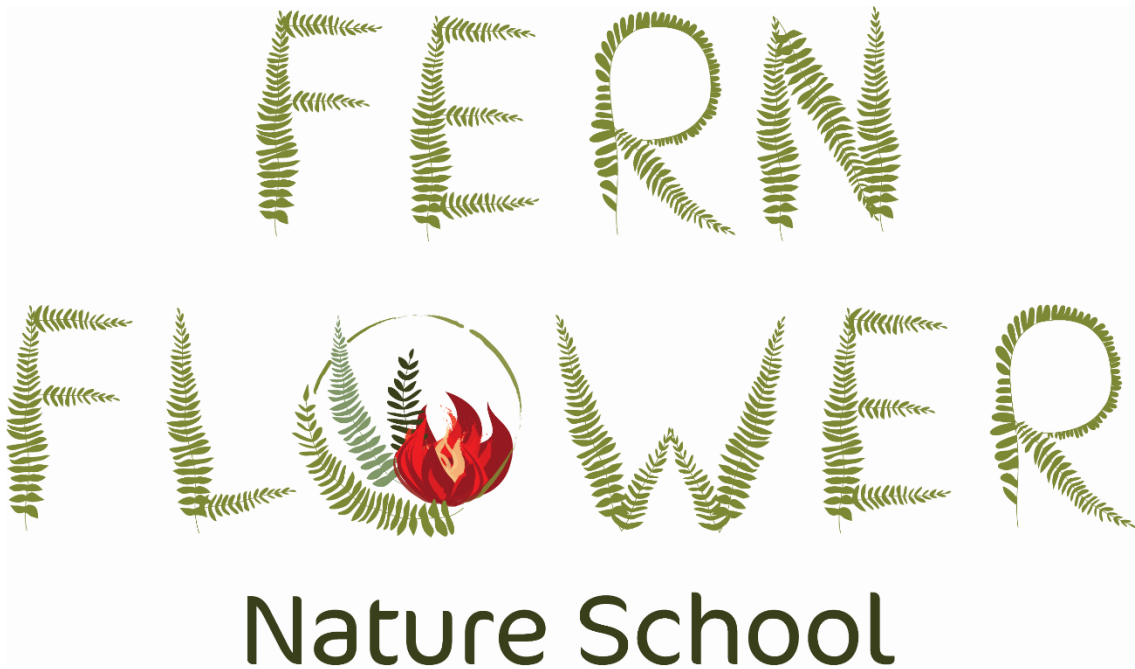


Welcome To



General Information about Fern Flower - Nature School



Nature School

Name of the Facility: Fern Flower - Nature School

License: Multi-Age Child Care (from 0 to 12 years) - 278924

Address: 3827 Charlton Drive, Qualicum Beach, V9K 1Z3, BC, Canada

Phone Number: 250-299-2054

E-Mail: fernfloweratureschool@gmail.com

Website: fernfloweratureschool.net

Our Programs:

- 🌿 Our Morning Sessions (Monday to Friday) start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12:15 p.m.
- 🌿 Our Afternoon Sessions (Tuesday to Thursday) start at 12:45 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.

Directors' Names: Lera(Valeriya) Lucas

Philosophy: Forest/Nature School with Play Based Learning, Reggio Emilia and Waldorf Approaches.

Introduction

Message from the Director

Welcome to Fern Flower - Nature School, a place rich in dialogue, collaboration, discussion, pedagogical excellence, and of course Nature. We invite you into this diverse community, where families, children, and educators are free to share and engage others in discussing the values that they hold about children, early childhood education, nature, practical life skills, connection to the land, and various ways of knowing. Thank You and Welcome!!!

Lera Lucas

Mission

Our mission is to use the Nature and Forest School model to bring children closer to nature in the early, primary, and secondary years. By cultivating rich learning experiences, children will make a connection with the diverse natural environment our locations have to offer.

Our vision is for your child to play and learn within our local forests with a knowledgeable and experienced educator who understands the importance of play and inquiry-based learning and how this can lead to a healthy child and a more sustainable world.

Our Educators Certified British Columbia ECE and ECEA, with Outdoor Specialists (Forest School Level 1, 2 and 3), guide children to self-learning and discovery in a ratio of one teacher to eight students or less!

About Fern Flower - Nature School

The Fern Flower - Nature School is conveniently situated at 3826 Charlton Drive, just next to Rose Park. It's about a 5-minute drive south of Bowser or a 20-minute drive north of Qualicum Beach. Our "Home Base" features a log circle set in close proximity to a forest clearing, surrounded by outdoor provocation areas and a natural playscape. From this central point, we have easy access to explore over 1,000 acres of crown land, including the Lighthouse Country Regional Trails, Nile Creek Enhancement Society (Fish Hatchery), and the local Beach.

