings:

Name

Age

School

To complete application, Include \$50 Lottery Application Fee

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? If not, what about it is a good fit for your family?
3. Describe the care your child has previously had. Where/Who and how long? (Regular in-home caregiver other than a parent, preschool, family member?)
4. What questions might you have for us?