

# WILDFLOWERS

PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE

"We don't rush childhood."

Dear Potential Wildflowers Parent,

Welcome to Wildflowers! Whatever brings you to investigate Wildflowers, 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 "family" that helps each other grow and blossom in a home-based preschool program. We work and play with our friends. Through our daily activities together, we strengthen our social skills. Gardening, painting, singing, art projects, storytelling, puppet show and games are just a few of our daily activities. Our program celebrates the diversity of cultures and languages. English and Spanish are spoken.

Wildflowers is inspired by the principles and practices of Waldorf Early Childhood and is unique in the Treasure Valley as the only associate member of WECAN. As part of the international Waldorf community, we support the decades of research in developmental psychology which demonstrates 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.

Our experienced, trained, and licensed staff creates a warm environment with a consistent rhythm that is respectful of each child. 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/ Lead 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. 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 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 atmosphere that enables children to develop social and life skills. Wildflowers is a wonderful stepping stone from home life to school.

### MORNING PRESCHOOL

Welcome and Free play

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

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 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.

### AFTERNOON CARE

Afternoon Care is available for those needing care for the full day. It consists of lunch time, nap 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 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 "Consistent Care" Philosophy**

"Drop and go" childcare does not 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 will 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 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

*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 approximately 2.5 to 6 years old in a home environment with dedicated indoor and outdoor space where daily "life" is the curriculum. Our maximum class size is 12 children.

Our families value our early childhood philosophy and want an environment that provides a healthy, balanced, and nurturing childhood experience. A limited number of openings are available for each age. Children must be able to independently use the bathroom before starting care.

**Morning Class** - 8:30am to 12:10pm with an option for 2, 3 or 5 consecutive days a week.

**Afternoon Class** - care is from 12:15 to 4pm

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

## **Step ① Complete Waitlist Application**

Complete and return the application form along with the non-refundable \$65 waitlist application fee. Our waitlist is ongoing and applications are considered on a space available basis. Staff is available prior to applying for any questions or information via email or phone. To begin the process please submit completed waitlist application to:

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

Fee payment via cash, check "Wildflowers Child Care" or Venmo.

You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of your application and fee and be added to the waitlist. Then you will be contacted for step 2 to schedule a tour and continue the process.

## **STEP ② Follow-Up Questionnaire, Schedule a Tour/Interview**

The next step in the process is answering a more in-depth questionnaire prior to attending a family interview. The questionnaire will be emailed to you after receipt of your application. Upon receipt you will be contacted for a tour/interview that includes your child and hopefully both parents and generally lasts 45 minutes. It 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 ask questions. Tours are usually in the afternoons.

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

Following step 2, if it appears that it will be a good fit for your family and for us and there is a space available 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. You will also be provided with the Family Handbook and calendar. These must be filled out and submitted by the due date stated on the letter, usually 5 calendar days. Current immunization documentation, state exemption form or personal vaccine exemption statement must 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 \$220 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, there is an additional tuition holding fee.



# WAITLIST APPLICATION

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

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

Preferred enrollment options: \_\_\_ Morning Preschool \_\_\_ Afternoon Class \_\_\_ Full Day Care

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent 1 Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation/Employer \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent 2 Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation/Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact Parent \_\_\_\_\_

## Siblings:

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





## Rates 2023

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. It is easier for everyone to have the same cost each month and consider 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 12:10 pm Afternoon Class 12:15 pm to 4:00 pm

2 days	3 days	5 days
\$320	\$440	\$650
Materials Fee \$175	Materials Fee \$200	Materials Fee \$225

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

2 days	3 days	5 days
\$440	\$580	\$925
Materials Fee \$175	Materials Fee \$200	Materials Fee \$260

- Materials Fee is once per contract year.
- There is non-refundable, one-time enrollment fee \$220 (includes a canvas bag to keep)
- Rates may be altered yearly and tuition is based on most current rates at time of enrollment.
- Extra Day Drop-In Rate: Half-Day \$40, Full- Day \$55 per day, subject to space availability and prior approval.