

# WILDFLOWERS

PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE

Dear Potential Wildflowers Parent,

Whether you already know about Waldorf education or are a new parent trying to figure out what environment is best for your child, we're glad you found us. and we look forward to sharing more about who we are and what we do. Our early childhood program provides a nurturing place that protects the simplicity of childhood. 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. We are currently the only center in the Treasure Valley who are approved members of WECAN (Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America).

Our staff consists of trained, licensed nurturers who provide a high-quality experience for each child. Our low child to nurturer ratio (1:6 or less) allows us to build strong relationships with 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 are similar to 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 space dedicated to the preschool. Imaginative play is the foundation for the program, providing a strong foundation for abstract thinking which is crucial for later academic success. Wildflowers Preschool focus' 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. We invite you to participate in our waitlist application process that is open year-round. We hope the following information will answer many of your questions.

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, Spanish 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 enclosed 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 available for those needing care for the full day. It consists of lunch time, nap or rest time, crafts and indoor and outdoor play.

\*\*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](http://www.waldorfearlychildhood.org)

[www.whywaldorfworks.org](http://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. Please submit completed waitlist application to:

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

Cash or make check 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. As we get closer to your spot on the list, 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 \$170 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Father's/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method and time of contact \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 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**

<b>2 days</b>	<b>3 days</b>	<b>5 days</b>
\$300	\$420	\$600
Materials Fee \$150	Materials Fee \$170	Materials Fee \$200

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

<b>2 days</b>	<b>3 days</b>	<b>5 days</b>
\$390	\$580	\$900
Materials Fee \$160	Materials Fee \$190	Materials Fee \$250

- Materials Fee is once per contract year.
- There is non-refundable, one-time enrollment fee \$170 (includes water bottle & bag)
- 3% 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