

FAMILY HANDBOOK

A Guide for Families

Produced by Nature Vision for parents of preschoolers enrolled in Nature Vision Preschool at Farrel-McWhirter Farm Park. This preschool is operated by Nature Vision, a non-profit environmental education organization, in partnership with the City of Redmond Parks & Recreation Department.

Updated August 2023





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INTRODUCTION

OUR MISSION

The mission of Nature Vision Preschool is to provide a nature play-based, experiential learning environment to help foster a sustainable culture in our community. Located in the natural setting of an educational farm and wooded park, our unique preschool program promotes children's social, physical, and cognitive growth in a secure, creative, and stimulating environment.

OUR HISTORY

Nature Vision Preschool is operated by Nature Vision, an environmental education non-profit organization, in partnership with the City of Redmond Parks & Recreation Department. After starting as a program of the Redmond Parks and Recreation at Anderson Park, our preschool grew over the years. It was first known as Farrel-McWhirter Preschool from 1978-1991, Farm and Nature Preschool at Farrel-McWhirter Park from 1991-2018, and is now Nature Vision Preschool at Farrel-McWhirter Farm Park.

For more information about Nature Vision and our work with over 70,000 student each year, please visit www.naturevision.org.

OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers are selected based on their knowledge and experience working with preschool children in both indoor and outdoor settings. They are highly qualified professional educators who strive to create a warm and safe learning environment for young children.

OUR COMMUNITY

At Nature Vision Preschool, we seek to create a classroom culture that supports and celebrates the similarities and differences of all people. We welcome students and family members to share their culture, language, traditions, and stories with our classes. We do not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, culture, religion, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other personal identity within our community. It is our goal to promote kindness and acceptance of all.

OUR SCHOOL

Our school provides a play-based, experiential learning environment to our students. Our curriculum weaves science, math, language, visual arts, music, movement, and environmental education into daily activities. These subjects are coordinated into theme-based units which follow the natural cycles of change in the ecosystems at the park. Children gain independence and self-esteem as they are encouraged by caring and experienced teachers to be active participants in their own learning.

Our usual daily activities include Arts & Crafts, Circle Time, Snack, Outdoor Time, and Free Choice. Our timing and activities are flexible, depending on student interest, weather conditions, current theme and enrichment activities, but generally the schedule looks like:

- Arrive at school
- Wash hands
- Find a center activity to participate in (about 30 minutes)

- Clean up and Circle Time (about 10-15 minutes)
- Snack Time (about 15-20 minutes)
- Get ready for outside (about 15 minutes)
- Outdoor time (1-1.5 hours)
- Pick up time

OUR CLASSES

Creative Play (Ages 3 ½ - 4)

*T/Th 8:30am-11:00 am

Creative Play offers an introduction to outdoor preschool for our younger students. With an emphasis on a small class size and play-based curriculum, Creative Play students are ready for fun, rain or shine! By exploring their interests and the world around them, children develop long-lasting connections to the earth and to each other.

Students learn about the forest through active play and discovery, and begin to make sense of the patterns in nature. Fostering these curiosities helps students grow their connections to the world around them. Who is making that bird song? Who calls this tree home? Creative Play students are going to find out!

Teachers weave academic concepts throughout daily activities, encouraging authentic, meaningful, and contextual learning in a nurturing and engaging environment. At the end of this growth-filled year, your student will be ready to move into Pre-K Discoveries or Preschool Explorers with a matured sense of connection and place in our preschool community. Creative Play is intended for students two years away from Kindergarten.

Preschool Explorers (Ages 3.5-5)

*T/W/Th 12:30pm-3:30 pm

Children have a lot to teach us, and each other! Preschool Explorers embodies this idea through the unique and exciting community of a mixed-age class. Students will learn and grow with each other while we discover the magical forest we call home!

Who made the hole that owl is living in? Why is that fern growing on the tree? How do nurse logs help the forest? Through an emergent and play-based curriculum, teachers make natural connections to academic themes and provide a rich environment where students will continue to grow their social-emotional and academic skills. Your child will become an active participant in their own education as they gain independence, self-esteem, and leadership skills through cooperative learning projects.

At the end of the school year, older students are fully prepared to move into Kindergarten, while younger students may return for one more year of Nature Vision Preschool. Preschool Explorers is strongly recommended for students with previous preschool/daycare experience.

Pre-K Discoveries (Ages 4 - 5)

*M/W/F 8:30am-11:30 am

Pre-K Discoveries students are budding and blooming scientists, artists, mathematicians, and storytellers. Students will enjoy discovering all that our forest has to offer through hands on exploration, while developing their Kindergarten readiness through our play-based curriculum.

By building on existing abilities and knowledge, students explore topics with more depth and self-direction through our emergent curriculum. Teachers gradually and gently encourage children to take bigger steps towards self-reliance and building their own curiosity to help each child develop their potential and thrive in our preschool community!

With a focus on social and emotional development, your child will build confidence, inquisitiveness, and lifelong skills, resulting in a happy and rewarding school year. Students will show teachers and each other all of the amazing things the forest has to offer underfoot and all around them. By the end of the school year, your student will be fully prepared to enter Kindergarten.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

Payment & Registration Information (Nature Vision Office)		425-836-2697
Nature Vision		
Preschool Manager	Kathryn Sooter	360-672-5858
Nature Vision Executive Director Ginny Sanchez Ballard		206-554-1407
City of Redmond Partner		
Parks & Recreation Department (also for emergency preschool contact)	Cindy Johnson	425-556-2393

Driving Address	19545 NE Redmond Rd Redmond, WA 98053
Mailing Address	Nature Vision
	Attn: NV Preschool
	22505 State Route 9 Southeast
	Woodinville, WA 98072

PREPARING FOR PRESCHOOL

<u>Creative Play</u> and <u>Preschool Explorers</u> classes begin on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 and end on Thursday, May 30, 2024.

<u>Pre-K Discoveries</u> class begins on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 and ends on Friday, May 31, 2024.

SUMMER PREPARATION FOR GROWN-UPS

Here are a few things you can work on this summer to help your student start off on their best foot!

