

Dress for Success at Nature Preschool

Children play at Nature Preschool! They need clothes in which they can run, jump, climb, roll around, and sit. They *will* get muddy and wet. You should dress your child in clothes that can get messy and that allow for freedom of movement.

Indoor Gear

- Please bring a seasonally appropriate change of clothes to store in your child's classroom bin. This should include: shirt, pants, underpants, and several pairs of socks.
- Please remember to check your child's bin, and replace clothing that goes home, or when the weather changes from warm to cold.
- We recommend bringing a reusable, washable bag to school, for carrying home wet and/or muddy clothes. Bags made of parachute material can go right in the washing machine!
- This year, we will be selling washable bags that are large enough to hold all of your child's outdoor gear, available at the Preschool desk.
- Children may wish to bring a backpack to school, for carrying home their own projects and gear. These should be stored in the cubby during class time. Children do not bring their backpacks on the hikes or to the play spaces, as this can get in the way of outdoor activities.
- Please provide indoor shoes that your child can put on and take off without assistance. Indoor shoes can include slippers, as long as they have a good tread on the bottom. Children should not be barefoot in the classroom.
- If you forget to send indoor shoes, your child may wear socks for the day, but remember that socks often get wet while playing at the sensory table or standing by the sink in the bathroom. Additionally, socks are a poor option if there is a fire drill and we need to go outside quickly.

Sunscreen and Bug Spray

- We do not apply these products to children.
- Please apply any topical products outside the building before school starts (at home is best). In case you forget, we will keep an insect repellent containing Picaridin and unscented sunscreen at the Preschool desk.
- Please be aware that strongly scented products have been causing negative reactions in others, including headaches and difficulty breathing.

How to Dress in Warm Weather

- Light-colored clothing is best, although you may wish to avoid yellow, as it can attract bees.
- We recommend lightweight pants tucked into socks in order to protect against ticks and mosquitoes.
- A hat, sunglasses, and sturdy shoes (no flip-flops) as well as an optional water bottle complete the warm season outfit.



How to Dress in Cool or Wet Weather

- Layers are best. We can always remove a layer if a child gets too warm but we cannot add what isn't there.
- Rain pants, rain jacket, rubber rain boots, thick socks that will not come off inside the boot (no footies), as well as a hat and waterproof mittens allow children to play comfortably outdoors throughout the fall and spring months.
- Waterproof outdoor gear should be worn to Nature Preschool for temperatures between 50 and 70 degrees, even when it isn't raining.



How to Dress in Cold Weather

- As soon as the temperature drops below 50 degrees, we suggest switching from rubber rain boots to insulated rain or winter boots.
- Wool-blend socks will keep feet warm in cold weather. Cotton socks are a poor choice for outdoor winter play.
- Snow pants, snow coat, warm hat, waterproof mittens, insulated boots and a neck warmer are important for cold weather play, even when there is no snow.
- Sweatpants (or similar) worn over regular pants, topped with rain pants, can also provide warmth and protection in cold, wet weather and are a good option for those in-between days when it is cold and raining.



We believe that there is no such things as bad weather, just people dressed badly for the weather! As long as your child is dressed appropriately, he or she will enjoy playing outside in every season, no matter what the Wisconsin weather may bring!