

Wild Earth Preschool FAQs



What is Wild Earth Preschool?

Wild Earth Preschool plans to open in August 2018 as a nature preschool and licensed child care center for children ages 3-5 years. It will operate as an on-site education program of the Dallas Zoo. Children will engage daily in nature play, visits to the zoo, mindfulness exercises, and an emergent curriculum that supports whole-child development and school readiness.

What is your program philosophy?

Wild Earth Preschool believes that by connecting young children to animals and nature, we improve the outlook both for the child and for the future of the natural world. Young children who are immersed in a sensory-rich, nature-rich, authentic, and dynamic environment benefit in the areas of cognition, physical skills, social skills, and emotional intelligence. And when children grow up connected to nature, they are likely to continue to inquire, explore, and protect it. We are guided by the tenets of high quality early childhood education and environmental education, and are inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach.

Are you open year-round?

Yes. The preschool operates 12 months of the year, with short breaks for holidays and teacher professional development.

What are the enrollment options?

We have 2 day, 3 day, 4 day, and 5 day plans.

All tuition plans are inclusive of full day care between the hours of 6:40 am – 6:20 pm. Families choose the hours their child will attend. Visits into the Zoo begin at 8:45 am.

What is the staff to child ratio and the group size?

Multi-age classroom families include children who are 3, 4, and 5 years old. The ratio averages one staff member to seven children with a group size maximum of 18.

What is the tuition?

Tuition for the school year session, August 15, 2018 – May 29, 2019 is as follows. Summer classes offer the same weekly rates. A one-time \$100 registration fee is required for admission. Payment plans are available.

Tuition Chart				
	2018-19 School-Year Tuition Rate	Weekly Payment Plan Rate	Bi-Weekly Payment Plan Rate	Annual Supply Fee
5 days/week	\$11,088.00	\$264.00	\$528.00	\$300.00
4 days/week	\$9,979.20	\$237.60	\$475.20	\$270.00
3 days/week	\$7,761.60	\$184.80	\$369.60	\$210.00
2 days/week	\$5,544.00	\$132.00	\$264.00	\$150

Does the preschool provide meals or do the children bring their own food?

We offer snack at 8:30 am, 2:30 pm, and 5:30 pm. Children bring their lunches and reusable water bottle.

How will I know my child is learning?

The teaching staff make learning visible to families by closely observing children's play and interactions, and developing a portfolio for each child that includes photographs, the child's own work, and other documentation. This information, along with developmental checklists based on the Texas Pre-K guidelines, is interpreted and shared with parents through regularly scheduled communications.

How do I register?

Visit DallasZoo.com/WildEarthPreschool to complete a registration link. We'll be in contact after that to help you through the next steps, which involve a pre-enrollment meeting, completion of the admission packet and care agreement, and an intake meeting.