- Label <u>ALL</u> belongings (coats, jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes, etc.) clearly with your child's name.
 - Many students have the same gear and this can cause confusion and frustration amongst them.
- Practicing your before-school routine can help your child feel more confident on the first day and be able to jump right in to preschool.
- Please remember that all students must be reliably potty-trained.
 - Students who are not ready by the start of school will not be allowed to attend until they are potty-trained. Pull-ups or diapers are not allowed at preschool.
- Practice proper handwashing (20 seconds with soap and water).

SUMMER PREPARATION FOR STUDENTS

"Never help a child with a task at which they feel they can succeed." – Maria Montessori Students should begin practicing things they will be asked to do on their own at school. While teachers will help when necessary, students are expected to do simple tasks such as putting on their coat, pants, and shoes. They should also be able to wash their hands completely. We appreciate your time practicing the following skills as it helps us spend more time playing, learning, and exploring!

- Practice opening and closing their snack containers, lunch boxes, and backpacks (and putting each away inside the other).
- Put on and take off their own jacket, rain pants, and boots.
- Practice recognizing their own gear (as many students have the same or similar looking gear).
- Practice proper handwashing (20 seconds with soap and water).
- Practice proper trail etiquette. At school, we have students stay on the trails and refrain from picking leaves or branches off of plants that are still growing. We practice being respectful to the forest and taking care of the space we call home.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Toys or treasures from home
 - These items can get lost and be a distraction to other students.
- Nuts and nut products
 - Nature Vision Preschool can operate as a nut free school. We base this policy annually on allergies of incoming students. If no students have allergies, then we do not restrict any nuts. If there are known allergies, then we will alert and update all families prior to the start of school. Please be aware, that our school building operates as a multi-use space from

June-August when our school is not in session, and at that time nuts are allowed. Please alert the preschool staff of nut allergies immediately.

FAMILY EXPECTATIONS

BE ON TIME

Please drop-off and pick up your child on time. Timeliness is important to maintaining a consistent class schedule and class dynamic. Classroom doors open at 8:30 and 12:30 as scheduled. If you will be more than 15 minutes late to the class, please let the teachers know. We will do our best to wait for any late students, but there may be days when we need to exit the building earlier to give an outdoor activity the appropriate time it requires.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP ROUTINES

Please walk your child all the way to and from the classroom. You *must* sign your child in and out each day. If another adult will pick up your child, they must be authorized as noted in the waiver. **Do not leave any valuables or younger children alone in your car as break-ins are possible.**

Drop-off:

- We recommend only one family member do drop off to reduce congestion. Families will drop their child off at the preschool door and will not enter the classroom.
- Please place your child's belongings in their cubby and sign in on the binder.
- Once your child is inside the classroom, teachers will help the students wash their hands and find an activity.
- Pick-up: Last 10 minutes of class
 - o Pick-up begins with 10 minutes left in the class time and takes place in the garden.
 - Please sign your child out, collect their belongings from their cubby before entering the garden to pick up your child.
- Late Fee
 - We charge a late fee for pick-ups that occur after the listed end time of class (ex. 11am for Creative Play). We have a three strike policy for late pick-ups, as we understand that emergencies and unplanned surprises happen. After your 3rd strike, we will charge a \$5/minute late fee. This fee is place to ensure our teachers are able to prepare and clean for the next class, and leave on time at the end of the day.

ABSENCES

Please let the teachers know if you will be absent for any length of time. As part of our learning model is being outside, it's important that we know how many students to expect so we may tailor our plans. We do not give refunds for absences of any length.

SNACK TIME

Snack time is around 15-20 minutes long. This is a time for a *quick* refuel before going out to explore, and we plan our schedule with the idea that preschoolers have eaten breakfast or lunch already. We

encourage healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables with water to drink. We strive to model sustainability to students, so please try to use reusable containers and reusable water bottles. Some days we may take our snacks with us on a hike, so please take that into consideration when packing food (i.e. put yogurt into a re-sealable container).

ALLERGIES

As a multi-use building, we cannot guarantee against exposure to any allergens. Nature Vision Preschool can operate as a nut free school if needed. We base this policy annually on allergies of incoming students. If no students have allergies, then we do not restrict any nuts. If there are known allergies, then we will alert and update all families prior to the start of school. Our allergy policy may change at any time to accommodate other student allergies. At that time, we will inform families about any restricted items. Thank you for helping us keep all our students safe!

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Our students are explorers, adventurers, artists, and scientists! We do a lot of exploring in our forests and fields, which means there are certain abilities that are important to our outdoor school model, including:

- Student responds when their name is called and is not prone to running away when upset, angry, etc.
- Student follows teacher instructions and remembers basic safety rules.
- Student is tolerant to varying weather conditions and willing to wear appropriate clothing.
- Student is okay with getting dirty or muddy.
- Student treats the plants and animals with kindness and respect.
- Student treats other students with kindness and respect.

We know and expect that many of these skills will grow with their time at preschool! We will also work to accommodate any special needs that children may have or need. If you have any questions about a specific item or are unsure of your child's readiness for Nature Vision Preschool, please contact the Preschool Manager, Kathryn Sooter, at ksooter@naturevision.org.

OUTDOOR GEAR

CLOTHING

We will be outside each and every day, and we will get wet and dirty! Only lightning, high winds, or extreme storm conditions will keep us inside. Please have your child wear appropriate clothing for seasonal weather and send waterproof outdoor gear every day (even if it's sunny, we may be playing in a part of the park that is always muddy/wet). We do not use umbrellas.

Rain boots

- Snow boots and ankle high boots are not recommended as they easily let water in through the top.
- Plan to bring these everyday once the first rainfall has happened. Most of the park stays very wet and muddy, even on sunny days when it hasn't rained in a few days.
- Periodically check that they aren't leaking and don't have holes. A surprise wet foot is not fun.

Rain pants

- Make sure each pant leg fits over the top of the boot to keep water out. When we splash in puddles, water can get between the pant leg and boots and make their socks wet if the pants aren't over the top.
- A rain suit is a great substitution for rain coats and pants! Please practice putting it on with your child before school starts.

