

Academic Calendar & Curriculum 2023-2024

At NaturePlay Preschool AM and Niños de la Naturaleza PM, we use an [emergent curriculum](#). This means that rather than teachers deciding at the beginning of the year what to study, we begin by observing the children's explorations to determine what topics to focus on. This allows us to incorporate children's interests and ideas and delve deeper into topics. If a topic is interesting and engaging to the children we may study it for weeks or even months. If a topic fizzles, we'll start to move to another topic. Each week we will give children prompts - things to think about and notice as we explore the natural world and then we will let the children's curiosity lead us to new investigations and discoveries.

Children will be free to explore, play and create with materials that interest them. We provide open-ended art materials that children are free to use in imaginative ways and represent their ideas and the world around them. Children will bring home works of art that are unique. They will choose activities that allow them to explore deeply as they build skills that support positive approaches to learning (self-regulation, curiosity, initiative, and creativity).

Fall Term

During the fall we will explore and discuss the changes in the weather, the trees, and the animals in our environment. We will observe the changing of the colors around us, the changing in the temperatures, and the activities of the creatures we share the earth with. We will collect, sort, and create with the fallen leaves we find. We will dig and explore the soil.

In this first term together teachers will observe children at play and notice how they enter into play with others. We will teach important social-emotional skills and teach strategies for solving problems and calming down when upset. We will also watch and listen to children to assess each child's understanding of letters, quantity, and shape. We will use this information to plan individual and small-group activities.

[The first day of school is 9/14/23](#)

[Teacher-Guardian Conferences, no class: W-F, 11/1 - 11/03](#)

[No class Veterans Day:, 11/10](#)

[No class Thanksgiving: W-F, 11/22- 11/24](#)

[Winter Break: Dec. 18 - Jan. 1, 2024](#)

Winter Term

During winter term we will continue to explore weather changes, we will look at leafless trees and those that stay green. We will explore the other green stuff in the environment - moss and lichen. We will continue to dig in the dirt and jump in puddles. We will explore water and ice. We will notice the animals that are still active in the environment. We will watch the sky and talk about clouds.

We will continue to observe children, noticing their progress in all areas of development. New vocabulary words will be added to our word wall as children are encouraged to write their own names and possibly the names of their friends. We will watch friendships grow and continue to help children to use positive strategies when conflict arises. Children will be encouraged to explore measurement and patterns. We will read books, sing songs and recite rhymes to increase children's phonological awareness.

No class Presidents Day: M, 2/19

Spring Break March 25-29

Spring Term

During the spring term, we will watch for changes to the environment - what's budding, what's sprouting. We will do some planting. We will watch for the return of birds and other critters that might be re-appearing. We will discuss the changes in the weather and enjoy the beauty that is around us every day. In the final term of the year, we will continue to engage in joyful learning and enjoy spending time with friends.

Teacher-Guardian Conferences, no class W-F, April 17 - 19

Memorial Day May 27th

The last day of school is June 14, 2024