Class Size

Endicott Wildlife Sanctuary's 40-acre landscape offers a variety of opportunities for exciting daily investigation, observation, and discovery.

We spend a substantial amount of time outdoors where hands-on science activities, nature walks, and gardening foster curiosity and creativity.

Inside our two spacious classrooms, nature themes continue with children’s literature, music and movement, dramatic play, cooking, blocks, building, and art activities.

Additional experiences include field trips to Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield for seasonal activities such as maple sugaring, vernal pool observations, and ponding.

Mission

Provide a nurturing learning environment that fosters development of the whole child and a lifelong relationship with nature.

Philosophy

At Ipswich River Nature Preschool, we believe that children learn best when they are exposed to nature on a consistent basis. Through multi-sensory explorations and cooperative play, our nature-based program nurtures each child’s inborn curiosity. We provide a safe, supportive learning environment that encourages inquiry, exploration, and discovery.

Curriculum

Ipswich River Nature Preschool is grounded in developmentally appropriate state and national early childhood education guidelines. Our emergent curriculum approach emphasizes purposeful and productive play as a way to enable children to grow physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually.

While interacting with nature, children have the opportunity to integrate math, science, and literacy in a way that is fun and engaging. They learn from one another, from their own discoveries, and from the guidance of teachers who encourage them to try new activities.

Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule incorporates a balance of structured and unstructured time. A typical day might include:

- Outdoor play and group exploration
- Snack time
- Group meeting
- Small group
- Choice time
- Closing circle

We value spontaneity and take advantage of “teachable moments.” Teachers guide students through the day while taking time to watch a cardinal at the feeder, listen for the drumming of a woodpecker, follow an ant trail, or observe a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis.

Our Classroom

Ipswich River Nature Preschool is grounded in developmentally appropriate state and national early childhood education guidelines. Our emergent curriculum approach emphasizes purposeful and productive play as a way to enable children to grow physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually.

While interacting with nature, children have the opportunity to integrate math, science, and literacy in a way that is fun and engaging. They learn from one another, from their own discoveries, and from the guidance of teachers who encourage them to try new activities.

Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule incorporates a balance of structured and unstructured time. A typical day might include:

- Outdoor play and group exploration
- Snack time
- Group meeting
- Small group
- Choice time
- Closing circle

We value spontaneity and take advantage of “teachable moments.” Teachers guide students through the day while taking time to watch a cardinal at the feeder, listen for the drumming of a woodpecker, follow an ant trail, or observe a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis.

Curriculum

Ipswich River Nature Preschool is grounded in developmentally appropriate state and national early childhood education guidelines. Our emergent curriculum approach emphasizes purposeful and productive play as a way to enable children to grow physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually.

While interacting with nature, children have the opportunity to integrate math, science, and literacy in a way that is fun and engaging. They learn from one another, from their own discoveries, and from the guidance of teachers who encourage them to try new activities.

Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule incorporates a balance of structured and unstructured time. A typical day might include:

- Outdoor play and group exploration
- Snack time
- Group meeting
- Small group
- Choice time
- Closing circle

We value spontaneity and take advantage of “teachable moments.” Teachers guide students through the day while taking time to watch a cardinal at the feeder, listen for the drumming of a woodpecker, follow an ant trail, or observe a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis.
**Schedule**

School begins in early September and runs through early June. With a few exceptions, we follow the vacation schedule of the Wenham/Hamilton public schools. Our class sizes are small—between 12 and 16 children age 3 to 5 with a team of highly qualified teachers who are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Children must be three years of age prior to September 1 to be considered for admission. Special programming is available during school vacations and for three weeks in summer for an extra fee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
<th>Option 3</th>
<th>Option 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday, &amp; Friday</td>
<td>Monday–Friday</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 am–noon*</td>
<td>9 am–noon</td>
<td>9 am–noon</td>
<td>full day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 am–3:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For an additional $12 daily fee, children may participate in lunch bunch until 1:00 pm. Early morning care is also available at 8:00 am.

An application and further information are available on our website: [massaudubon.org/ipswichriver](http://massaudubon.org/ipswichriver) (click on “Nature Preschool”).