Enrollment Information

Application
Application forms are accepted by mail or in person at the Arcadia front desk. We strive to balance classes based on both age and gender. Within this framework, admission is by chronological order as applications are received. Teachers will notify parents of acceptance. Applications will be accepted from all families, without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, cultural history, political beliefs, marital status, or disability.

Membership
Mass Audubon membership at the Family level ($65) or above is required for preschool enrollment. As a member, you help us to protect the nature of Massachusetts and connect children to nature!

Application Fee
A nonrefundable, nontransferable $50 application fee per student is due at the time of application.

Financial Aid
Limited financial aid may be available and is based on demonstrated economic need and available funds. Please contact us to request a Financial Aid Application.

Payment
A 20% deposit (with a signed Payment Plan Agreement) is due within one week of acceptance. Tuition can be paid in full or in monthly payments due by the fifth day of every month. There is a $15 late fee for tuition payments received after this date, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Discounts
Save money by paying in full: we offer a 3% discount when you pay in full by September 1.

Refund Policy
All cancellations must be made in writing. If you need to cancel your enrollment or withdraw your child:

- Prior to June 1: A full refund (not including the application fee) will be provided, if we are able to fill your spot by the start of the program. If we are not able to fill your spot, a partial refund may be offered at the discretion of the Arcadia staff.
- After June 1: A 50% refund will be provided, if the program is full.
- After September 1: You are responsible for two months of tuition after withdrawal, unless we are able to fill the position sooner.

Refunds are not given for participant dismissal, failure to attend, absence, or sick days, and lost deposits are not transferable to other families.
Our Classroom
Set on 723-acre Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, our magnificent outdoor classroom offers limitless opportunities for investigation, observation, and discovery throughout the changing seasons.

Our Curriculum
Outdoor exploration is an important part of our curriculum: We immerse ourselves in nature, exploring plants and animals through hands-on studies. A balance of structured and unstructured time, including playtime, gives children many opportunities to develop social skills.

Our Approach
Teachers guide children using a variety of methods that encourage independence, self control, and problem solving. By recognizing and reinforcing positive behaviors, we nourish each child’s self-confidence.

Our History
Arcadia Nature Preschool, founded in 1976, was the first nature preschool in Massachusetts and one of the first in the country. This groundbreaking program has inspired numerous other preschools around the state and beyond and continues to innovate.

Our Staff
All preschool staff members are certified by the Department of Early Education and Care and have many years of experience teaching young children. They are certified in first aid and CPR, and attend professional development classes as members of Mass Audubon’s Education Team.

Age Requirements
Children must be ages 3 to 5 and at least 3 years old by September to enroll.

Class Size
Class size is limited to 18 children per session.

Academic Year
The academic year runs from mid-September to early June; vacations and holidays coincide with the Easthampton Public Schools’ calendar.