

WILDFLOWERS

PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE

"We don't rush childhood."

Dear Potential Wildflowers Parent,

Welcome to Wildflowers! As a parent, you have many choices in the type of care and education for your child. The following information will give you more insight into our philosophy, structure and how to apply.

Childhood is the foundation for our life. It is the time to plant the seeds for dreams of who we will become. WF provides children a consistent daily rhythm for through meaningful practical activities and time in nature. Children form community which helps them grow and blossom in our small, personalized center. Children learn and play with 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, non-toxic 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 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 outdoor play area & gardens.

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.

BUTTERCUP NURSERY (18 months to 3.5 years)

Wildflowers' Buttercup Nursery 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, creative, developmental free play, socialization, nature exploration, and meaningful 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. We are media-free, following research showing that learning in early childhood comes from engaging and interacting with people, places, and objects, not devices.

Buttercup Nursery offers a beautiful, homelike indoor environment with an enchanting half acre for the children to explore every day, all year. The blend of mixed ages and temperaments creates a healthy atmosphere which enables children to develop lifelong, developmental skills.

During early childhood 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 book Soul of Discipline as our guidance framework.

BUTTERCUP DAILY RHYTHM

8:30 Arrival Begins

8:30-9:00 Morning Tea and Nibbles (optional)

9:00 Free Play/Daily Activity

10:10 Clean Up/Bathroom

10:25 Seasonal Song and Fingerplay at Table

10:30 Snack

10:45 Outside Transition

11-12 Outside Play

12:00 Transition Inside/bathroom

12:20 Lunch & Storytime

12:50 Departure Song / Pickup Begins or Transition to Nap for full day

Rhythm is integral to our work with children, whether it be daily, weekly, or the cycle of the seasons. We create our rhythm to have a balance of outward expression and focused activity, or what is often described as an in and out breath. Playtime allows the children to expand out into

the world and then we come together for a more focused inward activity such as story time. It is a balance of form and freedom that is responsive to the child's needs and supportive to their overall wellbeing. A consistent daily and weekly rhythm offers a sense of stability that holds and guides the child, helping them to feel secure in what comes next. Above you will find our daily rhythm as well as the sample snack and activities for our weekly rhythm.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Daily Activity	Painting or Drawing	Painting or Drawing	Vegetable Chopping	Bread Baking	Nursery tending
Snack	Purple day porridge day with syrup and "snow"	Sliced Fruit Granola and yogurt	Magic Stone soup with lentils and vegetables	Bread buns with honey butter and sliced fruit	Brown Rice Liquid aminos, cucumbers

YEARLY RHYTHM

Wildflowers builds 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 only offer consecutive day schedules.

For example, we offer Thursday/Friday 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 young children. 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 1 pm with an option for 2, 3 or 5 consecutive days a week

Full Day Class – 8:30 to 4pm with an option for 2, 3 and 5 consecutive days and extended pickup.

- A limited number of openings are available for each age.
- Applications are accepted year-round and may be submitted up to 12 months in advance of desired start date with priority for siblings and alumni.
- Application does not guarantee enrollment.
- The Director is available prior to applying for any questions via email or phone.

PROCESS

If you'd like to apply for an open spot or have a confirmed spot 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. If enrollment is declined when offered or we cannot reach you within 3 days, you will need to repeat the process to be considered again.

Step ① Application and Fee

Complete the **application** and **child profile** and **complete application payment**. Upon receipt of your application and fee you will be contacted for step 2 to continue the process and schedule a private interview/tour.

STEP ② Schedule a Tour/Interview

After you have completed your application, child profile and fee you will be contacted for a tour/interview that includes your child and ideally both parents. It generally lasts 30-45 minutes and is a conversation between the parents and the teachers, as well as time for the Director 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 3:15pm.

Step 3 Acceptance and Enrollment

Following step 2, if we have a spot available, 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
- If you need a spot held for you before you can begin care for an open spot, there is an additional tuition holding fee.
- Fees and documents are submitted via Brightwheel and are non-refundable.



Today's date: _____

Preferred Start Month/Year: _____

Preferred enrollment options:

Preschool __2__ 3__ 5 days Full Day __2__ 3__ 5 days Extended Pickup Time _____

Child's Birthday: _____ Gender: _____

Child's Full Name: _____ Current Age: _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

<p>Main Contact Parent _____</p> <p>Parent 1 Name: _____</p> <p>Phone number _____ Email _____</p> <p>Occupation/Employer _____</p> <p>Parent 2 Name: _____</p> <p>Phone number _____ Email _____</p> <p>Occupation/Employer _____</p>
--

Siblings at Home:

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

CHILD PROFILE

Child's Name _____

Please answer the following questions as completely as possible to help us get to know your child. Use additional sheets if necessary.

1. Describe your child's birth and developmental milestones such as crawling, standing, walking, talking, toilet training, etc.

2. Has your child been weaned? _____ If yes, When? _____

Has your child been toilet trained? _____ If yes, for how long? _____

What type of toilet does your child currently use?

Can your child dress him/herself? YES NO

What language(s) does your child speak? _____

3. Does your child nap at home? _____ What time? _____ For how long? _____

Nap time is from approximately 1:15pm depending on child's age. Share any relevant details about how your child currently naps?

4. How would you describe your child's temperament?

5. Please describe your child in terms of interests, strong likes/dislikes, favorite activities, toys, etc

- 6.** How does your child display strong emotions and what is effective to calm/comfort?

- 7.** What is your child's relationship with food? Does he/she have a good appetite? Does your child have any food allergies? What is a typical lunch for your child?

- 8.** Please describe your family routines (how your child spends a typical day from waking until bedtime). What time does your child go to bed and wake up?

- 9.** What is your child's exposure to media and screens? If they have exposure please describe the amount of time each week, what devices they use, and what they watch.

- 10.** Does your child have any particular fears? If yes how does your child deal with them?

11. Does your child have any health issues/history?

12. What social exposure does your child have and how does he/she respond in peer situations with other children? How does your child respond to new adults?

13. Does your child appear to have sensory, learning and/or behavioral challenges? Has your child been tested, assessed or recommended for any special needs or services? If so, please describe and send copies of reports and documents related to the special needs of your child if enrolled.

14. What are your hopes for your child in attending Wildflowers?

15. Please share any other relevant information about your child that could be useful about his/her care.