Established in 2024, Fern Flower - Nature School became a vibrant hub where young students settled into the site and surrounding forest. Their discoveries, explorations, adventures, and artwork quickly transformed the area into a place that felt like home.

Philosophy

At Fern Flower - Nature School we primarily practice Forest/Nature School Philosophy. For us the main focus is Nature. We are mentors and facilitators, helping young children grow and connect in our all-outdoor classroom. In our Fern Flower - Nature School sessions, we nurture the seeds of connection to self, others, nature, and those who have come before us. In addition to teaching respect for the Earth and we teach respect for all living beings.

Learning for children is grounded and expressed through play. As Jean Piaget once said, "Play is the work of children." A play-based pedagogy recognizes the holistic nature of play and Nature Schools around the development of the whole child; it treats a child's emotional, physical, and social selves as interwoven and encourages depth of experience.

Also, Nature School integrates lots of principles from the Reggio Emilia Approach which became a beautiful addition to our Philosophy. Reggio Emilia's Approach puts the *natural* development of people and the close relationships that they share with their environment at the Nature School into its philosophy. The Reggio Emilia approach and curriculum are just one of the many systems we have researched to create the

Education for Life Program and this page is meant to function as an ever-expanding archive of open-source, free shared, and duplicable Reggio Emilia theory and application-inspired ideas.

Waldorf schools also place a great emphasis on rituals and natural cycles, and as such can sometimes seem to be a world unto themselves, however, the students tend to greatly appreciate these aspects of the curriculum with schools putting on highly impressive and inclusive school productions in drama and music. Waldorf is particularly good for those students who have a passion for nature and the arts, and for fostering empathy and self-awareness.

Program Details

Nature School Operation Hours







Fern Flower - Nature School is offering 2(two) programs.

<i>Programs</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Days on which sessions take place</i>
<i>Morning Session</i>	8:00 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	Monday to Friday
<i>Afternoon Session</i>	12:45 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Tuesday to Thursday

Our session duration is 4 hours and 15 minutes.
 You can register your child for 1 to 5 days a week.
 Drop-in sessions are available for regularly enrolled clients.

What sort of Activities do the Children do?

Activities are linked to the topic that the children are covering that term. Typically, these may include:

-  Music and Movement – Keeping a pulse or copying a rhythm pattern by beating sticks together, learning songs, and singing and dancing as a group.
-  Design Technology and Science – Building dens and bridges that are suitable for them to sit in and walk on, whittling wood, making wooden disks.
-  Language and Literacy – Storytelling around the fire, Writing, following instructions, and creating story maps with natural objects.
-  Math – Data handling, Measuring, Shapes, and Problem-Solving
-  Art – Creating 3D pictures or sculptures out of clay or mud, color matching, and making our own charcoal to draw with!
-  Fine Motor – involves the use of the small muscles that control the hand, fingers, and thumb; also, promotes eye-hand coordination.

- 🌿 Gross Motor –It involves the coordination of the arms, legs, and other large body parts and movements, nevertheless, movements such as running, crawling, swimming, or hopping.
- 🌿 Community Building – Participating in a community bonded by attitudes, values, and goals is an essential ingredient to enjoying a fulfilling life.
- 🌿 Cooking – Cooking not only builds confidence and prepares a kid for difficult life situations, but it also teaches them to think on their feet. It also develops the same type of discipline as any form of sports or martial arts.
- 🌿 Sensory - Sensory play is an important part of childhood and, within reason, there are really no limits to what you can use in sensory activities. Nature can often be your best friend when it comes to sensory play!

