



WONDERBLOOM NATURE PLAYSCHOOL

PARENT HANDBOOK

Summer 2025

(Updated February 2025)



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Tax Information

Wonderbloom

501(c)(3)

EIN/Tax ID: 83-2514288



Philosophy

Wonderbloom Nature Playschool was the first nature-based preschool in Salt Lake City! We are inspired by the philosophy of European "Forest Schools," where children spend most of the school day learning outdoors. At Wonderbloom we know that nature-based learning has many benefits! Some of which include: supporting children's mental health, increased awareness, strong problem-solving skills, creative imaginations, increased positive social skills, and we have seen children begin to develop beautiful relationships with the natural world. We take a holistic approach to learning by focusing on children's minds (developmentally-appropriate school readiness), bodies (yoga and nutrition), and souls (relationships with each other and nature). We utilize an Emergent Approach as well as seasonal changes when creating our curriculum and lesson plans. Emergent Curriculum is inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach to learning. At Wonderbloom the educators follow the children's interests, consider their own experiences, and employ inquiry as the foundation for creating and fostering meaningful learning experiences for the children.

History

Several years ago, Dr. Stone learned about the nature-schooling movement when reading about educational styles that had the most positive benefits for children. She became convinced that there was a better way to promote development and learning in young children, and it included rethinking the traditional indoor classroom setting. Stone set out to enroll her own children in a nature preschool, but was shocked to find there were no year-round, nature-focused programs in Salt Lake City. This commitment to her children's education compelled Stone to find a way to bring this ground-breaking methodology to Salt Lake City. Combining her PhD in early childhood development with her 16 years of preschool teaching experience, Dr. Stone established a high-quality early childhood program. She opened Wee Humans in 2017 and converted it to an expanded nonprofit called Wonderbloom in Fall of 2018.

Our Vision

Learning in nature nourishes the child's mind, body, and soul.

Our Mission

Increasing child access, educator implementation, research enrichment, and advocacy engagement for nature based early childhood education.



Meet The Wonderbloom Team

Administrative Team



Dr. Sarah Stone – Founder and Executive Director

Sarah, the founder and Executive Director of Wonderbloom, has a PhD in early childhood development and has spent over 19 years teaching and supervising early childhood programs including Parents As Teachers and Early Head Start. In addition, Sarah has trained in nature-based education approaches. She has incorporated her extensive knowledge of early childhood development with principles of nature-based learning to create the underlying philosophy and structure of Wonderbloom.



Lianna Lopez - Center Director

Lianna is originally from Northern California. She moved to Utah in 2015, and earned a master's degree in Education with a focus in Montessori Early Education from Westminster College. Lianna has over 16 years of experience working in the classroom with young children and families. One of her biggest passions is being a bird nerd! Lianna loves birds so much that she currently serves on the Great Salt Lake Audubon Board of Directors and is their Education Chair. Lianna also enjoys cooking, swimming, playing pinball, crocheting, hiking, & golf.



Lizzy Bradford - Assistant Director

Lizzy grew up in Salt Lake City. She has a Bachelor's degree from Utah State University in Family Life Studies. Lizzy has over 8 years of experience working with children as young as infants all the way up through school age. She is excited to be a part of the Wonderbloom team, and fully embrace nature based learning. In her spare time, Lizzy enjoys gardening, restoring old items, hiking, and spending time in the sunshine. Lizzy joined the Wonderbloom Team in June 2023.

Our Teaching Teams

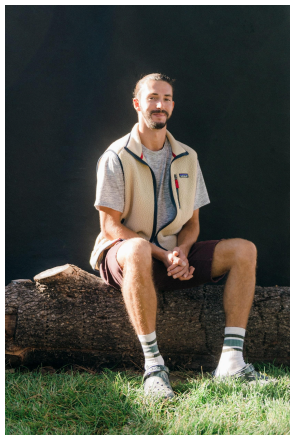


The Raccoon Team (Full Day)



Mariah Leick - Early Childhood Educator

Mariah grew up in the beautiful Southwest desert and moved to Utah after graduating from Arizona State University in 2018. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Global Studies and Environmental Sustainability. In May 2023, Mariah earned a CDA Credential. Her previous experiences include providing gardening education to refugee community members, teaching toddlers, and working as a nanny. Mariah enjoys exploring the foothills with her dog, experimenting in her garden and kitchen, and learning new languages. Mariah joined the Wonderbloom Team in May 2022.



