

CALL NOW TO RESERVE
A SPACE IN ANY OF
OUR PROGRAMS!



CALL:

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**Program for
Preschoolers Features:**

- Montessori materials
- Waldorf materials
- gardening
- cooking & baking
- nature exploration
- shelter building
- nature art
- storytelling
- music
- units: weather, bugs, plants,



WILDFLOWERS

*Nature-based
children's programs*

- "Wildflowers" (ages 2 1/2-6)
- "Scouts" (ages 6-12)
- "Adventure Crew" (ages 13-18)



**LETTING THE INNATE
WONDER OF NATURE
BE THE CONTEXT FOR LEARNING**

Letting nature take it's course

Education has come so far from the original, innate way that humans learned for millennium. With extended family always around in natural settings, kids observed, explored, imitated, questioned, and watched their mentors and nature. They learned by discovery, experimentation and very keen awareness. Here at Wildflowers, we try to allow the space for that unfolding of inquisitiveness and exploration, for experiencing the wonder and the spirit in special moments in nature. For in those moments lies the heart of education that will last a lifetime.

WHO ARE WE?

Director, Bev Buswell, has been involved in educating kids in different settings for 30 years. She has taught in Montessori & Waldorf preschools, was the Garden/ Environmental Education Coordinator & Teacher for a public school for 4 years, & is known locally for her volunteer work turning kids on to nature. Bev holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Education.

Our other mentor for the preschoolers is Robyn Smith. She is fully trained in both Waldorf and Montessori disciplines. For 13 years, she has taught in both of those styles to preschoolers. She believes in the importance of nature education and has also taught gardening, dance, music and yoga to kids.

PRESCHOOLERS (2 1/2 to 6)

We offer a complete preschool experience Monday through Thursday. The location includes a classroom setting in a nurturing home and 4 1/2 acres of forest, field, orchard, gardens & a little creek that backs to the Atascadero Valley.

A typical schedule would be:

9-10:10 Outdoor exploration and projects, including gardening, cooking, native crafts, caring for animals, nature art, building shelters, finding critters, etc.

10:10-10:25 Circle time, including animal yoga, a bit of Spanish & plenty of music (outside).

10:25-10:40 Healthy snack (outside).

10:45-11:50 Indoor work, including make-believe; art; science; crafts; Montessori materials such as practical life, math & language materials; etc.

12-12:45 Lunch outside preceded by listening to birds & earth poem

12:45-1 Storytelling or book

SCHOOL AGE (6 to 12)

Scouting type experiences will be offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00. There will be family campfires, campouts & trips off site. Some of the activities might be: creating shelters (huts from forest materials, cob playhouse, tree fort), tracking, making living structures with willow, gardening, pioneering, making a gopher trap, making potpourri & sachets, carving wood or soap, orienteering, "lostproofing", basketmaking, photography, raising farm animals, stewardship activities (building trails, etc.), drying foods with the sun, cooking on a campfire, making cool stuff with cattails, and more.

TEENS (13-18)

The Adventure Crew is a club focusing on high adventure outings for teens that has been in operation in some format off and on since 1997. We will be learning wilderness skills and applying them both on-site and on trips backpacking, etc. Kids learn leadership, develop their awareness, and most of all, learn a lot about themselves by being in challenging situations in nature.

Vision Statement: Running with the natural exuberant wonder of a child towards nature, we nurture imagination, inquisitiveness, confidence, creativity, and a connection to, gratitude for and understanding of the world around them. This will become a solid place within each child that they can continually return to for growth, values, compassion, wisdom and joy in their lives. By fostering a love of nature, practices of stewardship and sustainable living will eventually be driven by the children.