Nature School Play Space Features

- 🌿 Facility - Fern Flower - Nature School, located at 3827 Charlton Drive, offers a spacious indoor area covering over 80 square meters. It serves as a shelter during inclement weather and a hub for various activities, including cooking, learning centers, and imaginative play. The space also features a documentation display, inviting caregivers to immerse themselves in the learning journey.
- 🌿 Yard at the Facility - The Yard at the Nature School is an outdoor space that encourages curiosity, exploration, and hands-on learning. It features a garden, a living classroom, and a fire circle, a communal space for storytelling, discussions, and group activities, fostering an appreciation for the environment and community.
- 🌿 Rose Park - Rose Park, near our FFNS facility, will serve as our "Home Base" for our Nature School adventures. With a lush forested area and gentle creek, it offers a serene setting for children to explore nature. This serene environment fosters a love for nature, guiding them through their educational journey.
- 🌿 Forest - The Fern Flower - Nature School is located in the Nile Creek Forest, a 1,000-acre natural wonderland just a 5-minute drive away. The serene environment features winding trails, towering trees, and soothing sounds of leaves, birdsong, and creeks, providing a magical and serene environment for nature education.
- 🌿 Beach - The beach, located just 5 minutes away from our facility, offers an enchanting extension to our nature school experience. It offers a picturesque rocky beach with activities like building shelters and gathering around a campfire. The beach also offers opportunities for hands-on learning and imaginative play. If nature permits, we can explore Sunny Side Beach, fostering a holistic appreciation for the diverse coastal ecosystem. This dynamic classroom creates lasting memories and appreciation for the beauty of land and sea.
- 🌿 Fish Hatchery - Nile Creek Fish Hatchery, just 10 minutes away, showcases salmon hatching and serves as a Nature School laboratory. Dedicated volunteers welcome visitors, showcasing the wonder of fish life.

- Million Dollar Trail - The Million Dollar Trail, located in the Lighthouse community, offers a unique experience for nature enthusiasts and outdoor adventurers, offering a million-dollar experience.

Staff Information:

All our facilitators are passionate about the mission of Nature School, Reggio Emilia, Waldorf Play and Play-Based Learning!

Through play, stories, natural living skills and the art of observation, listening and questioning, we build connection to nature, self and others.

Our experiences range from professionally trained Forest School Leaders and to environmental educators and musicians, united to provide fun and valuable experiences! Our staff is what sets Nature School apart.

Lera(Valeriya) Lucas

- Education and Qualifications: Early Childhood Educator; Forest School Level 3 Leader; First Aid Certified; and a Mother.
- Occupation in FFNS: Director, Manager, Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Forest School Leader.
- Philosophy: As an educator deeply rooted in Early Childhood Education (ECE), my personal philosophy is a tapestry woven from the threads of Forest School practices, the Reggio Emilia approach, and the Waldorf method. Embracing the belief that children are inherently capable, my passion lies in creating a learning environment that values each child's unique journey. I find inspiration in the rich learning experiences that nature provides, and the Nature School ethos resonates deeply with my commitment to fostering a connection between children and the natural world. From a Reggio Emilia perspective, I see children not as empty vessels to be filled, but as dynamic, competent individuals eager to explore and construct their own understanding of the world. My role is that of a guide, a co-learner, encouraging curiosity and collaboration. The Waldorf approach has influenced my emphasis on imaginative play and creativity as essential components of childhood development, fostering emotional intelligence and a love for learning. In my sessions, the goal is to nurture independence, empowering children to make choices and take initiative in their learning. I believe in the value of hands-on, experiential learning, and I cherish old-fashioned skills as timeless building blocks for a well-rounded education. As I guide children through practical life skills, outdoor adventures, and artistic expression, my aim is to cultivate confident, capable, and compassionate individuals. This personal philosophy is not just a guide for education but a commitment to instilling a lifelong love of learning and a profound sense of connection to the wonders of nature and community.

Here some important aspects of my philosophy that I would like you to know:

- I believe that children are our future and if you care about our future you need to educate the next generation from an early age. As an ECE I will provide the highest quality childhood education for our community to create healthy and productive citizens for our future.
- I believe that play should be the basis of all learning and that children learn best through guided exploration at their own pace. I will constantly strive to provide children with more opportunities to express themselves through each activity and I will always leave room for the class to explore topics that interest them most.
- I believe that educators need to be co-learners with children because they are so smart and unique in their own way. I will promote problem-solving techniques through open discussion between educators and children to create a safe and positive environment.