Johannes Suppan - Early Childhood Educator

Johannes grew up in Vermont, where he spent his younger years competing as a sprint tri-athlete. In 2013, he qualified for Worlds in Auckland New Zealand & represented the USA Sprint Triathlon Team. He graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelors of Science, majoring in Environmental Studies with a focus in Environmental Design & Outdoor Education. Johannes experience includes being an early childhood educator for the past four years, snowboard instructor & a camp counselor. He had the opportunity to work at Shelburne Farms in Vermont, which further instilled a strong passion for outdoor education. Johannes has lived in Utah for 7 years now with his partner & dog Magnolia. In his free time he enjoys hiking, swimming, camping, birding, gardening, using a variety of art mediums, and paddle boarding, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and cooking meals with vegetables grown from his garden. Johannes joined the Wonderbloom Team in June 2024.



Lilian Mutoni - Classroom Assistant

Lillian is from the vibrant city of Bujumbura in Burundi. She has recently relocated to Utah, accompanied by my amazing mother, & is seeking new opportunities and experiences. While living in Uganda, her passion for nurturing young minds led her to work at a nursery school. Lilian's love for childcare extended beyond the classroom as she frequently babysat for neighbors & friends. She finds immense joy and fulfillment when working with young children. Lilian's interests include movies, finding stories that resonate & inspire, music, she is an avid cook constantly experimenting with new recipes and flavors, & she cherishes the simple pleasure of going for walks. Lilian is excited about the opportunity to join the team at Wonderbloom. She looks forward to bringing her skills, enthusiasm, compassionate spirit, as well as growing professionally. Lilian joined the Wonderbloom Team in May 2024.

The Squirrel Team (AM & PM Half Day Class)



Genevieve Smith - Early Childhood Educator

Genevieve is a native Utahn and has recently graduated from Brigham Young University with a BA in Family Studies. She had previously worked as an intern at Wonderbloom during the Fall of 2023. Genevieve loved the people and program so much that she was eager and grateful to come back again as a full timer! Genevieve has always enjoyed babysitting, working with summer camps/programs, and overall spending time with kids (especially her little cousins and nephew). Her other interests include playing tennis, making art, going on walks/doing anything outdoors, and enjoying time with her family and friends.

Genevieve joined the Wonderbloom Team in May 2024.



Sophie Nay - Classroom Assistant

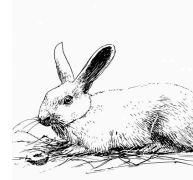
Sophie has lived in Utah her whole life. She has subbed for daycares and after school programs in Utah for the past two years. Working in childcare has been a lifelong dream of Sophie's. She hopes to further her education in the field, providing foundational work for children and growing support for nature-based education. Sophie is deeply passionate about the environment and animals, which led her to spend time volunteering and advocating for animal rights and environmental protections specifically throughout Utah. Sophie loves going on trips to Southern Utah, crocheting, cooking and trying out new coffee spots. She is so excited to be a part of the Wonderbloom community. Sophie joined the Wonderbloom Team in February 2024.