Rain Coat

- Double check that it fits well as this is the most important part of our outdoor gear.
- The hood should cover your child's full head and hair. Hoods that only go halfway lets their head get wet.

Mittens and hats

- Mittens should be waterproof if possible. Hats should still be able to allow the hood to go on.
- Extra socks
 - Please keep a pair of extra socks in a Ziploc in your child's backpack.

LAYERING

As Washington can have many different types of weather in just a few short hours, layering clothing is the key to a comfortable adventure outdoors. There are 3 main layers to think about when dressing:

- 1. A base layer
- 2. A warm layer (usually fleece or a puffy coat)
- 3. A water proof layer

We rely on layering and will often let kids remove layers when playing to prevent overheating. Please make sure your child practices putting on and removing their outdoor gear layers independently.

CARE

When washing your child's rain gear, please **do not** use regular laundry soap. It washes off the waterproofing. Either use a soap free cycle, or use a special outdoor gear soap (Nikwax is a popular option). **Please label all belongings!**

FAMILY PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

VOLUNTEERING

From October through May, parents are welcome (but not obligated) to spend time in the classroom with their child. We reserve September for solidifying routines in the classroom and engaging with our new class community, but we often have at-home volunteer tasks for those who wish to help out during the first month of school. We post a monthly sign-up calendar by the cubbies which you may

use to sign up at any time. You may notice a change in your child's behavior at school – maybe they test boundaries a little more or seem more emotional than usual. This is perfectly normal and age-appropriate. Teachers will work with you to adapt to any changes in your child's behavior.

In-class volunteers will need to fill out a background check form before they are able to stay in class. As of 2019, state law (HB 1638) requires all volunteers to provide proof of receiving the MMR vaccine, or a medical/religious exemption form.

Full vaccination for COVID-19 is also required for all volunteers in Nature Vision Programs. COVID-19 vaccination is already mandatory for Nature Vision Staff.

CLASS PARTIES

We host two after school parties (Harvest Party and WinterFest) and one in class party (Garden Day). These are a great time to meet the rest of the preschool community and are planned by our Party Committees.

COMMITTEES

We have two volunteer committees you can join to help us throughout the year! The Party Committee helps with planning and decorating for our Harvest Party, WinterFest, and Graduation.

BIRTHDAYS, HOLIDAYS, AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

We welcome celebrations of all kinds! We love celebrating birthdays and holidays at preschool-please let us know if there are any special holidays your family celebrates, as we would love to include it in our curriculum. We also welcome families who would like to share more about how they celebrate with our class. Please check with teachers for any food allergies before bringing in items to share. Treats are passed out at the end of class for students to take home. We recommend small and healthy, bite-sized treats with limited sugar or a non-food alternative.

CONFERENCES

A short virtual conference for each student will be scheduled in November and email, phone calls, inperson, or additional conferences are always welcome. Parent-teacher communication is vital to your child's successful experience at school! In the spring, kindergarten bound students will have the option to schedule an exit conference.

PROGRESS REPORTS

A progress "report" will be given at the November conferences. For kindergarten bound students, another report will be given in the spring. This is a simple snapshot form for us to let you know how your child is adjusting to school and what we observe developmentally. We do not create official "report cards".

STAYING CONNECTED

CLASS CONTACT LISTS

For the convenience of families in the program, we produce a class list with contact information for each class, as mentioned below in the forms and waivers section. The purpose of this class list is to facilitate carpools, play dates, and other social engagements. This list is not to be used as a mailing list or call list for business purposes. Please inform us if you would like to opt out of the list.

CLASSROOM PHOTOS

Our preschool has a private photo page on Homeroom to post pictures of our daily preschool life. This is an invite only page where you will set up an account and password for yourself. Invite links can only be sent by teachers and will be sent out in August. You are also able to upload photos you take while your volunteer or of the kids playing before/after school. Families with a No Photo release should note that photos with their child in it are not used publicly.

REMIND APP

We use the Remind App to send out short reminders to families about upcoming events or things to remember. While we recommend using the app, it is not required to still receive messages. You will receive the add code shortly before school starts.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We share photos weekly to the Nature Vision Facebook page and the Nature Vision Instagram account (@naturevisionorg). Feel free to tag us in any preschool photos or any pictures you take at the park! Students with a photo release may be posted to our Facebook or Instagram pages to advertise the preschool or post fun photos of what we are doing. We will never reference students by their names.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Should we need to transition to remote learning (for example, snow days, weather closures, public health emergencies, etc.), we will use Google Classroom to post our curriculum and activity guides.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

At Nature Vision Preschool, we believe building caring, trusting relationships with students is the most important part of our behavior management strategy. We start by creating a strong foundation of respect for oneself, others, and the environment. We encourage students to take pride in themselves and their community. Below are the four main guiding principles we follow:

Positive Discipline

- Setting Expectations Early
- Logical and Natural Consequences
- Creating Empowered Members of Our Preschool Community

We aim to give all our students equal attention. If your child requires additional adult help in the classroom, we may ask you or another authorized person of your choosing to volunteer for certain activities.

SOCIAL LEARNING MOMENTS

Conflicts will inevitably arise between students, which can become learning opportunities for students to grow their social and emotional skills. Teachers will mediate conflict resolutions by modeling key phrases and providing problem-solving language, such as "I'm not done playing with this yet, but it can be your turn when I'm done" or "Did you know that when you ran past me, you bumped me and I fell?" By offering the language and tools needed to find solutions, teachers can empower a child to advocate for themselves and others. Teachers also coach students on giving and receiving apologies. While students are still developmentally learning what an apology is and what it means to be sorry, teachers can show students how to offer or ask for solutions to fix a problem, such as helping rebuild a tower, offering to get ice for a bump, etc. Learning what it means to apologize, and how to accept one are important practices for students to further deepen their social skills. Teachers work side-by-side with students while they learn how to advocate for themselves and others.

