



Philosophy

Spending significant amounts of time outside, we recognize that we are connected to nature. Our environment embraces the outdoors; Building a relationship with the land; as well as, with each other as a part of a community. We know that nature is not just a subject that is meant to be taught, but rather a space to celebrate, explore, and play. A large portion of the day is spent outside, learning through play. Rote memorization is replaced with observation, exploration, and discoveries. Learning begins the moment they step outside. We believe that nature plays a crucial role in developing the whole child. As adults it is our mission to open doors through language and experiences to support our connection with nature and to our community.

Nature Based Learning

Our philosophy accentuates our commitment to nature based learning. This is where learning occurs in the context of nature. Outdoor time is extensive. Our pedagogy emphasizes child-centered learning through play. Mentors guide students as children ask questions, express curiosity and concern, and show joy and enthusiasm. Children are talking and listening to each other as they play, explore, and make hands-on discoveries. Through play experiences children are able to see how relationships work. Children are an active participant in all aspects of learning.

With WildLife Nature Experience

- Children learn directly from bio facts and artifacts.
- Children have daily nature walks and experiences.
- Children develop nature-friendly habits such as recycling and conservation.
- Children eat, grow, and prepare healthy foods to eat.

- Children create and reflect on learning through a variety of expressive art forms using natural and recycled materials.

WildLife Nature Experience

Also offers tutoring services in all subject areas for children. Our mentors consist of a Maryland Certified Teacher with a Master's in Secondary Education, as well as, an Orton-Gillingham trained, Master Naturalist. Combining tutoring with nature experiences provides environments and activities to help promote social, physical, and mental growth.

Benefits of Learning with Nature:

- Reduces anxious energy, increases engagement and focus
- Relieves stress, crucial in today's world
- Increased social interaction since children are away from screens
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Provides real-life opportunities
- Diverse environments
- Physical health
- Learning about freedoms within boundaries- physical, social, and emotional
- Development in independence, confidence, resilience, understanding, empathy, and cooperation
- Learning in a informal way; hands-on and child centric