Emily Bateman - Classroom Assistant

Emily grew up in Utah and loves the natural beauty found throughout the state. She is currently going to school to achieve an associates degree in Early Childhood Education and has plans to continue her education in teaching at the University of Utah. Emily loves working with kids and learning with and through them. Education and teaching children is something she is passionate and excited about! Emily loves music and art. She is an active member of a community band where she plays flute. Emily also enjoys reading, especially fantasy! In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family working in their garden or just simply being together. Emily joined the Wonderbloom Team in July 2024

The Rabbit Team (2yr Old Class)



Maria Jesus "Chus" Castañeda Paz - Early Childhood Educator

Maria Jesus, better known as "Chus" is currently in school studying to become an early childhood educator. She has babysat kids for over 10 years on and off. Chus is from a little town called Ushuaia in Argentina, which is the southernmost city in the world! She moved to Utah in 2021 to be an au pair. She is a professional cook and a pastry chef. In her spare time, Chus likes going to the gym, reading books and hanging out with her friends. She loves traveling, seeing new places, and meeting new people. Chus joined the Wonderbloom Team in April 2024.



Midena Narvaez Ventura - Classroom Assistant

Midena is originally from Maracaibo, Venezuela. She moved to Utah over a year ago with her wonderful family: her husband & two beautiful daughters. Back in Venezuela, Midena was a Psychologist with 15 years of experience working in special education. In her free time, she likes to spend time with her family. Since Midena was a teenager, she has enjoyed working with children, because she is able to easily connect with them. Midena can adapt easily to new situations and considers herself to be a resilient person. She is able to navigate difficult situations and loves learning from those situations. Midena is excited to start this new experience and be part of the Wonderbloom family. She is excited to learn & apply her knowledge and experience to this new adventure. Midena joined the Wonderbloom Team in March 2024.



Our Summer Calendar

June - August 2025

WEEK 1 June 9-13 Barnyard Boogie	WEEK 6 July 14-18 Ripples and Reflections
WEEK 2 June 16-20 Feathered Friends <i>*No Camp on June 19 for Juneteenth*</i>	WEEK 7 July 21-25 Pollinator Pursuit <i>*No Camp on July 24 for Pioneer Day*</i>
WEEK 3 June 23-27 Nature's Artists	WEEK 8 July 28-Aug 1 Art in the Garden
WEEK 4 June 30-July 3 Magnificent Mud <i>*No Camp July 4 for Independence Day*</i>	WEEK 9 Aug 4-8 Insect Safari
WEEK 5 July 7-11 Forest Folklore	

May 1, 2025 - June Camp Tuition Due

June 1, 2025 - July Camp Tuition Due

July 1, 2025 - August Camp Tuition Due

Our Daily Schedules

All schedules are tentative & subject to change

Raccoons Class Daily Schedule

Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

8:20 - 9:15 Arrival & Indoor Learning Centers

(Drop off ends at 8:40, please have your child ready in class at 8:40)

9:15-9:20 Clean Up

9:20 - 9:35 Circle Time, Group Activity

9:35-9:40 Wash Hands & Transition to Snack

9:40 - 10:00 Snack & Bathroom Break

10:00 - 11:30 Outdoor Classroom Guided Exploration/ Free Play or Walking Field Trip

11:30-11:40 Clean up and Wash hands

11:40- 12:10 Lunch

12 - 12:30 Dismissal* FRIDAY ONLY

12:10-12:30 Bathroom Break/ Rest Time Transition (Making beds, Books & Coloring)

12:30 - 1:00 Rest Time (30 minutes)

12:30 - 2:30 Nap (Up to 2 Hrs)

1:00-1:30 Indoor Quiet Activities, Bathroom Break & Apply Sunscreen

1:30 - 1:35 Clean Up & Transition to Snack

1:40 - 2:00 Snack (After: Wash or Sanitize Hands)

2:10 - 3:10 Outdoor Classroom Guided Exploration/Free Play or Walking field trip

3:10 - 3:15 Clean Up

3:15 - 3:30 Goodbye Circle & Dismissal

*(*A Late Pick-Up Fee of \$1/minute will be charges for every minute that a child is picked up after 3:35P*



The Squirrel Class Daily Schedule

Full Day: Monday - Thursday 8:20 am -3:30 pm & Friday 8:20 am -12:30 pm

AM Half Class: Monday - Friday 8:20-11:30am

PM Half Class: Monday-Thursday 12:20 pm - 3:30



8:20 - 9:00 Arrival* & Learning Centers Indoors *(*Arrival ends at 8:40, have your child ready in class at 8:40)*

