

## Arcadia Nature Nursery School

The Arcadia Nature Nursery school was founded in 1976 on the premise that happy and rewarding early childhood experiences with nature form the foundation for the development of caring and aware adults.

Our goal at the Nursery School is to help children act in a caring and responsible way towards their environment, themselves and others. The curriculum is unique in that it is entirely nature-based and we are outside every day. We immerse ourselves in nature, exploring our local plants and animals through hands-on studies.

We believe that children learn to get along with others through play and provide many opportunities to hone social skills. The different areas of the classroom are designed to facilitate cooperative play. The teachers act as mediators, teaching children the skills they need to solve their problems independently. We have a balance of structured and unstructured time, both in the classroom and outside.

Class size is limited to eighteen children in each session. The academic year runs for thirty-six weeks from mid-September to mid-June. Vacations coincide with the Easthampton School calendar.

There are three teachers in the classroom, making a ratio of one teacher to six children. Each teacher has many years of experience teaching young children and is certified by the DEEC. They are also certified in First Aid and CPR.

## Information

**Ages:** 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 years old  
Children must be at least 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  in September to be enrolled in the program.

**Sessions:**  
2-mornings: Thurs. & Fri.  
3-mornings: Mon., Tues. & Wed.  
5-mornings: Mon. - Fri.

**Hours:** 9 am. -12:00 noon

**Tuition:**  
For the 08/09 school year, the tuition per year is \$2,250 for the 2-morning session, \$3,250 for the 3-morning session and \$5,350 for the 5-morning session. Tuition is payable in ten equal monthly installments. Also, family membership to Mass Audubon is required (\$50 per year).

**Financial assistance:** Limited financial assistance may be available .

**Admissions Policy:** Families will be put on a waiting list upon receipt of a completed registration form and a \$15 nonrefundable fee. If you wish to apply, please call and leave a message for the nursery school with your name and address, (413)584-3009 ex. 818) or go to [massaudubon.org](http://massaudubon.org) and download an application.

## Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 33,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 200,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Mass Audubon's mission and actions have expanded since our beginning in 1896 when our founders set out to stop the slaughter of birds for use on women's fashions. Today we are the largest conservation organization in New England. Our statewide network of 45 wildlife sanctuaries welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our conservation, education, and advocacy work. To support these important efforts, visit [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org).

## Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary protects approximately 700 acres, including the largest river marsh in the Connecticut River Valley. The sanctuary stretches along the last mile of the Mill River and borders the 1840 Oxbow of the Connecticut River. It includes grasslands, wetlands and floodplain forests.

The Nature Center, which opened in 1972, houses a reception area with program and trail information, offices, the Nature Nursery School, rest rooms and a large meeting space used for programs and special events. Natural history programs are offered year-round. Nature vacation camps are also offered for children entering grades K-6.