



Summer 2012

June 25 – August 8

Discover the wonders of nature



DODGE
NATURE CENTER

*D*ear Families,

Thank you for your interest in Dodge Nature Preschool. In this application packet you will find the basic information about our school: the philosophy, facilities, schedule, tuition and scholarship opportunities to help you decide if our school is the right choice for your family. While we offer the experiences typically found in child-centered programs, at Dodge Nature Preschool, we use the inherent wonder, complexity, and beauty of the natural world as a catalyst for children's growth and development. Children have daily interaction with animals in the classroom, playground, and on the Nature Center grounds. The children regularly hike to wooded areas, ponds, prairies, the farm, and are involved in gardening and restoration projects. Children also benefit from the teaching of trained naturalists.

As you might imagine from this description, students need to be appropriately dressed for outdoor play in all kinds of weather, as well as for the messy business of creative, discovery-based learning. Our approach to early childhood education also includes a curriculum driven by the interests of the children and framed by the natural cycle of the seasons. Literacy and math concepts are intrinsic in the equipment, play, and encounters between children and adults. Children are building knowledge from their first-hand experiences with nature, classroom materials, and their relationships with peers and adults.

You are encouraged to come in for an information session, visit our website, or call for more information. We look forward to welcoming your family to our school community!

Sincerely,

Marty Watson
Preschool Director
and the Dodge Nature Preschool Staff



MISSION

The mission of Dodge Nature Preschool is to provide a premier quality early childhood environment which meets children's developmental needs, while initiating them into a lifelong, meaningful relationship with the natural world.

PHILOSOPHY

At Dodge Nature Preschool, we believe that children are intrinsically motivated to learn.

The teaching staff promotes learning by:

- Providing an environment which encourages discovery, experimentation, and the opportunity to see the results of one's actions.
- Developing activities to encourage growth based on children's abilities and interests.
- Encouraging problem-solving and reflection by asking open-ended questions and providing information in response to children's ideas, insights, and concerns.
- Assisting children in their interactions with each other and offering opportunities for cooperative learning.
- Providing mixed-age classes to give children the opportunity to learn from and teach each other, much as it would occur naturally in multiple child families.
- Appreciating the individuality of children and families and celebrating diversity.

CURRICULUM

Dodge Nature Preschool curriculum will encourage cognitive, social, emotional, creative, physical, and linguistic growth. Daily activities include:

- Natural science experiments
- Art activities
- Music and movement
- Language activities
- Block-building and carpentry
- Math and manipulative activities
- Sensory activities
- Dramatic play activities
- Large and small motor activities
- Cooking and food experiences

FACILITY

The Dodge Nature Preschool building is designed to provide the best possible preschool environment for young children. The welcoming entrance encourages family involvement and smooth transitions from home to school. Spacious classrooms allow for the busy, active play of preschool children, with special attention to acoustics and temperature. Open-ended equipment and supplies encourage creative and cooperative learning. The large multipurpose room provides spaces for very active play. An outdoor play area features wooden climbing structures, a log cabin, and vegetable and flower gardens.

LICENSING & ACCREDITATION

We are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

At Dodge Nature Preschool, early childhood development is at the core of our programs. Our staff has a strong background in education. They hold advanced degrees in various fields including early childhood education, psychology, environmental science and art. They are certified in CPR and First Aid and have also completed numerous hours of in-service training to meet the requirements of NAEYC and state licensing.

We frequently partner with local colleges and universities to place student interns and teachers in our classrooms. There are two teachers and one assistant teacher in each classroom. Our high teacher-to-student ratio of 3:18 allows for children's learning to take place in small, intimate groups both indoors and outdoors.

TUITION POLICY

Payment for the summer program is due with the application. There will be no reduction in tuition for days missed or days that school is closed. Requests for cancellation must be made by May 1, 2012 to qualify for a refund. All requests for cancellations will be assessed a \$75 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued for cancellation requests made after May 1, 2012.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

A scholarship fund is available to families who may need assistance with tuition. This may be ongoing support or temporary help due to a change in circumstances for a family. If you would like to apply for a scholarship, please complete the scholarship application form and return it with your DNP application for the summer program. Separate scholarship requests need to be made for summer 2012 and the 2012/13 school year.

Dodge Nature Preschool

Summer Camp 2012

June 25 – August 8

CLASS SCHEDULE

June 25 – August 8 (7 weeks)

We offer a choice of morning or afternoon classes for preschool children three years of age by June 15, 2012.

MORNING CLASSES: 8:45a to 11:30a

Tuesday and Thursday - \$525

Monday, Wednesday and Friday - \$700

Five Morning or Four Afternoon classes may be available upon request.

AFTERNOON CLASSES: 12:45p to 3:30p

Tuesday and Thursday - \$525

Monday and Wednesday - \$525

New Program Options

Going Deeper with 5 and 6 year olds...

Back by popular demand, this is a class designed for children entering kindergarten, those who may have previously attended DNP or those ready for a more physical and challenging camp experience. Come with us and explore the far reaching corners of Dodge Nature Center. An afternoon may include: exploring the natural science collections, learning what farmer Don and farmer Abby do every day to keep our farm animals happy and healthy, helping to prepare garden produce for sale at the farm stand, and more! There will be opportunities for special projects involving carpentry, sculpture, nature journaling and photography.

Class meets Monday – Thursday: 12:45 to 3:30 pm in three week sessions

Session 1: June 25 – July 12 Session 2: July 16 – August 2

Cost is \$450 per session. You may register for both sessions.

Fun Fridays

This is an extended day option available to children already enrolled in another Dodge Nature Preschool Summer Camp class. Add Fridays if you are registered for a two day class or add on to your Friday morning if you are registered for the three day class.

