



Nature Preschool

at Ijams Nature Center

Full-time, nature-based, child-centered classes
for children ages 3 to 6



MISSION STATEMENT

The Ijams Nature Preschool is an experiential nature-based preschool for children age 3-6 that combines:

- An outdoor classroom where students are given an opportunity to explore the natural world and learn environmental stewardship, and
- An indoor classroom where they are guided through traditional and child-centered academic lessons.

Through this unique combination of experiences, the Nature Preschool nurtures students' social, emotional, and intellectual development and helps them learn valuable lessons about themselves and their world.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Childhood should be joyful and wholesome. Ijams believes that the earliest, most memorable kind of learning includes climbing trees, catching frogs and making mud pies. Ijams believes that empathy, love, curiosity and respect are the truest foundation of learning. When thoughtful nature-based curriculum is combined with direct experiences in nature, a transformative change takes place. This connection is both powerful and empowering. The Nature Preschool at Ijams Nature Center develops the whole child. Not only do children develop a solid foundation for lifelong learning, but they also cultivate a love of nature that is the basis for a conservation ethic later in life.



WHAT MAKES THE NATURE PRESCHOOL SO SPECIAL?

YOUR CHILD WILL...

Learn to love and respect nature.

Meet live animals and appreciate wildlife.

Explore wild places and discover the outdoors.

Invent, build, and play using natural materials.

Experience all their senses as they dig in the dirt, jump in puddles, and smell wildflowers.

Have big adventures in 315 acres of forests, meadows, streams, wetlands, and ponds.

Make lasting memories and friendships that they will carry with into adulthood.





CURRICULUM

At NPINC, the emergent curriculum is a holistic approach to learning. Educators embrace your child's ideas and celebrate seasonal outdoor discoveries. With comparable attributes of Reggio Emilia, Montessori, and Waldorf approaches, NPINC addresses the cognitive, physical, social and emotional skill development of every child.

ljams' educational philosophy underscores the commitment to child-centered learning. Each child's learning path is supported by:

- Providing a supportive, safe learning environment to encourage discovery, questioning and experimentation
- Offering sensory opportunities with live animals, natural objects, artifacts, trail games, outdoor interpretation and creative arts activities
- Engaging cognitive growth and problem-solving skills through hands-on games and activities
- Developing physical motor skills through active learning and play
- Promoting social skills and positive self-image through group play and cooperative learning
- Cultivating emotional literacy and empathy to develop self-esteem
- Nurturing self-expression, creativity and reflection
- Encouraging family involvement to help students appreciate the wisdom of their first teachers—their families
- Celebrating diversity of all living things and the individuality of children and families
- Instilling respect and appreciation for the natural world

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Annual tuition is \$9,000 for the school year. This constitutes a 40-week school year, and is billed quarterly. Upon acceptance into the school, a \$1,000 payment is required to secure a child's place in the Nature Preschool. The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferrable, and will be applied to the March tuition payment. Tuition is billed quarterly on the following schedule:

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|------------------|---------|
| Initial Payment: | \$1,000 |
| September: | \$2,250 |
| November: | \$2,250 |
| January: | \$2,250 |
| March 1: | \$1,250 |
| TOTAL: | \$9,000 |

The Nature Preschool at Ijams Nature Center does not charge additional registration or activity fees; tuition is all-inclusive.

School Calendar

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| August 17 | First Day of School |
| September 7 | Labor Day Holiday |
| October 12-16 | Fall Break |
| November 25-27 | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| December 21-January 1 | Winter Break |
| January 20 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday |
| February 17 | Presidents' Day Holiday |
| March 15-19 | Spring Break |
| May 21 | Last Day of School |

Hours: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm (Monday–Friday)

Ages: 3-5*

*Students must be fully potty-trained, and be 3 years of age by August 15, 2020 to be eligible for the preschool.





Become a Member!

New York City has Central Park. Knoxville has Ijams Nature Center.

From the keyhole to the Tennessee River boardwalk, Ijams is an extraordinary wild place enjoyed by thousands of people from around the world each year, whether they come to learn more about nature through environmental education programs or to bike, climb, kayak or swim on Ijams' 315 acres of protected land.

Preserving this natural area requires funding, and this nonprofit nature center relies on donations from people like you to maintain the trails and continue to provide incredible education programs. Support Ijams and become a member today!

More Ways to Learn!

Ijams Nature Center is the perfect place for families to get outside and discover together. From monthly Nature Nuggets programs to seasonal family nature events, Ijams has the perfect way to enjoy time in nature as a family!

Be sure to check our calendar of events to find all the ways your child can discover nature at Ijams Nature Center!



For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Leslee Moore, Nature Preschool Administrator at (865) 679-5491 or preschool@ijams.org.



2915 Island Home Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37920
(865) 577-4717
WWW.IJAMS.ORG