BRIEF ACTIVITY BREAK

In the event of a student disruption that is not quickly resolved, a teacher may ask them to take a brief activity break. A teacher will always sit with the student and help them reflect on their behavior. These activity breaks are kept short and usually result in allowing the child to rejoin the activity. Occasionally the student may be asked to find a different activity. Teachers aim to empower the student and encourage the student's confidence in making positive choices for themselves and their learning community.

STAYING WITH THE GROUP

As our preschool is located in a large public park, staying with the group is of the utmost importance. Students who struggle with staying with the group (including running away from teachers when called, hiding when upset, etc) affect the safety of the rest of the students and teachers. Students who run off more than 3 times will be asked to withdraw for the school year until they can develop the necessary impulse control needed for outdoor preschool. It is not unusual for children in this age group to need more time to develop and we welcome you to enroll again the following year!

CONTINUAL EFFORTS

Students who display continual behavior that causes safety concerns and disrupts the preschool community will result in teacher communication with a parent or guardian via a check-in at pick-up, email, or phone call. Teachers will utilize best judgment in deciding what the best contact method for the situation is. After a parent check-in, the teaching team expects that parents will talk with their child at home about their behavior.

As teachers that care deeply about all children and wish to serve all children equitably, we must balance thinking about the needs of the class with the individual needs of a student. If needed, the teachers will schedule a meeting with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to develop a Behavior Action Plan. We want to work together as a team to help your child thrive at school! In the rare instances that problematic behaviors cannot be resolved even after all remedial measures have been taken, the program staff may ask the family to evaluate if this program is the best fit for the child/family and may opt to ask the family to leave the program. This may mean another program is a better fit for an individual child. In these cases, we are happy to lend resources that may aid parents in finding a program that serves the needs of their child.

Dangerous, violent, or abusive behavior towards any member of the preschool community from a child or parent is not tolerated at our school and will result in immediate pick-up and possible removal from the program. Nature Vision Preschool reserves the right to ask families to leave the program at any time. Families who drop out mid-year may be asked not to return the next year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

IS YOUR CHILD ILL?

Students must be well enough to enjoy the whole class time. As a nature preschool, we are frequently active and busy outside and children should be in good health for the full program. We ask that you be considerate of your child and our school and do not send your child to school when they are sick.

If your child does not appear well enough at drop-off to attend that day, or becomes ill during the school day, we will ask that you take them home as soon as possible.

In the case of highly communicable illnesses, such as hand, foot, and mouth, conjunctivitis, or lice, please notify the teachers as soon as possible. We will inform the whole school anonymously so that parents can monitor their own child.

Teachers are not allowed to administer any medication, including the use of sunscreen. Any medication or sunscreen needed for the day must be administered before or after your child's class. In the event of an emergency where an EpiPen must be administered, teachers will help the child use the EpiPen.

Symptoms that a child is too sick for school:

- **Fever:** Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Child must not have a fever for 24 hours before returning to school (this includes not having used fever-reducing medications within 24 hours).
- Vomiting: Child should not return to school for 24 hours following the last episode of vomiting.
- Chronic cough and/or runny nose: Continual coughing and excessive nasal discharge. Conditions may be contagious and may require treatment from your healthcare provider.

- Diarrhea: More than one watery stool in a 24-hour period, especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- Sore throat: Mild to severe sore throat, especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck.
- Rash: Body rash, especially with fever or itching.
- **Ear infection:** Ear infection with fever. Without fever can attend school, but the child may need medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.
- **Eye infection:** Eye infections including pink eye (conjunctivitis) or thick mucus or pus draining from eye.
- Unusual appearance, behavior: Abnormally tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child from school.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

We take the health and safety of our students and their families very seriously. We will follow all protocols surrounding COVID-19. Please see our COVID-19 addendum to learn more about what we are doing to keep you safe.

Students, staff, parents/guardians, or other guests are not allowed on-site if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact with a confirmed or suspected case. As the symptoms of COVID-19 overlap with many other respiratory illnesses (colds, etc.), we will be strict with our illness policy and not allow students to attend if they are coughing, have runny noses, or have a fever. This is to keep our community as healthy as possible!

In addition to following our sick policy above, teachers will screen students during drop-off each morning. Following the WA Dept. of Health guidelines, we ask you to consider the following questions:

- Do you, your child, or anyone in your household have any COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, 100.4 F fever or higher, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, chills and aches, unusual fatigue, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, or congestion/runny rose)?
- Have you or your child come into close contact with anyone suspected for confirmed to have COVID-19?
- Have you given any fever-reducing medication to your child?

If the answer is "yes" to **any** of the above questions, we cannot provide care to your child that day.

Should a student test positive for COVID-19, we will follow the recommended <u>CDC guidelines here</u>. If there is an exposure to the classroom community, all students and staff will be required to mask for the recommended time period (following CDC protocols).

We do not offer refunds or prorates for absence due to illness. Please let the teachers know when your child will be absent from preschool. If you have questions concerning the appropriateness of sending your child to school, please consult with your doctor.

BATHROOM POLICY

Using the bathroom is an independent time for the students. Teachers will call them one by one to use the bathroom. Students are expected to be able to do all tasks in there without assistance, as teachers are not allowed to help in the bathroom (this includes wiping, pulling up pants, etc.).

The extra clothes bag you bring on the first day will stay in a cupboard in the bathroom. Please check it periodically to see if there needs to be a seasonal swap of clothes.

In the event your child needs to use some of their clean clothes, we will send home two bags: (1) dirty clothes in a plastic bag and (2) the extra clothes bag. Please replenish any items used from the clean clothes bag and return it to us on the next class day.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Before school begins, please make sure your child's immunizations are up-to-date. For the health of everyone, children participating at Nature Vision Preschool are required to have current immunizations.

All immunization records turned in to schools or child care centers are required by state law to be medically verified. Immunization records must be turned into the school on or before the first day of attendance. This means immunization records turned in to the school must be from a healthcare provider, or you must attach paperwork from a healthcare provider to your handwritten form that shows your child's records are accurate. *Your child cannot attend school until you provide these records*.