All children will have regular morning activities. Lunch will be cooked over the camp fire then rest/nap in tents. Our day will continue with special animal encounters at various locations on Dodge Nature Center grounds.

Class meets 8:45 am to 3:30 pm June 29, July 13, and July 27.

Cost is \$230 for full day or \$125 for those already registered in three morning classes.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

As part of your Summer Camp Experience, there are several opportunities for families to learn and play together at Dodge Nature Center:

- Lunch and Learn: Parents and children share lunch and adventure with a Nature Center Naturalist
- Summer Nights: Bring the family for singing, storytelling and stargazing around the campfire on a summer camp week night
- Family Potluck: Join other families in a summer family potluck on Nature Center grounds
- Watermelon Days: At the end of camp, families share watermelons and good-byes with new found friends.

SUMMER CALENDAR

- **Feb 1, 2012** – Summer Applications accepted. Placements made on an ongoing basis.
- **June 21, 2012** – Summer Student Open House. Morning Families 4 to 5 pm, Afternoon Families 5 to 6 pm.
- **June 25, 2012** – Summer Program Begins
- **July 4 – 6, 2011** – No Summer Program, Fourth of July Holiday.
- **August 8, 2012** – Last day of Summer Program.

Dodge Nature Preschool Application Form

Summer Camp 2012

Child Information

Child's Name _____

Child's Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Currently Enrolled Student Sibling of Current/Alumni Student

New Applicant

Class Preference

Summer 2012 Tuition (Due with Application)

2 days per week - \$525

5s & 6s Camp - \$450

3 days per week - \$700

Fun Fridays Full Day - \$230

Fun Fridays Half Day - \$125

Please rank your order of preference Children must be age 3 by June 15, 2012

MORNING CLASSES: 8:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

AFTERNOON CLASSES: 12:45 p.m. -3:30 p.m.

_____ Tuesday and Thursday

_____ Tuesday and Thursday

_____ Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

_____ Monday and Wednesday

Five Morning or Four Afternoon Classes available upon request

_____ Fun Fridays: 8:45a – 3:30p

_____ 5s & 6s Camp Session 1

_____ Fun Fridays: 11:30a – 3:30p

_____ 5s & 6s Camp Session 2

3T 4T S M L DNP T-shirt - \$12 (circle size and add to tuition payment)

_____ 1/2 Price Dodge Nature Center Membership for you or a gift for your friend (available only with Summer Camp application). Family Membership – Regularly \$60, only \$30 with application. Families enrolled during the school year receive a complimentary membership.

Please tell us about your family

(Please print clearly)

Parents/Guardians _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home phone _____

Other phone(s)-please specify _____

Email address(es) _____

Employer(s)/Occupation(s) _____

Dodge Nature Preschool • www.dodgenaturecenter.org
1715 Charlton St. • West St. Paul, MN • 55118
P: 651-455-4555 • F: 651-554-8444



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Additional Information

We will take into consideration parental preference in class placement, as well as balancing classes for age, gender, and temperament. If you have a preference for a teacher, classroom, or specific classmate for your child, please indicate that in the space below, and we will do our best to accommodate your request. _____

Because our school values diversity in the broadest sense, taking into account the differences in gender, culture, religion and heritage, how would your family enhance and/or support the school's commitment to diversity?

How did you hear about our program? _____

Do you or your family have skills or areas of expertise you would like to share with Dodge Nature Preschool? _____

Dodge Nature Preschool will make every effort to meet the needs of all children enrolled in our programs. Information regarding your child's needs, interests, and abilities will be gathered at the initial conference before your child begins school. If you believe your child may have needs which will require additional planning or preparation on the part of the school, please indicate below. If available, please provide a copy of your child's IEP/ICCP.

Optional: In order to help us track our demographic information, please provide the following information:

Student's racial/ethnic background:

African American Latino/Hispanic American Indian Pacific Islander

Asian Middle Eastern Caucasian

Other (specify) _____ Multiracial (specify) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Rec'd: _____ Initials: _____

Summer Deposit

Placement: _____

Scholarship



Dodge Nature Preschool Scholarship Application

Summer 2012

Child's Name _____ Class Preference _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Dodge Nature Preschool returning family: Yes _____ No: _____

Household size (including parents/guardians and all dependent children) _____

2011 Household Income (adjusted gross income) _____

2012 Estimated Household Income (adjusted gross income) _____

Documentation Enclosed

A copy of your 2011 1040 Tax Form (indicating adjusted gross income) is required. Scholarships cannot be awarded without completed paperwork and supporting documents.

How much scholarship would make it possible for your family to attend Dodge Nature Preschool?

Please comment on any special circumstances that affect your need for tuition assistance. _____

Is there any other information you would like us to know? _____

I hereby certify that all of the above information is true and correct. In addition, I understand that Dodge Nature Center may verify the information on this application.

Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

The information on this application will be kept confidential.

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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE RECEIVED _____ INITIALS _____
SCHOL GRANTED: Y N AMOUNT _____



Situated on a 110 acre area of the 320 acre Dodge Nature Environmental Educational Preserve, Dodge Nature Preschool brings the natural world into the lives of young children. With their teachers and classmates, children discover the wonder and beauty of prairies, ponds, and woodland trails. They regularly visit the Nature Center's 40 acre Model Farm where barnyard animals provide stimulating opportunities for learning and growth.

Programs on beekeeping, honey making, maple sugaring, as well as tasting apples picked right off the tree, encourage children to explore the connections between their lives and the world of nature. Dodge Nature Preschool uses the inherent wonder, complexity, and beauty of the natural world as a catalyst for children's growth and development.