9:00 - 9:05 Clean Up

9:05 - 9:15 Circle Time

9:15 - 9:20 Transition to Snack - Washing Hands

9:20 - 9:50 Snack, Bathroom Break, Books & Transition Outdoors

9:50 - 11:10 Outdoor Classroom Free Play/Guided Exploration or Walking Field Trip

11:10 - 11:15 Clean up & Transition to Goodbye Circle

11:15 - 11:30 Goodbye Circle Dismissal* **(AM Half Day Student's Only)**

*(*A Late Pick-Up Fee of \$1/minute will be charges for every minute that a child is picked up after 11:35PM)*

11:35 - 11:45 Wash Hands & Transition to Lunch **(Full Day Students Only)**

11:45 - 12:30 Lunch & Transition to Rabbits Class for Nap/Rest

12:30 - 1:00 Rest Time (30 minutes)

12:30 - 2:30 Nap (up to 2hrs)

(Full Day Students will then join their class once they are awake or done resting)

12 - 12:30 Dismissal* FRIDAY ONLY (FULL DAY STUDENTS)

12:20 - 1:00 Arrival* & Learning Centers Indoors *(* Arrival ends at 12:40, have your child ready in class at 12:40)*

1:00 - 1:05 Clean Up

1:05 - 1:15 Circle Time

1:15 - 1:20 Transition to Snack

1:20 - 1:45 Snack, Bathroom Break, & Transition Free Play

1:45 - 3:10 Outdoor Classroom Guided Exploration/Free Play or Walking Field Trip

3:10 - 3:15 Clean Up & Collect Items for Dismissal

3:15 - 3:30 Goodbye Circle & Dismissal*

*(*A Late Pick-Up Fee of \$1/minute will be charges for every minute that a child is picked up after 3:35PM)*

Rabbit Class Daily Schedule

Full Day Class: Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday 8:30 AM -12:30 PM

AM Half Day Class: Monday - Friday 8:20-11:30am

8:20 - 8:40 Arrival & Learning Centers Indoors

(Drop off ends at 8:40, please have your child ready in class at 8:40)

8:40 - 8:45 Clean Up

8:45 - 8:55 Circle Time, Group Activity

8:55 - 9:10 Bathroom, Transition to outdoors

9:10 - 10:10 Outdoor Classroom Guided Exploration & Free Play

10:15 - 10:35 Transition Indoors: Potty Break, & Transition to Snack

10:35 - 10:50 Snack, Wash hands

10:45 - 11:15 Indoor Learning Centers

11:15-11:20 Clean up

11:20 - 11:30 Story Time & Dismissal* (AM Half Day Campers Only)

*(*A Late Pick-Up Fee of \$1/minute will be charges for every minute that a child is picked up after 11:35PM)*

11:30-12:10 Lunch

12 - 12:30 Dismissal* FRIDAY ONLY (Full Day Campers ONLY)

12:15-12:30 Potty Break/ Rest Time Transition (Books)

12:30 -1:00 Rest Time (30 Minutes)

12:30-2:30 Nap (Up to 2 hrs)

1:00-1:30 Indoor Quiet Activities & Potty Break

1:30-2:15 Indoor Learning Centers

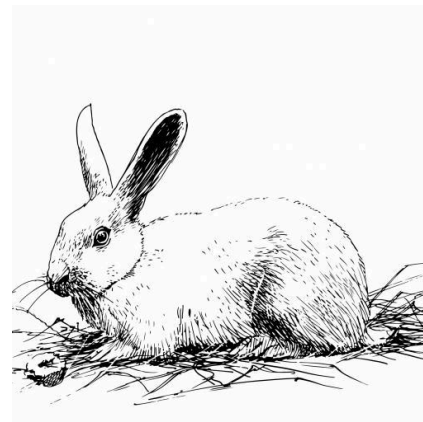
2:15 - 2:30 Clean up, Transition to PM Snack, Potty Break & Apply Sunscreen

