



"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 foundation for our life. It is the time to plant the seeds for dreams and imagination. We provide a consistent daily rhythm for children through our developmental curriculum. Children form a "community" that helps them gently develop in our small, personalized program. Children learn and play with friends through daily free play and activities like gardening, painting, singing, seasonal projects, storytelling, puppet shows and games. Our community has shared values like being 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. 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 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 offers a beautiful, homelike environment with an enchanting half acre for the children to explore. We also enjoy easy access to Sunset Park across the street. The blend of mixed ages and temperaments creates a healthy atmosphere that enables children to develop lifelong, developmental skills.

PRESCHOOL CLASS

Free play inside or out

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

Clean-up, hand washing, bathroom

Morning snack (organic 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 (provided by family)

During early childhood (ages 0-7) we seek to awaken and support the child's creative and playful nature and to nurture their sense of wonder and gratitude. These concepts are 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 discipline framework.

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 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>

NEW LOCATION AND EXPANSION

Our new Early Childhood Center is located at 2723 N. 36th Street in Boise. This will allow us to have dedicated space for children age 18 months to 3.5 years and 3.5 to 6 years in two separate buildings at our center.



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

Preschool with Extended Care – 8:30am to 4pm with an option for 2, 3 and 5 consecutive days

Extended Care past 4pm maybe be available upon request for additional fee.

- A limited number of openings are available for each age.
- Applications may be made up to 12 months in advance of desired start date for priority for siblings and full day class.

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 the parents and your child. If it is a good match for everyone, you will be notified via email when we have an opening available. If enrollment is declined when offered or we cannot reach you within 3 days your application will go back to the waitlist.

Step ① Application and Fee

We accept applications year-round. (Application does not guarantee enrollment.)

Staff is available prior to applying for any questions via email or phone. Fill out and return the **application** and **child profile** at the end of this document and return it to wildflowersboise@gmail.com Send \$50 **application fee** via Zelle to 2083404498 or Venmo to @Laura-H007.

Upon receipt of your application and fee you will be sent a confirmation email and follow up and 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 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.)

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, your application will go back on the waitlist.

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.



Today's date: _____

Preferred Start Date: _____

Preferred enrollment options:

Preschool __2__ 3__ 5 days **Full Day** __2__ 3__ 5 days Pick up past 4pm _____

Child's Birthday: _____ Gender: _____

Child's Full 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 at Home:

Name

Age

School

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CHILD PROFILE

Your 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. If you're an adoptive parent please indicate, and respond to pregnancy and childbirth questions to the best of your ability.

1. State of health during pregnancy: restless, tired, stressful, peaceful, energetic, complications, ill? Please share details of your pregnancy.

2. Childbirth was: homebirth, induced, quick, late, difficult, hospital birth, early, long, easy, schedule cesarean, drugs during labor, cesarean with prior labor. Please share details.

3. INFANCY – As an infant was your child: ___ fretful ___ colicky ___ sleepy

a. Was your child breastfed? _____ Until when? _____

Was breast feeding on demand or scheduled?

Were there any breastfeeding complications?

Is your child weaned? _____ If so, when? _____

b. Age at first teeth? _____ Age to crawl? _____

c. Age at first words? _____ Age to walk? _____

d. Did your child receive immunizations? _____ If so, was there any delay in the schedule? Was there any adverse reaction to any immunization?

e. Please list any childhood illnesses and treatment of illness.

Please indicate and explain any vulnerable areas in your child's health.

___ lungs	___ abdomen	___ throat
___ Constipation	___ skin	___ nose
___ high fevers	___ eyes	___ diarrhea

4. Has your child been toilet trained? _____ If yes, for how long? _____
What type of toilet does your child currently use? _____

5. Can your child dress him/herself? YES NO

6. Does your child speak any languages other than English? If so, which _____

7. SLEEPING:

Does your child still 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?)

Please indicate the following:

___ hours nightly	___ night terrors	___ age
___ falls asleep easily	___ nightmares	___ age
___ falls asleep slowly	___ sleep walks	___ age
___ restless sleeper	___ sleep talks	___ age
___ light sleeper	___ awakens slowly	
___ dreams	___ mouth breathes	
___ snores	___ awakens quickly	
___ wets bed/if stopped	what age	___

What is your child's bedtime? _____

When does your child naturally wake in the morning? _____

How many hours a night does our child actually sleep? _____

How often does your child wake in the night? _____

Describe your child's bedtime ritual

8. EATING:

Please indicate the following:

- ___ good appetite Likes: ___ sweet ___ sour ___ bitter ___ salty
___ little interest in food Likes: ___ hot food ___ cold food
___ gets indigestion Likes: ___ grains ___ vegetables ___ fruit ___ dairy ___ meat
___ eats a full meal at mealtimes
___ prefers snacking to meals
___ has difficulty sitting through a complete mealtime

Most liked foods:

Least liked foods:

9. FAMILY/SOCIAL BACKGROUND

Child's birth order in family _____

With whom does the child reside? If in two homes please note the schedule:

Please describe any blended family relationships:

Other significant persons in your child's life and how much time is spent:

Is either parent or guardian away for significant lengths of time? Please explain.

Does your family have a religious or spiritual preference? Please comment

What activities does your child engage in at home?

Describe any pets in the family

Does your family lifestyle allow for a particular rhythm or ritual? (For example, breakfast is the same time every day, bedtime prayer, close are picked out the night before)

How would you describe your child's temperament?

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

10. MEDIA

How much time does your child partake in the following? Please indicate whether its hours per day or per week etc.

_____ TV _____ Videos _____ Recorded Stories
_____ Movies _____ Computer/Tablet _____ Recorded Music

If your child watches something on a device what types of things are watched?

It has been consistently found through extensive research that watching screens/media, regardless of their content, interferes significantly with a child's ability to experience their environment fully, rendering them less capable of healthy initiative, participation and attentiveness in group settings. We recognize that media is a significant part of our culture, and that not every parent is able to completely eliminate screen use in their home. However, because of its strong effect on the quality of the classroom experience, we ask that you work with us on this. What is asked of the parents working with us will vary as the response to media varies greatly from child to child.

If you are not currently media free, are you willing to reduce or eliminate your child's screen exposure? _____ YES _____ NO _____ UNCERTAIN

11. PHYSICAL and EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Are there any hearing or visual challenges?

Are there any gross or fine motor challenges?

What is your child's lateral dominance? (left right-handed, footed?)

Any allergies or sensitivities? (environmental, food or otherwise)? Please supply medical documentation, including treatment for allergies or strong sensitivities.

Please list any current medical conditions your child has and the treatment.

Does your child have any particular fears? If yes how does your child deal with them?

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?

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.

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

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