- I believe nature plays a big role in child development because being down to earth is important and it will teach children how to be open-minded, adaptable and respectful to people and nature. I will construct activities by using natural materials and I will provide outdoor learning experiences for the class on a daily basis.
 - I believe that people that work with children need to be educated, professional and creative. I will ensure that each employee has a high-quality education background and that they are proactive in implementing positive and healthy teaching techniques.
 - I believe that it is very important to provide an emergent curriculum which will be based around each child needs and interests, as each child is unique! I will implement this by observing each child, becoming their friend and building each day around their interests and needs.
 - I believe that family value are very important and that the relationships we have with our families shape who we become. I will encourage this by promoting family activity days and by supporting parents with any aspect of child development.
- About the Educator: Embracing a journey that spans continents and cultures, I, Lera Lucas, embarked on my educational career in Canada after relocating from Ukraine in 2015. With a profound passion for early childhood development, I obtained my Early Childhood Education (ECE) license in 2017 and have since contributed to the growth and learning of numerous children in various daycare settings. The move to the serene Qualicum Bay/Bowser Area in 2021 marked a significant chapter for my family, inspiring us to embark on the ambitious venture of creating Fern Flower - Nature School. In 2023, I achieved the milestone of becoming a Forest School Level 3 Leader, adding an enriching dimension to my educational repertoire. After years of dedication to the field of ECE, 2024 became the year when Fern Flower - Nature School opened its doors, a testament to my commitment to providing a nature-inspired, holistic learning experience for the young minds under my care.
 - Hobbies and Interests: Thrifting; Gardening; Art and Crafts; Cooking; Hiking; Foraging; DIY Projects Creator; Loves Animals; Listens to variety of Music; Games on PC or Board Games; Read about Early Childhood Education and Parenting Materia; Languages: Fluent in English, Ukrainian and Russian; Beginner level is Spanish and German.

Kyle Lucas

- Education and Qualifications: Early Childhood Educator Assistant; First Aid Certified; and a Father.
- Occupation in FFNS: Early Childhood Education Assistant (ECEA)
- Philosophy:
 - VALUES: A classroom requires values to consistently apply educational principles and behavioral limits. Strong values like reading and outdoor play can be internalized by the children and inform their later passions and decision making. While maintaining consistent classroom principles it is possible to integrate values, stories and culture from the parents into the class. Parental involvement benefits all children, whether in sharing their values and culture or through volunteering their time.
 - CONTINUED EDUCATION: If we wish to help children understand their immediate environment and assist them in becoming well adjusted to their futures, we need to maintain a high personal educational standard for ourselves. A teacher's observational skills and deep understanding of psychological and educational theory allows them to better connect with and guide the multitudinous backgrounds and personalities of the children in their care. The interests and education of a teacher directly affects what and how novel materials and subjects are introduced into the class. The greater diversity of understanding an educator possesses the greater insight and opportunity they will be able to bring to their classroom.
 - CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT: Curriculum planning should allow the teacher to form activities around group interests and the individual needs of each child. An educator can add cohesive thematic elements to the disparate activities of the day, week or month in order to foster development and deeper interest in areas that the children might not otherwise have natural exposure to. Scheduling

and planning should create an engaging flow of activities and ease transitions while allowing emergent experiences to replace set structures. Children need a balance of consistency and novelty and educators make their jobs easier by responding in a prepared and organized way.

- CONFLICT RESOLUTION: Children should be given space to handle conflict independently. Teachers need to assume an observational role until a situation has the potential to become unsafe, the children request mediation or a conflict is left unresolved with negative feelings permeating the parties involved. An educator's goal should be to guide children through their own feelings and to help them empathize with the viewpoint of their peers. From there the children should be encouraged to brainstorm strategies in order to elucidate a satisfactory resolution. Children need to be given space to implement any tasks involved in resolving the conflict and the teacher should resume observing the situation unless they are needed.
- NATURE ORIENTATION: Outdoor environments encourage physical play through hiking, running, crawling swimming, climbing, rolling and jumping in and around various obstacles and terrain. Children can build scientific inquiry and an appreciation for their natural environment through observing nature and hands on explorations of various materials and objects. Children build resilient spirits and immune systems by encountering various weather conditions and by getting dirty outdoors. Learning practical outdoor skills helps foster independence and a child's sense of control within their environment.
- STORYTELLING: Storytelling expands a child's perspective to explore viewpoints and ideas outside of their daily lives. Storytelling has a huge impact on not only verbal development but also on a child's rational, abstract, empathic, internal and relational understandings. Stories allow children to connect with the past and sparks an interest in their present and future. Teachers may introduce stories thematically and strategically to enhance discussions of topics of interest or conflict resolution strategies. The development of early storytelling passions in children leads to better future learning outcomes, independent investigation and a foundation to build more sophisticated reading and writing skills.
- PLAY-BASED LEARNING: The integration of play into every learning experience means that children can become more wholly absorbed in the material and have direct, hands-on experiences with a given subject. This allows children to better remember and explore ideas independently. Subject matter that children learn about and associate with playful activity has a foundation from which to develop into life long passions. By showing children how to turn mundane or difficult subject matter into play we give them tools to develop better learning strategies in the future. Age mixed play with older children, younger children and adults helps foster play and empathy outside the normal range of peer-to-peer play.
- INDEPENDENCE AND ENVIRONMENT: An educator's job is to create an environment that supports the free exploration of ideas and to thoughtfully add relevant materials and activities to guide the natural curiosity of the class and individual children. Developing organized areas for circle time, quiet and meditation, dramatic play, crafts and other zones allows children to develop self-regulation and choose where to play and how to organize that play with their peers. By encouraging children to pursue learning, conflict resolution, social situations and play independently we help them to better develop into healthy and independent adults. A teacher should guide and interact with children in order to add to their repertoire of strategies, imagination and independence in all domains.
- About the Educator: My name is Kyle Lucas, and my journey into the realm of education has been both personal and profound. Having always harbored a keen interest in the field, my connection with education strengthened significantly when I married my wife, Lera. Motivated by a shared passion, I played a crucial role in supporting her pursuit of an Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree. The arrival of our first child in 2021 deepened my commitment to early years' education, prompting a move to the tranquil Qualicum Bay / Bowser Area. Recognizing the importance of professional development I