Here are some examples of medically verified immunization records:

- A completed Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) signed by a healthcare provider. Find the CIS form by visiting https://www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI and clicking on "Certificate of Immunization Status."
- A CIS filled out by you or another parent/guardian with medical records attached.
- A CIS printed by a healthcare provider or school from the Washington State Immunization Information System.
- A CIS printed from MyIR which is a free Department of Health online tool that allows families to view and print their official immunization records themselves. Go to https://wa.myir.net/register to begin the sign-up process.

If you are requesting an exemption from one or more of the immunization requirements, you must provide the school a completed Certificate of Exemption. State law (HB 1638) requires all parent and guardians to provide proof of their child receiving the MMR vaccine, or a medical/religious exemption form.

OUTDOOR PLAY

As a nature preschool, we spend a lot of time outdoors running, climbing, and playing with natural materials such as sticks and rocks. All outdoor play involves some risk of injury. Teachers are mindful

of the surroundings and will create rules based on the environment that day. We have a few universal rules that all classes follow no matter where we play:

- Sticks: Sticks can be no longer than their arm and are used as tools (building, etc.). We do not run with sticks or swing them.
- Climbing: Climbing is allowed. Teachers do not help students climb up, but will always be available to help them down. Students cannot not climb higher than they are tall, and climbing is not allowed if there is no adult to actively watch them.
- Foraging: Sometimes we are able to forage foods in the park (nettle for tea, berries for snack, etc.). Students are not allowed to eat anything (including in the garden) without the express consent of a teacher. We also do not touch mushrooms with our bare hands. We teach students never to forage without an adult that has a full understanding of wild edibles.

GOING TO SCHOOL IN A PUBLIC PARK

Farrel-McWhirter Farm Park is a public park. Public parks are important to our society in many ways, and are open spaces for everyone to enjoy. The park staff and preschool teachers are trained to keep the facility safe. The park staff also relies on the general public to report any suspicious persons or potential safety hazards. Please call 911 immediately if you have any concerns. Vehicle break-ins do happen in the parking lot, so please do not leave your children or any personal belongings in your car.

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY

Preschool programs may be cancelled at any time due to unsafe conditions or inclement weather, including snow, ice, and high winds. Nature Vision Preschool generally follows school closure decisions made by Lake Washington School District, however, the park ultimately follows the City of Redmond's recommendations and may close for any reason. Cancellation information will be sent by email and the Remind App. If you have questions about school cancellation, please contact the Preschool Manager, Kathryn Sooter on Remind or ksooter@naturevision.org. Morning class decisions are made by 7:00am. Afternoon class decisions will be made by 10:30am, often earlier.

REMOTE LEARNING

Should school need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, COVID-19, a public health emergency, or any other reason, we will switch to remote learning with daily virtual circle times and online lesson plans when possible (depending on power outages). All lesson plans will be posted on our Google Classroom and will include more activity options and explanations. Virtual circle time will be sent out as a password-protected video conference link through Zoom. We will continue to use remote learning until we are able to return to in-person classes. Remote learning will take place *in lieu* of refunds, and make up days *will not* be offered should school need to close. Our program is a 9-month experience, and will be continuous regardless of changes that may have to occur due to COVID-19. Nine months of tuition is split into payments for our families, but we do not offer refunds, as families are enrolling their students for a place in our 2023-2024 preschool community. Learning will take place regardless of the location. Remote learning is not applicable during scheduled breaks or holidays.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION PLAN

In the event that an earthquake or another emergency event occurs during school hours, we will follow as closely as possible the recommendations suggested by the Redmond Fire Department for schools and businesses in emergency situations. If we need to evacuate the buildings, we will gather first in the field in front of the school. Please remember that you may not be able to reach your child immediately. Therefore, in the unlikely event that we would need to care for your child for an extended period of time, we will use the Emergency Comfort Kit you provided on the first day of school.

EMERGENCY RELEASE POLICY

In the event of an emergency event, we will need all phone lines open for us to contact emergency personnel. Please do not call the school! We will trust that you are on your way. We will call you as necessary.

- Because communication by phone will likely be difficult or impossible, each child MUST be signed out when she/he/they are picked up. We want no confusion about who picked up each child.
- If possible, teachers will use the usual daily sign-out sheet. If not, we will ask for a written record when we release children.
- Emergency pick-up person should be prepared to show driver's license for identification.
- We will attempt to call the emergency contact person, if the parent/guardian cannot be reached, in the event of an extended stay at Farrel-McWhirter Farm Park.
- Emergency first aid supplies, water, and equipment are stored at the Park.
- First aid kits are located in each building. Staff members are CPR/AED/First Aid certified.
- Staff will hold scheduled emergency drills with children and staff.
- Copies of all student rosters are kept at the school and in the emergency backpack, along with a copy of emergency contact person information.

REGISTRATION AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

HOW TO REGISTER

All preschool class registrations take place online on Nature Vision's website: https://naturevision.org/preschool. Registration questions may be sent to Ginny Sanchez Ballard, Nature Vision Executive Director, at gsanchez@naturevision.org or 206-554-1407. Questions about curriculum or other daily program operations can be directed to Kathryn Sooter, Preschool Manager, at ksooter@naturevision.org.

Registration will begin in January 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year. Online registration will be open first to current preschool families, then alumni families, and then to the public. Registration dates are published on Nature Vision's website https://naturevision.org/preschool.

At the time of registration, you will pay a non-refundable enrollment fee in the amount of one month's tuition. Your enrollment fee will count as your May payment if you remain in the preschool for the full 9-month program. The enrollment fee is charged if there is room in the class, thus securing your child's place. If the class is full, please submit the registration form and we will add you to the waiting list for the desired class.

ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

Children must be the appropriate age for the class in which they enroll. Children must be potty-trained prior to the beginning of school. No pull-ups at preschool. Please coach your child on all steps of toileting, from wiping a bowel movement to changing after an accident. We will encourage and guide children at school, but we expect them to be able to take care of their own needs.

TUITION

A month's tuition payment is not based upon the number of class days per month; rather each month's payment is part of the total tuition for the 9-month school year. Our preschool depends on enrollment revenue to support staffing, facilities, and supplies. Nature Vision is a 501c3 non-profit organization (EIN# 68-0524632).