2:30 - 3:10 Outdoor Classroom Free Play

3:10- 3:15 Clean Up

3:15 - 3:30 Goodbye Circle & Dismissal*, Pick up outside

*(*A Late Pick-Up Fee of \$1/minute will be charges for every minute that a child is picked up after 3:35PM)*





Important Information

Admissions & Payments

Waitlist & Future Enrollments

Current families will be given priority enrollment for Summer 2025. If a class is full, families will be put on the waitlist in the order their application/enrollment forms were received.

Siblings

Families wishing to enroll other siblings whose age qualifies, will be given second priority after current students' priority enrollment.

Important Documents

Access to important documents such as the School Calendar, Enrollment Forms, 2025-2026 Parent Handbook, Wonderbloom's Health and Safety Plan, and School Directory can be found in the DOCUMENTS tab in Brightwheel. The 2025-2026 Parent Handbook and Academic Year Calendar can also be found on our website.

Payments

Auto Pay is required through Brightwheel, our school app. Tuition for camps is due one month before camps on the 1st day of the month. Your Brightwheel account will be billed seven days before payment is due. For example, If you are enrolled in any June camps, tuition is due on May 1. **TUITION PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**

You may withdraw your student at any time, but you will not be refunded for payment already submitted. For example, if you pay in May for June camps, but then withdraw on May 30, you will not receive a refund. Tuition payments have limited transferability. You may transfer your payment to another week in the Summer with the following limitations. 1) You must notify us at least 7 days prior to the week that particular summer camp begins, 2) Transfers will be based on space availability, 3) Pay \$25 change fee. For example, if you paid for the week of June 5, but want to change to June 12. You will need to notify us by May 29 and pay an additional \$25.



Subsidies & Scholarships

Wonderbloom strongly believes nature-based learning should be accessible to all families. Since Wonderbloom is a licensed child care facility, we are an “approved provider” through the state and qualify for families seeking tuition full or partial child care subsidies. If your family is needing assistance or financial support to pay for the cost of child care, please visit the Department of Workforce Services’s (DWS) [Employment Services page](#) for more information about qualifying and applying for a child care subsidy. We ask that you apply for a subsidy prior to applying for a scholarship.

In the event that your family is denied a subsidy through the DWS, Wonderbloom does offer tuition scholarships to families who still need assistance. Anyone can apply. The application can be found on our website and the Admin Team determines who to award scholarships to based on a predetermined point system. If a family chooses to apply for a scholarship, they will be required to sign a scholarship agreement. If the family fails to abide by this agreement, they will be given a written warning with a 14-day grace period. If no improvement is made, they will receive a 14-day written notice for termination of scholarship.

For more information about child care subsidies and scholarships, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the Admin Team for questions and support.

Arrival and Pick-Up Procedures

Children may be dropped off by anyone, but must be picked up by an authorized individual as indicated on the child’s enrollment form and in the Brightwheel App. It is mandatory that you sign your child in/out of the program via the Brightwheel app. Our staff assumes responsibility for your child once they are signed into the program. Each caregiver or approved pick up needs their own Brightwheel account.

Arrival Procedures

- A. Come to the Southwest doors; check in begins at 8:20 AM (AM and FULL DAY Students) or 12:20 PM (PM students). Scan the Brightwheel QR code or enter your check-in code on the front desk’s tablet to check your child in.
- B. Caregivers must take their child(ren) to the bathroom and have the child(ren) wash their hands first thing upon arrival regardless of if they have used the bathroom or not.
- C. Caregivers then need to prepare their child to venture outside. This includes getting them dressed in weather appropriate clothing, sunscreen, snow clothes, boots, sunhats, or etc.
- D. **Check- in will cease promptly at 8:40AM and 12:40PM, respectively.** No check-in after these times unless you have been approved in advance by the admin. See below.