obtained my license in Early Childhood Education Assistant (ECEA) in 2022, aligning my skills with our shared vision of creating an enriching and nature-inspired learning environment for the children we are privileged to guide. In collaboration with Lera, we embarked on the exciting venture of establishing Fern Flower - Nature School.

- Hobbies and Interests: Playing Music (Oud, Bass Guitar & Piano); Ancient Languages (Classical Latin, Ancient Greek, Old English & Middle English); Reading (Philosophy, comparative theology, Jungian psychology, history & economics); Board games, pen and paper games & storytelling; Computers (Software preservation, programming, procedural design).

Policies and Procedures:

Registration:

Parents must complete FFNS registration forms and family contracts before attending Fern Flower - Nature School. Families receive a Parent Handbook and must arrange payment. If a child withdraws from a spot, a one-month withdrawal fee is charged. Registration includes a \$50 non-refundable deposit, and failure to accept the first opportunity results in removal.

Payment Policy

Childcare Service Rates Before Reduction:

Fern Flower - Nature School institutes a flat rate payment system on the following Morning or Afternoon Sessions enrollments:

	5 days a week	4 days a week	3 days a week	2 days a week	1 days a week	Drop-In – 1 session
Morning or Afternoon Sessions (0 to 18 months)	1,150.00 \$ / month	1,050.00 \$ / month	850.00 \$ / month	650.00 \$ / month	350.00 \$ / month	100.00 \$ per session
Morning or Afternoon Sessions (18 to 36 months)	1,130.00 \$ / month	950.00 \$ / month	750.00 \$ / month	550.00 \$ / month	300.00 \$ / month	90.00 \$ per session
Morning or Afternoon Sessions (3 to 5 years of age)	1,000.00 \$ / month	850.00 \$ / month	650.00 \$ / month	450.00 \$ / month	250.00 \$ / month	75.00 \$ per session
Morning or Afternoon Sessions (Kindergarten)	640.00 \$ / month	550.00 \$ / month	450.00 \$ / month	350.00 \$ / month	250.00 \$ / month	75 \$ per session

Morning or Afternoon Sessions (Grade 1 to 12 years)	600.00 \$ / month	550.00 \$ / month	450.00 \$ / month	350.00 \$ / month	250.00 \$ / month	50.00 \$ per session
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Note that Drop-In is not guaranteed that your child can get a spot that day. Please call-in advance before drop-in your child for the Dro-In Session also you need to Register in Advance.

Whether your child attends the Fern Flower - Nature School each day of operation or not, the full payment is expected, based on the original enrolment option.

All payments are due before the first day of each month and paid month forward.

Each parent is given a payment method option in their starting packages in which they choose their payment option and sign off on.

We accept E-Transfers made to fernfloweratureschool@gmail.com or cash.

Wondering what your tuition at Fern Flower - Nature School is going towards?

- Expert Staff: Our educators aren't just trained in Early Childhood Education (ECE) and ECE Assistant (ECEA), they also hold Forest School Level 3 certifications. This ensures your child receives top-notch guidance and care in the great outdoors.
- Quality Time: We're committed to spending every moment with your child during sessions, meaning no time is wasted on cleaning or prep work. We handle these tasks before or after sessions, maximizing your child's time in nature.
- Class Size: Our group sizes are intentionally small, with a usual ratio of 1 educator to 4-6 kids, compared to the average daycare ratio of 8 to 10 kids to 1 educator.
- Premium Curriculum & Equipment: Your child deserves the best, which is why we invest in high-quality curriculum materials and equipment designed to enhance their learning and exploration experiences.
- Fair Wages: We believe in valuing our educators and paying them a fair wage for their dedication and expertise. Your tuition supports not only your child's education but also the livelihood of our amazing staff.
- Tuition Prices: On average, Forest School sessions on Vancouver Island typically start at \$34 for a 3-hour session without trained staff or/and in licensed settings. In contrast, our sessions at Fern Flower - Nature School are conducted in licensed settings, last for 4 hours and 15 minutes, and start at an average of \$25 per session when enrolled full-time.
- Our Goals: Our tuition, along with extra fundraisers, contributes to our mission of continuously improving our Nature School, enriching the community, and hopefully expanding our offerings in the future.
- And More: From our small class sizes to our dedication to safety and environmental stewardship, there are many factors that contribute to the value of your investment in your child's education and well-being at Fern Flower - Nature School.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off Policy:

Safe Release of Children:

A child in the care of FFNS will be released only to the person(s) identified by the guardians as those authorized to pick up the child. Authorization must be given in writing and can be done by fax or email

directed to the main childcare office when advance arrangements are not possible. An authorized person who is unknown to the staff will be required to show a picture ID before the child is released into their care.

	Drop-Off Time	Pick-Up Time
Morning Session	8:00 to 8:30 a.m.	11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Afternoon Session	12:45 to 1:15p.m.	4:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Late Pick-Up Fee Payment:

FERN FLOWER - NATURE SCHOOL CHARGES \$25.00 AND ADDITIONAL \$5.00 FOR EVERY MINUTE THAT THE PARENT/GUARDIAN IS LATE FOR PICK-UP AFTER CLOSING TIME MONDAY TO FRIDAY 12:15/5:00 PM (depends on the session child is attending).

Nature School Closure Dates:

Fern Flower - Nature School will be closed on all of the following Statutory Holidays:

- Family Day - Second Monday in February
- Good Friday – Friday before Easter Sunday
- Easter Monday – Monday After Easter Sunday
- Spring Break – One week in Springtime (Follow SD69) (1 week closure)(First week of Spring Break)
- Victoria Day – Monday before May 25th
- Canada Day – July 1st (or Monday Following
- B.C. Day - Monday, August 1st
- Summer Closure - Last week of August until September first day after Labor Day (1 week closure)
- Labor Day – First Monday in September
- Truth and Reconciliation Day – September 31st
- Thanksgiving – Second Monday in October
- Remembrance Day – November 1st (or Monday Following)
- Winter Closure - Last week of December including Christmas Day 25th until New Year 1st (1 week closure) (We are open on January 2nd)

Clothing and Packing List for FFNS

Packing List for a child:

- Backpack of sufficient quality and comfort that your child can carry for distances of up to 500 metres at a time, and walks of up to 30 minutes long (must include a chest strap)
- Water bottle (filled with fresh water)
- Snacks and Utensils if needed
- Spare Full Set of Cloth (t-shirt, pants, long sleeve shirt, underwear, socks)
- Extra Hat, Mittens, Balaclava

What to wear in different seasons at Nature School:

<i>Winter</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two winter hats (must cover ears and stay on the head). • Balaclava or neck warmer (no scarves please due to the risk of strangulation). • Two pairs of warm, waterproof mitts. • One warm, waterproof snowsuit. • One set of warm, waterproof boots. • Wool socks. • Three base layers: thermal shirt and pants, middle layer, wool/fleece sweater (cotton is not recommended for cold weather conditions).
<i>Spring</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain gear (waterproof boots, pants, jacket), with extra insulation on colder days. • Wool socks on colder days (they insulate even when wet). • Sneakers for running shoes (please no open-toe shoes even in summer). • Sun Hat (for warmer months). • Warmer sweater or jacket for colder days. • Bug Jacket (optional).
<i>Summer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain gear (waterproof boots, pants, jacket). • Sneakers for running (please no open-toe shoes even in summer). • Sun Hat. • Lightweight clothing (silk/cotton ideal, synthetic fibers do not breathe well). • Bug Jacket (optional).
<i>Fall</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain gear (waterproof boots, pants, jacket). • Sneakers for running (please no open-toe shoes even in summer). • Sun Hat (for warmer months). • Warm Jacket (fleece or other breathable fabric ideal). • Bug Jacket (optional).
<i>At all Times</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A backpack of sufficient quality and comfort that your child can carry for distances of up to 500 meters at a time and walks of up to 30 minutes long (must include a chest strap). • Water bottle (filled with fresh water). • Snacks and Utensils if needed. • Spare Full Set of Clothes (t-shirt, pants, long sleeve shirt, underwear, socks). • Extra Hat, Mittens, Balaclava.

