

Natural Beginnings

Early Childhood Program

Natural Beginnings Early Childhood Program is Kendall County Forest Preserve District's year-long program that connects children to the natural world around them. The program meets twice a week from September to May on Mondays and Wednesdays. During class time, students explore various themes related to ecology, seasonal changes, and natural history. These exploration units lead students outdoors to the prairies, woods, and streams of Hoover Forest Preserve where class is held. Class time is supplemented with literacy building activities, meaningful projects, and authentic learning opportunities. Children ages 3-5 who are potty-trained and physically able to engage in outdoor activities are welcome to join the program.



Study nature,
Love nature,
Stay close to nature.
It will never fail you-
Frank Lloyd Wright



KENDALL COUNTY FOREST
PRESERVE DISTRICT

110 W. Madison Street
Yorkville, IL 60560

[http://www.co.kendall.il.us/
forest_preserve/index.htm](http://www.co.kendall.il.us/forest_preserve/index.htm)

Education Department:

630-553-4111

General Information:

630-553-4025



*A natural place to make
discoveries and explore the outdoors*

2012-2013 School Year

**KENDALL COUNTY FOREST
PRESERVE DISTRICT**

Where Conservation and Education Take Flight!





Natural Beginnings

Early Childhood Program

Mission & Goals

Mission: To nurture whole child development through primary experiences with nature.

Goals:

1. Foster curiosity through inquiry, hands-on projects, and play.
2. Stimulate intellectual and physical development while participating in authentic learning opportunities.
3. Develop respect and appreciation for the natural world by way of meaningful primary nature encounters.

2012-2013 Program Year

Natural Beginnings will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from September 5, 2012 to May 8, 2013. There will be no class on: October 8, November 12 & 21, December 17-January 3, January 21, February 11 & 18, and April 1. Class time is 9:00AM-11:15AM. Drop off is from 8:50-9:00AM and pick up is from 11:15-11:25AM.

Fees

The program fee is \$900 per year. We have three convenient payment options. You may choose to pay the entire amount in full by August 5, 2011 for a discount of \$20. Or, you may choose to enroll in a semi-annual or quarterly payment plan. Payments may be made by cash, check, or credit card.

Educational Philosophy

Our curriculum is designed to meet our mission and goals by putting learning into the child's hands. We do this by exploring eleven different inquiry units throughout the year. Students explore themes by taking nature walks, studying natural phenomena, and engaging in reinforcing activities to build physical, emotional, and academic skills.

A Day in Class

Although every day promises to be a new adventure for our class, we generally follow this schedule:

- Arrival time (9:00-9:05)
- Outdoor play (9:05-9:25)
- Guided inquiry (outdoors) (9:25-10:25)
- Snack, bathroom break (10:25-10:40)
- Literacy development (10:40-10:55)
- Reinforcing activities (10:55-11:10)
- Prepare for dismissal (11:10-11:15)

Since we are outdoors for much of the class period, you child will need to comfortable with taking nature walks and spending time outdoors. We encourage active exploration that may lead to your child getting messy. Holding live creatures, digging in the dirt, and splashing in puddles are just a few of the things that make our class time special! We may encounter allergens such as pollen, seeds, and grass during class. Daily snacks follow our mission of nurturing your child and consist of fresh vegetables or fruits.

Registration Information

If Natural Beginnings would be a good fit for your family's needs, and you would like to find out more about registering for the 2011-2012 program year, please call the Education Department at 630-553-4111. We'd be happy to meet with you, answer any questions, and provide a facility tour.