

Dear Families,

The outdoor learning environment plays an important role in the Full Day Kindergarten program, providing students with opportunities to experiment and explore; ask questions and make observations; solve problems and build theories.

To enrich his or her learning experiences, your child will be involved in learning activities on the school grounds and walking field trips within the community throughout the year.

You can help by:

- Dressing your children for outdoor learning every day.

In fall, winter, spring and summer:

- Providing a change of clothing and shoes in case they are needed. If your child gets dirty, they have been active and engaged in their learning.
- Providing rubber boots for outdoor explorations when the ground and grass is wet.
- Providing a reusable water bottle and a high energy snack.

Recommended Clothing:

- Extra socks
- Running or hiking shoes and a pair of rubber boots.
- Layers that are breathable and keep moisture away from the skin.
- Outer shell of waterproof, windproof clothing, including a rain jacket and rain pants

When it is cold: please add:

- Warm and waterproof hat and gloves/mittens that slip on and off easily.
- Extra layers, including a warm and waterproof winter jacket and snow pants.
- An extra pair of warm gloves and socks (students will keep these in their bag).
- Winter boots

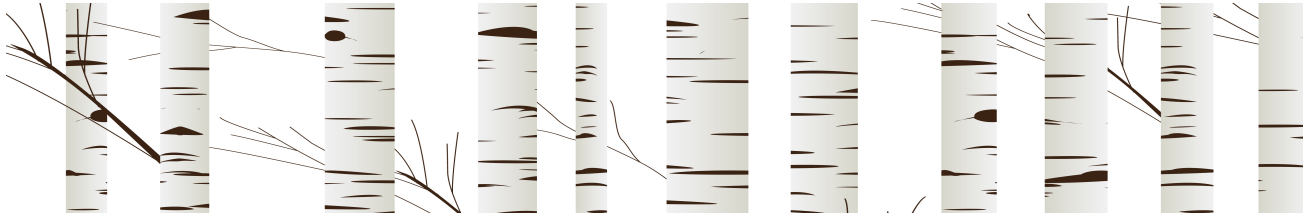
When it is warm, please provide:

- A sun hat
- Sunscreen

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Happy Learning together,

Mrs. Fowler



A Letter to Parents about Outdoor Play,

When we take the children outdoors at school, we talk about the things we can see, hear, touch, and feel so that the children become aware of changes in the weather and the seasons, the growth of plants, and animals. We help the children notice changes by asking them what is different about the trees, the caterpillars, or the sky. They lie on the ground and look up, or they climb on the creative and look down. We point out the many kinds of birds that fly overhead, butterflies, different types of insects, falling leaves, and rain as it begins. We wonder aloud where all these things come from.

By playing outdoors, your child can learn the following:

- to notice changes in nature;
- to discover what happens to people, animals, and plants when it is cold/hot, dark/light
- to use his or her body in increasingly skillful ways; and
- to be a good observer.

When the children play outdoors, we encourage them to talk about what they are doing. For example, we might say:

- "What happened to the sun just now? I don't see it anymore."
- "What is making the trees bend the way they are today?"

We also ask questions that help children extend their thinking as they play outdoors. For examples, we might say:

- "What happens to the water in the pan? It's hard now. What do we need to do to make it pour?"
- "If you keep digging your hole, how far down can you go?"

What You Can Do at Home

You can provide wooden boxes for playhouses or an obstacle course; gardening tools to dig, plant, and cultivate a little garden; a big paintbrush and a pail of water to "paint" walls or fences; large balls to kick or throw; or old blankets or sheets to make a tent. You can take a walk around the block with your child and talk about all the different colors of cars that pass by. Your child will take great pleasure in collecting rocks, finding bugs, watching birds and airplanes in the sky, or pretending to go camping.

You can try some of these ideas with your children outdoors at home or on a trip to the park, the beach, the woods, or wherever you can find a place to run. Playing outdoors is fun for parents and children and enhances children's learning in many important ways.