Toileting and Handwashing

FFNS requires that all participants are fully toilet trained prior to starting sessions.

Educators will provide children with hand washing opportunities before and after meals and after washroom breaks whether indoors or in the nature. The educators will carry water and hand soap and hand sanitizer for this purpose on each outing.

The washroom facilities at Fern Flower – Nature School is available while we are indoors or in the yard. Nevertheless, children must be comfortable using the “washroom” outdoors, with minimal “coaching” from an educator. All educators will carry appropriate toileting and hand washing tools such as toilet paper, wipes, hand sanitizer, water and soap.

If your child has an accident, educators will happily assist them in changing into their spare clothing. However, FFNS cannot accept children into the programs who are using diapers or pull-ups during the day. Please ensure that your child is independently using a toilet prior to the start of the session.

Licensing and Accreditation:

Licensed Multiage Childcare with 8 spots

(From birth to 12 years old)

Facility Number is 278924

Frequently Asked Questions:

Questions	Answers
How long is a session?	Each session is 4 hours and 15 minutes long.
What is the Educator to Child ratio?	The usual number of children in a session ranges from 5 to 6 with 1 educator. The maximum group size is 8 children, this only occurs when we have sibling groups or if most of the children are returning forest school students with lots of experience in the forest and our program. We will have a second educator or volunteer helping us if we are exploring a new area to provide adequate supervision and ensure the safety of the group.
Can we come for a visit to see if the program is a good fit for our family?	Yes, please contact us in advance to arrange a suitable time. Usually, we set the first month as a trial month.
Does my child have to be potty trained?	Yes. The teachers will help your child with all of their gear if needed but your little one needs to be able to tell us that they have to go and what they need help with. However, accidents still happen and that is ok. We will help your child to change into their clean clothes for emergencies. Please send a Ziplock bag with a change of clothes in your child's backpack for this purpose.
Do you offer a sibling discount?	We do not offer sibling discounts. Our fee structure is designed to ensure that we can maintain the high standards of care, education, and safety that we are committed to providing for all children enrolled in our program. We value your understanding and are happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have regarding our fees or other aspects of our childcare services.
Can my child attend both Morning and Afternoon Session in one day?	Unfortunately, we encourage child participating only in 1 session a day. Also, research indicates that the optimal duration for effective outdoor learning experiences is around 4 hours, allowing ample time for exploration, hands-on activities, and connection with nature. This timeframe aligns with the attention spans and energy levels of our young participants, ensuring they remain engaged and enthusiastic throughout the session. Ultimately, our goal is to provide a holistic and sustainable educational experience and create family and Nature School balance for a child.

Does FFNS provides food for kids?	The Nature School does not provide any meals for kids. Parents and Caregivers must pack their children a snack for every Nature School Session. However, occasionally we organize a cooking class where the children are welcome to taste the food.
How do I dress my child appropriately for a day of Forest School?	We have dedicated a large section of our Parent Handbook to this very detail. Please refer to this for information on all weather types and seasons. Children thrive in the outdoors best when they are dressed in appropriate clothing for the presenting weather.
What happens when the weather is inclement on a day of Forest School?	Please refer to the Parent Handbook which details our inclement weather policy. If weather is not safe to be outside, but the session is not cancelled, we are going to be inside of our facility for duration of the session. We can cook, do indoors activities and centers. If weather is dangerously bad we will be cancelling the session. Note that Nature School will typically be cancelled when the School buses are cancelled and School District 69 announces closure. Classes will not be made up due to weather cancellations.
How do I know which program to sign my child up for?	As you know FFNS provides 2 programs. Morning Sessions Monday to Friday and Afternoon Sessions Tuesday to Thursday. Both programs provides similar activities and engaging curriculum. Our suggestion is if you are planning to sign up your child for Afternoon Session that they MUST be fully wind off naps and can stay awake and participating during the sessions.
Is there a great chance of my child getting injured?	Your child may incur minor such as bruises, cuts, and scrapes but the chances of major injuries are low. Educators are trained to assess and manage situations so that all activities are low risk to children. There is a risk of them being exposed to poisonous plants but students will be educated on keeping plants and berries out of their mouths. The area that we will be using the most will be assessed for tree hazards and the site will be checked daily before programming. Our educators are trained in first-aid, CPR, and emergency procedures.
Can my child start part way through the school year?	Yes! Providing there is an open spot, we are happy to welcome children part way through the year.
How is wildlife safety handled?	Every morning before the programs starts, the Director logs onto Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (W.A.R.P) to investigate the most recent reported wildlife activity. If there has been a sighting, the Educators will be notified, and we will go to alternative location which is more safe or stay on Facility territory. While we are in the forest and/or on the beach it is very unlikely that we will encounter a bear and/or cougar. However, our Forest School Leaders are trained in Bear and Cougar Aware Training by Conservation Officers and carry the supplies needed in the case of an encounter. All children are taught our number one rule ("Stay Together!") and all children will receive age-appropriate bear/cougar awareness training from their educators and sometimes from conservation officer at the beginning of the school year. Our Nature Educators will practice the safety protocols with the children regularly.
Why is the Early Years Program's monthly tuition the same each month, but the number of program days varies per	Although the number of program days per month vary through the year, our monthly tuition is the same price every month, because our program fees are calculated by taking the cost of the entire year (number of program days x daily fee) then divided by 12 to create a standard cost for each month.