Pick-Up Procedures



- A. Line up at the Outdoor Classroom gate. Individuals may be required to show photo identification before the school releases a child.
- B. Check out for the *Squirrel and Rabbit Classes (AM Half Day)* begins at 11:15AM and ends at 11:30 AM.
- C. Check out for the *Raccoon, Squirrel, and Rabbits Classes (Full Day)* on Monday through Thursday begins at 3:15 PM and ends at 3:30 PM. On Fridays check out begins at 12:00 PM and ends at 12:30 PM
- D. Check out for the *Squirrel Class (PM Half Day)* begins at 3:15 PM and ends at 3:30 PM.
- E. Staff will bring your child(ren) to the gate. Scan the QR Brightwheel code to check your child(ren) out.
- F. Late pick-up fees of \$1/minute will be charged for any child who is picked up after 11:35 AM or 3:35PM. Late fees will be calculated and charged at the end of each month.

Late Arrival & Late Pick-up

Arrival will end promptly at 8:40 AM and 12:40 PM. If you contact the Director via Brightwheel in advance, we can make exceptions for extenuating circumstances (ie: a doctor's appointment or car trouble). Arriving late is very disruptive to your child's class since at that time they are typically cleaning up and preparing for Circle Time. Additionally, when you are late your child might miss Circle Time completely and miss out on hearing the plan for the day. Being late also makes goodbyes harder as you have less time to help your child get settled leaving your child feeling more upset.

If you do happen to arrive late after notifying the Director, you should expect to not be let into the school immediately. Since the teachers are busy caring for the whole group after these times, they may not be able to open the door and let you in without going out of ratio. Similarly, the Admin team is busy with their roles and responsibilities and might not be able to let you in immediately.

Lastly, when you are late, your child will be marked absent and will not be counted when the Assistants are preparing snacks. So, please plan accordingly, and arrive at school on time. **If your tardiness becomes a pattern (more than three times per month) we will charge you \$1/minute that you arrive late. Late Drop Off Fees will be calculated and charged at the end of each month.**

Pick-Up is from 11:15-11:30 AM for Squirrels and Rabbits AM classes, and 3:15 to 3:30 PM for Squirrels, Rabbits, and Raccoons full day classes. On Fridays, the Squirrel, Rabbit, and Raccoon full day classes can be picked up from 12:00-12:30 PM. When you are late for pick-up, the staff become anxious, because they have other duties to attend to and need to prepare for other arriving children, or to close the school at the end of the day. Additionally, if



you are late, your child(ren) may feel worried and anxious as well. **Late pick-up will result in a \$1.00 per minute fee.**

In the event that a child has not been picked up 10 minutes after the end of class, we will call you. If we are unsuccessful, we will call your child's emergency contacts. If after 30 minutes, no one is able to pick up your child, and we have been unable to reach you, we will call local law enforcement to have your child picked up. If applicable, while waiting for law enforcement to arrive your child may join another class, and you will be charged for the time your child spends with that class in addition to a \$1/minute late pick-up fee. In the event a parent or caregiver is involved in an emergency, all fees will be waived. However, we will still call law enforcement and have them pick up your child if no other emergency contacts can be reached or are unable to pick up your child.

Authorization to Release Child

We will only release your child(ren) to individuals listed as Parents or "Authorized Pick-ups" on the Brightwheel App. If we are unfamiliar with an individual, we will ask for a picture identification and cross reference with the child's list of Authorized Pick-ups. **We will NOT release a child to anyone without written permission - or verbal permission unless in the case of an emergency.** To verify your identity over the phone, staff will call your number listed on Brightwheel.

Legal Custody

Wonderbloom cannot refuse to release a child(ren) to the child(ren)'s parent or legal guardian who has or shares legal custody of the child(ren). Unless a court or valid written separation agreement states otherwise. If you are experiencing custody difficulties, we strongly urge you to keep Wonderbloom's Director fully advised of circumstances that affect your child and their drop off and pick-up routines.