Preschool tuition is due on the 1st of each month one month in advance (i.e. September payments will be charged August 1, October payments will be charged September 1, etc.). Preschool tuition must be paid with an automatic "payment by credit card" plan via secure PayPal that will be set up by Nature Vision at the time of registration. A \$50 surcharge will be added to payments that decline. Please email Ginny Sanchez Ballard at gsanchez@naturevision.org to update your credit card information as needed. We require receiving this information at least 14 business days in advance of tuition being due.

WITHDRAWAL

If you choose to withdraw your child from the program, a withdrawal notice must be received at least **45 calendar days** prior to the last month your child will attend (Ex. if your last month of school is March, we must receive notice by January 15th.) Please notify the program administrator, Ginny Sanchez Ballard at gsanchez@naturevision.org in writing. Our program is a 9-month program from

September-May and the Enrollment Fee to hold your child's place for the school year is non-refundable. If you stay for the duration of the school year, this enrollment fee will be applied as May tuition.

If the withdrawal notice is given within 45 days of the last month your child will attend, you will be charged for the full month of tuition after your last month. (Ex. if your child's last month is March and we are notified Feb 1, you will be charged for April tuition.) If you withdraw before the start of the school year, the Enrollment Fee is also non-refundable and you will be billed for September tuition if the withdrawal notice is received after July 15th. Families that withdraw mid-year may not be allowed to return the following year. Our program is a 9-month program.

REFUNDS

We do not give refunds for student absences, whether due to family vacation plans or a child's illness. Please see also our illness policy. Additionally, we do not give refunds for school closures due to inclement weather. Nature Vision Preschool will be closed for inclement weather when Lake Washington School District kindergartens are closed. On late start days due to inclement weather there will be no AM preschool classes. Preschool programs may be cancelled at any time due to unsafe conditions or inclement weather, including snow, ice and high winds. Due to our unique location in a city park, there may be times where the City of Redmond requires classes to cancel (e.g. dangerous park conditions, public health emergencies, or other rare events). During these times, we are still unable to offer refunds.

Should school need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, COVID-19, a public health emergency, or any other reason, we will switch to remote learning with virtual circle times and online lesson plans. Remote learning will take place *in lieu* of refunds, and make up days will not be offered should school need to close. Our program is a 9-month experience, and will be continuous regardless of changes that may have to occur due to COVID-19. Nine months of tuition is split into payments for our families, but we do not offer refunds, as families are enrolling their students for a place in our 2023-2024 preschool community. Learning will take place regardless of the location.

Disclaimer: Information contained in this handbook is for information purposes only. Nature Vision and Redmond Parks & Recreation Department reserve the right to make changes at any time to our program policies if determined necessary.

NATURE VISION PRESCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-2024

July 31	PAPERWORK DUE	All paperwork <u>must</u> be turned in before school starts	
August 24	Orientation Night Redmond Community Center at Marymoor Park 6-8 PM		
August 26	Preschool Playdate Preschool Garden 10 AM – 12 PM		
Santambar 5	First Day of School	Creative Play - 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	
September 5	First Day of School	Preschool Explorers - 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM	
September 6	First Day of School	Pre-K Discoveries - 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	
September 22	Harvest Party After	school party Family members welcome 5 PM – 7 PM	
November 10	NO SCHOOL: Veter	ran's Day	
November 20-22	NO SCHOOL: Conf	erences	
November 23-24	NO SCHOOL: Than	ıksgiving Break	
December 8	WinterFest After school party Family members welcome 3 PM – 5 PM		
Dec. 18-Dec. 29	NO SCHOOL: Winter Break		
January 2	School Resumes: Creative Play & Preschool Explorers		
January 3	School Resumes: Pre-K Discoveries		
January 15	NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Jr. Day		
February 19	NO SCHOOL: President's Day		
April 8-12	NO SCHOOL: Spring Break		
May 2/3	Garden Day In class party		
May	Picture Day TBD		
May 30	Last Day of School: Creative Play & Preschool Explorers		
May 31	Last Day of School: Pre-K Discoveries		
Iviay 31	**All-School Moving On Celebration 12 PM - 2 PM Family members welcome		

[•] Our preschool follows the Lake Washington School District for inclement weather closures. Please see the Inclement Weather Policy for more information.

^{• **}All gatherings are currently pending updated WA Public Health Guidelines.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL CHECKLIST

1 box of tissues
½ inch binder (preferably white) with a clear slip cover □ This will be our nature journal for the year and returned on the last day of school
 Lunchbox or small bag with: A water bottle (please make sure this can be opened and closed by your child and will not leak) Snack (2-3 items in reusable containers) 1 pair of socks in a Ziploc bag
Change of Clothes Kit (stays at school) Gallon Ziploc with: Pants, shirt, underwear, socks 1 small hand towel (not a washcloth)
Emergency Comfort Kit (stays at school) Gallon Ziploc with: Family photo and letter of comfort from parents Out-of-state contact number 1 Mylar emergency blanket Travel hand wipes or sanitizer Travel pack of tissues Small comfort toy or possession

ENROLLMENT FORMS

Please print and fill out the following forms in their entirety (especially check for signatures). Original forms should be mailed in by July 31, 2023 to:

Nature Vision Brightwater Center Attn: NV Preschool 22505 State Route 9 Southeast Woodinville, WA 98072

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☐ Parent/Guardian Input Form	
☐ Policy Agreement	
☐ Photo Release	
☐ Developmental Observation Waiver	
☐ Nature Vision Waiver	
☐ City of Redmond Medical Information and Authorization Form ○ Please disregard where the form says to bring on the first day of the program. The require this form to be turned in with the rest of your paperwork.	We
☐ Your child's Immunization Record	
 Medically certified, see above "Immunizations" section 	

NATURE VISION PRESCHOOL PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) INPUT FORM

Paperwork is due by: JULY 31

Class (circle/select one):				
T/Th Creative Play	M/W/F Pre-K Discoveries	T/W/TH Preschool Explorers		
Student name:				
Nickname (?):	Birthdate:	Age:		
Parent/Guardian 1:				
Parent/Guardian 2:				
Sibling/s name/s and age/s:				
Pet/s:				
What other classes/program	s does your child attend, if any	?		
Primary language spoken at	home:			
Any other languages?				
What are your child's likes? Strengths?				
What are your child's dislikes? Challenges?				
How would you describe your	child's learning style?			