month through the year?	
Is my child going to get dirty?	Absolutely.

Testimonials and References:

"I highly recommend Mrs. Lera! My daughter struggled with her speech and Lera was very helpful in helping my daughter learn more language as well as helping me learn new tools to help her. Lera was always kind, compassionate and empathetic towards my daughter and the other children in the classroom. Lera had fun and engaging activities that the children would learn or develop new skills from. Thank you, Lera, for all you did for us we miss you very much!" - L.C. Parent of former Daycare Mrs. Lera worked at

"Mrs. Lera helped us so much in preparing our eldest son for kindergarten. At the beginning of preschool, he was very shy as he'd never really spent much time away from us before, and therefore he naturally had some adjustment issues. Thanks to the warmth he received from his favorite teacher, these issues were short-lived and he soon gained many social skills, and his confidence increased incredibly during his year there. He was given patience, support and encouragement and he really had come out of his shell by the end. He was enjoying it so much by the end we were upset when the school year ended, and we were worried that he might have adjustment problems starting kindergarten, but he sailed through! Miss Lera made a huge difference for us, and I highly recommend her as your care provider." - D.K. Parent of former Daycare Mrs. Lera worked at.

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Lera. Since my child joined her care, she has really flourished in such a nurturing and interesting environment that has been created by her. Educator Lera has helped her to find her voice, explore her creativity and natural curiosity. It's a very special environment and we'll be sad to say goodbye. My child's experience with Lera though means she will be ready to take on the next stage in her life: 'big school!'" - C.L. Parent of former Daycare Mrs. Lera worked at

"We cannot recommend Mrs. Lera highly enough. Our daughter has thrived during the time that she has spent with her. Mrs. Lera shows a huge amount of enthusiasm, energy and imagination every day in looking after the children and it is obvious how much they care about all of them. The children really do learn so much from playing and doing. Our daughter wakes up in the morning enthusiastically shouting that she wants to go to the forest and is so happy there. We only wish that every child could benefit from the same experience!!" - W.K. Parent of former Daycare Mrs. Lera worked at.

"Our experience with Mrs. Lera was truly magical, and placing our child in her care is a decision we'll forever cherish. Mrs. Lera's innate ability to create an environment where childhood is celebrated, not just nurtured, stood out to us. Her commitment to allowing kids to be kids, amidst a world that often rushes them to grow up too fast, was evident in the stories our child brought home—of outdoor adventures, nature exploration, and the joy of hands-on activities like baking bread. Mrs. Lera's circle time was particularly enchanting, fostering a strong sense of community among the children. Even after our child moved on, they continue to role-play Mrs. Lera's circle time, a testament to the lasting impact she had. Saying goodbye was bittersweet for us as parents, and we eagerly await the day Mrs. Lera opens her own daycare, confident it will be a place of love, laughter, and enriching experiences. We would entrust Mrs. Lera with our child's care repeatedly, grateful for her dedication to creating a nurturing and joy-filled environment that left a positive mark on our child's formative years. Mrs. Lera is not just a caregiver; she's a treasure in the hearts of the children and families she touches." - K.L. Parent of former Daycare Mrs. Lera worked at.

More testimonials you can read on our website.

Contact Information:

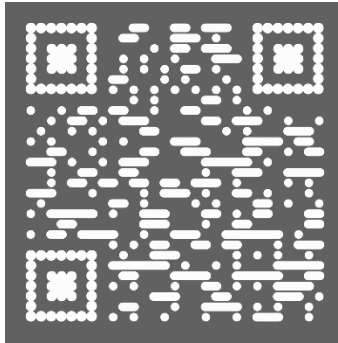
Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

You can use the form on our website or email us directly.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to hearing from you.

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For more information, please visit our website or use QR code below:





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