

# 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 (\$70) or above is required for preschool enrollment. As a member, you help us to protect the nature of Massachusetts and connect children to nature!

## Financial Aid

Financial aid is not available for the 2024-2025 academic year.



## 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 \$25 late fee for tuition payments received after this date, unless prior arrangements have been made.

## 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 of the deposit and any additional payments will be provided, minus a \$50 processing fee, 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.*

# Arcadia Nature Preschool



For Children Ages 3 to 5

Connecting children to nature  
since 1976!







### Our Classroom

Set on 750-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 1st to enroll.

### Class Size and Time

Class size is limited to 12 children with two teachers. Sessions are:

- Mon-Wed 9am to 1pm
- Th-Fri 9am to noon
- All morning sessions Mon-Fri

### Academic Year

The academic year begins the second week of September and runs through the second week of June; vacations and holidays coincide with the Easthampton Public Schools' calendar.