NATURE VISION PRESCHOOL PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) INPUT FORM cont'd

Are there any areas in which you anticipate your child needing extra teacher attention and/or support (existing skills, areas needing growth)?
Please tell us one thing that you wish for your child this year at preschool:
Please tell us one thing that you wish from us as your child's teachers this year at preschool:
Please list any special interests/areas of expertise/hobbies/special talents you as a parent/guardian would like to share with our preschool class:
Please list any holidays your family celebrates so that we may incorporate it into our curriculum.
Is there anything else that you would like us to know?

NATURE VISION PRESCHOOL POLICY AGREEMENT

Child's Name:	_
Child's Class:	_
❖ I have read and understand the Parent/Guardian Information with the policies of the preschool program as described. refund policies outlined in the Parent/Guardian Handboo policies throughout the preschool year.	I understand the payment and
Parent/Guardian 1 Name (Print):	
Parent/Guardian 1 Sign:	Date:
Parent/Guardian 2 Name (Print):	
Parent/Guardian 2 Sign:	Date:
I understand my name, phone number, and email will be Preschool class lists and phone trees. I understand that only to other families in my child's preschool class for the between families.	this information will be provided
Parent/Guardian 1 Name (Print):	
Parent/Guardian 1 Sign:	Date:
Parent/Guardian 2 Name (Print):	
Parent/Guardian 2 Sign:	Date:

GRANT TO NATURE VISION, and THE CITY OF REDMOND, THE RIGHT TO USE PHOTOGRAPHIC LIKENESS OF ME AND A MINOR CHILD

I hereby grant permission to Nature Vision, and The City of Redmond, their officers, employees, volunteers, agents, representatives, partners, successors, licensees to photograph my minor child's image, likeness, or depiction.

I also hereby grant permission to Nature Vision, and The City of Redmond to edit, crop, or retouch such photographs, and waive any right to inspect the final photographs. I hereby consent to and permit photographs of my minor children and/or those of myself to be used by Nature Vision and the City of Redmond worldwide for educational and promotional purposes, and in any medium, including print, video, and electronic. I understand that Nature Vision and the City of Redmond may use such photographs *without* associating names thereto. I further waive any claim for compensation of any kind for use or publication of photographs of me or my minor children.

I hereby fully and forever discharge and release Nature Vision and The City of Redmond from any claim for damages of any kind (including, but not limited to, invasion of privacy; defamation; false light or misappropriation of name, likeness or image) arising out of the use or publication of photographs of me or my minor children by Nature Vision and The City of Redmond and covenant and agree not to sue or otherwise initiate legal proceedings against Nature Vision and The City of Redmond for such use or publication on behalf of me or my minor children. All grants of permission and consent, and all covenants, agreements and understandings contained herein are irrevocable.

I acknowledge and represent that I am over the age of 18, have read this entire document, that I understand its terms and provisions, and that I have signed it knowingly and voluntarily on behalf of

me and my minor children. This document shall be binding upon me, my children's heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and all legal guardians of my minor children.

Yes, I wish to grant a photo release.

No, I do not wish to grant a photo release.

Parent/Guardian 1 Name (Print):

Parent/Guardian 1 Sign:

Parent/Guardian 2 Name (Print):

Parent/Guardian 2 Sign:

Date

Child's name for whom you are parent/guardian(s):

Your relationship to child:

Signing Location:

(City, County and State)

NATURE VISION PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENTAL OBSERVATION WAIVER

The 2021 Washington State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, Birth through 3rd Grade notes the following regarding early childhood development:

- ❖ "Each child has a unique set of strengths, talents and interests, along with areas where he or she needs more support. Children grow and learn at their own speed. It is not possible to tell exactly when a child will perfect a given skill. For some children, healthcare needs, disabilities or developmental delays may affect how and when they learn and grow. It is important for adults to support children where they are to extend their learning and development."
- * "As a parent, you know your [child] best.... Every [child] develops at his or her own pace. It is important to talk with your [child's] healthcare provider at every visit about the milestones your [child] has reached and what to expect next. It is also important to tell your child's healthcare provider if you notice any ... signs of possible developmental delay."

As preschool teachers, we offer an extra set of eyes on your child's development and work to support

your child in every way that we can. This may include initiating a conversation in which basic observations about developmental and behavioral differences are discussed. Some parents may welcome such a conversation and others may not. If you wish to grant our teachers permission to initiate conversations with you regarding concerns about your child's development, please check the box below and return this document along with your preschool paperwork:

Yes, I give permission for teachers at Nature Vision Preschool to initiate conversations regarding concerns about my child's learning progress and development.

No, I do not give permission for teachers at Nature Vision Preschool to initiate conversations regarding concerns about my child's learning progress and development.

Child's Name:

Parent/Guardian 1 Name (Print):

Parent/Guardian 1 Sign:

Date:

Parent/Guardian 2 Name (Print):

Parent/Guardian 2 Name (Print):

Your relationship to child: _____

NATURE VISION PRESCHOOL PRESCHOOL WAIVER

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name:					
Birth Date: Age: Gender ID:					
Mailing Address:	Mailing Address:				
City:	State:	Zip:			
❖ PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) INFORMATION					
Parent/Guardian 1:					
Email:					
Phone: Type:	Alternate Phon	e: Type:			
Parent/Guardian 2:					
Email:					
Phone: Type:		e: Type:			
* AUTHORIZED DROD OFF AND DICK HID DEDEONS					
❖ AUTHORIZED DROP-OFF AND PICK-UF	PERSONS				
★ AUTHORIZED DROP-OFF AND PICK-UF Name	P PERSONS	Relationship			
	PERSONS				
	P PERSONS				
*Adding new authorized drop-off and pick-up permission. Please be prepared to show ident	persons during the scho	Relationship			
*Adding new authorized drop-off and pick-up permission. Please be prepared to show ident * EMERGENCY CONTACTS (NON-PAREN	persons during the scho dification.	Relationship Of year will require a signed letter of			
*Adding new authorized drop-off and pick-up permission. Please be prepared to show ident	persons during the scho	Relationship			

