Class Size

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

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 a child learns best when 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

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 and 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, ponding.
Class Size

Our class sizes are small—no more than 16 children with three highly qualified educators who are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Application and further information is available on our website: massaudubon.org/ipswichriver (click on “Nature Preschool”).

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—no more than 16 children age 3-5 with three highly qualified educators 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.

Option 1
Tuesday and Thursday
9 am–noon*
$3,500 per year

Option 2
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
9 am–noon*
$4,500 per year

Option 3
Monday–Friday
9am–noon
$7,500 per year

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

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 35,000 acres of conservation land, provide school, camp, and other educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1896 by two inspirational women who were committed to the protection of birds, Mass Audubon is now one of the largest and most prominent conservation organizations in New England. Today we are respected for our sound science, successful advocacy, and innovative approaches to connecting people and nature. Each year, our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries welcomes nearly half a million visitors of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds and serves as the base for our work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (800-283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.