

Philosophy

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

Our teaching staff promotes learning by:

- ❖ Providing an environment that 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.
- ❖ Teaming with families to understand children through the wisdom of their first teachers, their parents.
- ❖ Providing mixed-age, inclusive classes to give children the opportunity to learn from and teach each other.
- ❖ Appreciating the individuality of children and celebrating their uniqueness.



Staff

We offer a degreed staff, experienced in early childhood and environmental education. Our high teacher to student ratio of three to 18 allows for children's learning to take place in small, intimate groups both indoors and out.

We frequently partner with local colleges and universities to place student-interns in the classroom. In addition, our staff enjoys sharing their experiences with early childhood environmental education professionals at regional and national conferences.



Dodge Nature Preschool is accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The accreditation process evaluates the quality of interactions among staff and children, as well as the curriculum's appropriateness for children's development.



Curriculum

Dodge Nature Preschool's curriculum will encourage cognitive, social, emotional, creative, physical, and linguistic growth.

Daily activities include:

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



Schedule

We offer a choice of morning or afternoon classes for preschool children who are three years old by September first in the year of enrollment.

Two-day program: Tuesday and Thursday

Three-day program: Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Five-morning program: Monday through Friday

Morning classes: 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Afternoon classes: 12:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Facility

Dodge Nature Preschool's building is designed for young children. The entrance invites family involvement and smooth transitions from home to school. A central, multi purpose room provides space for large motor play and community gatherings. Spacious classrooms allow for busy, active play. Each classroom has a door connecting it to the outdoors, which features climbing structures, swings, a sledding hill, a log cabin, and vegetable and flower gardens. Playground gates lead to Dodge Nature Center grounds.



Mission

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

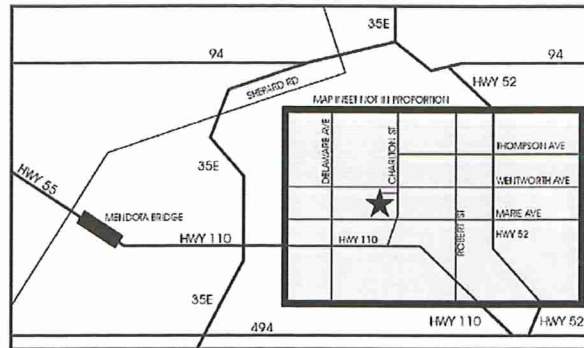


Unique Resources

Situated on a 110 acre area of Dodge Nature Center, Dodge Nature Preschool brings the natural world into the lives of young children. With their teachers and classmates, children discover the wonder in prairies, ponds, and along woodland trails. They regularly visit Dodge Nature Center's 40-acre model farm and its resident cows, chickens, goats, pigs and sheep. Children are encouraged to explore how their lives are part of the world of nature through tending and tasting produce planted on their own playground, maple sugaring, and tasting apples picked right off the tree. Dodge Nature Preschool uses the inherent wonder, complexity and beauty of the natural world as a catalyst for children's growth and development.

Dodge Nature Preschool
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West Saint Paul, MN 55118
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Dodge Nature Center
365 West Marie Avenue
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phone: 651.455.4531
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Established in 1967, Dodge Nature Center is a nonprofit organization operating a nature preserve and preschool in West Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Our Mission

Dedicated to environmental education and outdoor experiences, Dodge Nature Center's mission is to inspire commitment to the thoughtful care of the environment.

The Nature Preserve

The 320 acre nature preserve is characterized by diverse plant and animal life. Six miles of trails wind through woodland areas spotted with lakes and streams, restored prairies and an ADA approved floating boardwalk that provides universal access to marshland.

Facilities

In keeping with its mission to provide outdoor educational experiences, Dodge Nature Center operates a model farm, apiary, reptile and amphibian classroom, maple sugar house, apple orchard, and various classrooms and meeting spaces available for rent.

Membership

Support from members helps Dodge Nature Center operate facilities, care for the land, and teach the community how to be environmental stewards.

Dodge Nature Preschool

a place for early childhood environmental education



1715 Charlton Street

West Saint Paul, MN 55118



DODGE
NATURE CENTER

www.dodgenaturecenter.org/preschool