NATURE VISION PRESCHOOL PRESCHOOL WAIVER

❖ MEDICAL INFORMATION

Doctor Name:			
Hospital:			
Phone:	_		
Allergies (bee sting, foods	, etc.), medication, limitati	ons, surgeries, heart problem	ns, etc.:
If your child has an allergy	/, please fill out the boxes	below:	
Allergy	Reaction	Action Steps	Medication?
Allergy	Reaction	Action Steps	(Epi-Pen, etc.)
If medication is required, a separate medical authorization form must be filled out.			
ii iiicaicatioii is	Please contact the		o mod odt.
		teachers to get it.	

Please tell us any evaluative services (Kindering, occupational therapy, speech therapy, etc.) your child is currently attending or has attended in the past (dates and results if possible):

Any other information we should know about your child or your family?

NATURE VISION PRESCHOOL PRESCHOOL WAIVER

To be fully completed, this application must include the initial(s) and the signature(s) of the parent/guardian(s) at the bottom of this page.

I am aware that in signing and initialing this application for my child's participation in Nature Vision's Nature Vision Preschool at Farrel-McWhirter Farm Park, Redmond ("Preschool"), I know that my student will be participating in outdoor activities and there is inherent risk, including but not limited to risk of injury, death, and the effects of exposure to viruses, pathogens, bacteria, germs, and diseases, or other harmful direct or indirect consequence associated with my and/or my student's use of City-sponsored facilities and equipment and participation in said Preschool activities. Nature Vision staff will use reasonable efforts to minimize my child's exposure to known risks, but I recognize that not all dangers and hazards can be foreseen.

I acknowledge the absolute responsibility of my child to follow safety rules, standards, guidelines and procedures established for the Preschool. Failure to follow such rules, standards, guidelines and procedures may result in my child's dismissal from Preschool. I will encourage my child to ask for clarification or assistance of he/she doesn't understand any safety instructions.

Should an emergency occur, for which I cannot be contacted, I will allow my child to be treated by a hospital, physician, or other medical professional in the event of an injury, accident or illness.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY. IN CONSIDERATION OF ALLOWING MY CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN PRESCHOOL, I KNOWINGLY RELEASE AND HOLD NATURE VISION, ITS OWNERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS AND DIRECTORS HARMLESS TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, FROM AND AGAINST ALL LIABILITY FOR LOSS OR INJURY TO MY CHILD RESULTING FROM HIS/HER PARTICIPATION IN PRESCHOOL. I AGREE TO INDEMNIFY NATURE VISION, ITS OWNERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS AND DIRECTORS FROM ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES WHICH IT OR THEY MAY INCUR DUE TO CLAIMS OR DEMANDS ALLEGING SUCH A LOSS OR INJURY, INCLUDING SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS, COURT JUDGMENTS AND REASONABLE LEGAL DEFENSE FEES. I AGREE THAT NATURE VISION SHALL HAVE FINAL AUTHORITY REGARDING THE DEFENSE AND SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OR SUITS BROUGHT AGAINST IT OR ANY OF ITS OWNERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS OR DIRECTORS, CLAIMING ANY SUCH LOSS OR INJURY.

(Parent/Guardian 1 Initials)	
(Parent/Guardian 2 Initials)	
Your initials and signature signifies that you are agree to the above on behalf of yourself and you	<u> </u>
Parent/Guardian 1 Name (Print):	
Parent/Guardian 1 Sign:	
Parent/Guardian 2 Name (Print):	
Parent/Guardian 2 Sign:	

Redmond Parks and Recreation

Activity Participant Medical Authorization & Waivers



Please fill out and bring to the first meeting of the activity.

Please Print:				
Activity Nan	ne:	Activity Date(s):	Activity Date(s):	
_	Information: Name:	Age: _		
Address:		City/Zip:		
	Contact Information: dian Contact Name:	Parent/Guardian Phon	ne:	
Secondary Co	ontact Name:	Secondary Contact Phone	:	
	that would affect their ability	ne participant have any medications or all to participate in this activity? If so, please mergency occur, for which I cannot be contacted,	e describe.	
	minor to be treated by a hospital illness. I/we further agree to assist transportation to and from the acharmless the City of Redmond, its or my/our minor(s) for any claim by or resulting from the sole negligible.	mergency occur, for which I cannot be contacted, a physical, or other certified medical personnel in tame all risks and hazards incidental to such particular civities and do hereby waiver, release, absolve, in a semployees, agents, volunteers, and authorized per arising out of any injury to myself or my/our minigence or concurrent negligence of the City or its above or videos of my/our minor to be taken for inter-	the event of injury or cipation, including demnify, and agree to hold ersons transporting myself nor(s), except injury caused agents.	
		rint marketing or social media posts.	nai oi externai purposes.	
	full responsibility for any injury (from my minor(s) or I being exponent from my minor(s) or I being exponent from my minor(s) or I being exponent from my minor from the program damage, loss, claim, liability, or expension or incur in connection with our program I hereby release, covenant not to agents, volunteers, and authorized actions, damages, costs or expension from the program of Redmond and its representative.	the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily fincluding, but not limited to, illness, disability, and seed to or infected with COVID-19 by attending Cits. I voluntarily assume the risk and accept full respace, of any kind and to any degree, that I or my articipation in City of Redmond Parks and Recrea sue, discharge, and hold harmless the City of Redmond Persons and representatives, of and from all lial ses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I was from any liability or claim based on the actions ether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, the creation Department program.	d/or death) that my result ty of Redmond Parks and ponsibility for any illness, y minor(s) may experience tion Department programs. mond, its employees, bilities including claims, do hereby release the City s, omissions, or negligence	
Parent/Guar	dian Signature:	Date:		
Print Name o	of Parent/Guardian:			