

# 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 for our waitlist.

Childhood is the most important time in everyone's life. This is the time to plant the seeds for dreams and imagination. Our focus is on rhythm – through our daily activities and our experiences of nature. Children form a "community" that helps each other grow and blossom in our home-based program. We work and play with our friends through activities like gardening, painting, singing, seasonal projects, storytelling, puppet shows and games. English and Spanish are regularly spoken by our experienced and 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 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 waitlist 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 play, Spanish language exposure, nature exploration, artistic expressions. It provides a healthy, caring environment that allows time and space for 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. We are also all-weather people and 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 (2.5-6) and temperaments creates a healthy atmosphere that enables children to develop lifelong, developmental skills. We provide a bilingual Spanish/English environment for children as well to enrich their language skills.

### PRESCHOOL CLASS

Free play inside or out

Daily Activity (painting, bread making, craft, food chopping etc.)

Clean-up, hand washing, bathroom

Morning snack

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

Outside play, nature walk or park visit

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.

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* strives to build 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.

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 handbook is given with enrollment.

### **Our "Consistent Care" Philosophy**

"Drop and go" childcare does not allow children, caregivers, and parents time 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 will notice some deliberate differences in our program in comparison with many traditional preschool facilities. We ask offer consecutive schedules 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 whole school 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 consultive days Th-F or Mon-Wed as an example.

### **Waldorf Resources**

Please take time to review these websites and articles. They contain valuable information relevant to our values.

[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

Wildflowers provides loving, Waldorf-inspired, relationship-based care for children approximately 2 to 6 years old in a home environment where daily "life" is the curriculum with dedicated indoor and outdoor space. 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.

**Full Day** – Preschool class with additional care until 4:30 pm

**Extended Care** past 4:30 pm may be available for an additional fee.

- Our maximum class size is 12 children.
- 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 younger children.

## **PROCESS**

Families have two application options available. **Free – Interest Only Application** or **Full Application** with \$40 fee.

If you'd like to apply for an open spot or wish to have a tour/interview and have a confirmed spot on the waitlist, please complete the steps below. Our free, interest only application will not reserve a spot on the waitlist or offer a tour. We notify you via email/text when we have an opening available that we can't fill from the waitlist. You may change to a full application at any time by emailing us, paying the application fee and continuing the process.

### **Step ① Application Forms and Fee**

We accept applications year-round and they are considered on a space available basis. Begin the process by completing and returning the application form along with the non-refundable \$40 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 to [wildflowersboise@gmail.com](mailto:wildflowersboise@gmail.com)

Fee payment via cash, check "Wildflowers Child Care" or via 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 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 teacher, 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 4pm.

### **Step 3 Acceptance and Enrollment**

Following step 2, if there is space available and it appears that Wildflowers is a good fit for your family and for us, you will be sent an email with an enrollment offer. You will have 48 hours to respond. 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.

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
- at least 25% of the materials 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.



## Rates 2024

Tuition rates are based on an annual tuition and divided into equal monthly payments based on 4 weeks per month. Cost per day decreases as the days of care increase and considers national holidays, spring, winter and summer breaks and in-service days necessary for teacher training and certification each year.

### Morning Class – 8:30 am to 1pm

2 days	3 days	5 days
\$360/\$45 day	\$515/\$43 day	\$760/\$38 day
Materials Fee \$180	Materials Fee \$220	Materials Fee \$250

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

2 days	3 days	5 days
\$480/\$60 day	\$650/\$54 day	\$960/\$48 day
Materials Fee \$180	Materials Fee \$220	Materials Fee \$250

- Materials Fee is once per contract year.
- There is non-refundable, one-time enrollment fee \$350 (includes a canvas bag to keep)
- Yearly \$50 Reenrollment fee (January)
- Rates may be altered yearly, and tuition is based on most current rates at time of enrollment.
- Extra Day Drop-In Rate: Half-Day \$45, Full- Day \$60 per day, subject to space availability



\_\_\_ Full Application \_\_\_ Interest Only Application

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred enrollment options:

\_\_\_ Preschool \_\_\_ Full Day \_\_\_ Preferred number of days to attend (2, 3 or 5 days)

Other information:

Child's Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*To reserve your spot on the waitlist, Include \$40 Waitlist 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?