Transitional Objects

We know that school can be a worrisome place for children if they are not used to the environment without their parent/guardian present. It is normal for children at this age to attach to a special item (blanket, stuffed toy – also known as a transitional object). Your child's transitional object is welcome at school, but we are not responsible if it gets lost, is damaged, or played with by other children. Your child's transitional object must be small enough to fit in their cubby, but large enough to not be a choking hazard. It must be labeled with their first and last name. Transitional objects will stay in your child's cubby during school hours - so they know where to find it when they need a snuggle.



Communication

At Wonderbloom open, honest and respectful communication is critical for the function and success of our early childhood program.

To communicate with you, we will use the **Brightwheel App** for messaging, newsletters, photos, alerts, announcements and reminders. We will also use email, phone calls and our social media platforms to share information. Parents are expected to communicate directly with their child(ren)'s teachers and the Admin Team regarding any questions or concerns about their child(ren), or the school. Parents must have a working email address, phone number, and create their own Brightwheel app profiles. Parent(s) and Guardian(s) may not share a Brightwheel profile for safety and licensing reasons; we need each authorized individual to have their own Brightwheel profile.

Sharing information is so important. However, sometimes it can be challenging to find time to have meaningful conversations. If you have a concern, or want to share special insight that would help us with your child(ren), please share that information directly with your child's teacher via the Brightwheel Messaging feature or send an email. **Please don't attempt to have these conversations during drop-off or pick-up. Teachers will not be able to devote adequate attention to you during these busy transition times.** We would appreciate it if you work with your child(ren)'s teachers or the Admin Team to schedule a time to meet or speak on the phone.

In an effort to create healthy professional boundaries, and prevent burnout our staff will not respond to any Brightwheel messages, phone calls or emails before 8AM or after 4PM Monday through Friday, unless you have made a prior arrangement with an educator or administrator. In the event of an emergency or school closure, we will communicate as soon as possible, and will be available until the situation is resolved.

Confidentiality

All records provided regarding your child and family are confidential. We also ask that you respect this confidentiality by not asking staff to discuss your child(ren) or other children outside of Wonderbloom. The staff understand the importance of this policy and feel uncomfortable when asked to discuss confidential issues concerning children in the program. We encourage you to bring up any issues about other children and/or any center issues with the Director.

Exceptions to the confidentiality rule are emergency personnel or Utah Child Care Licensing.



Communications about Your Child's Behavior

The word 'discipline' comes from the latin word "diciplina" which means instruction or teaching. Positive guidance is rooted in teaching appropriate behaviors to children and helping them understand the consequences of their actions. In alignment with nature-based learning, we teach children about the consequences of their actions as well as the actions of others. We also help children learn about empathy for themselves, their peers, & their community. We help children communicate all emotions, and use redirection when children are misbehaving or having a problem. Conflict resolution is a common strategy that we teach and use on a daily basis. However, if a child is harming themselves or other children, we will immediately remove the child from the situation. In order to keep a child from hurting themselves or others, we may need to use physical interventions, such as momentarily restraining a child. In the event that your child has a challenging day, we will inform you either verbally, though Brightwheel or email.

Behavior Concerns

If a child's teacher notices a pattern of behaviors, which is outside of the norm of development, they will alert the parents about the behaviors and begin to make observations. These observations will cover what the behavior is, when it is happening, what triggered it, and how long it took to calm down and return to the group. Teachers will take these notes over the course of a week then meet with the parent to discuss next steps or if outside intervention is needed.

Aggressive Behavior Policy

At Wonderbloom we strive for an inclusive, learning environment for all children. There are times when children hit, bite, or throw things because they have a lot of strong emotions and might not know how else to express it. We understand that children are learning boundaries in a group care setting, and we regularly model appropriate behavior and redirect these misguided behaviors. There may be times that a child is aggressive toward staff or other children that appears to be outside the norm of development. In order to proactively address these instances and to keep others safe, we will take the following steps:

1. The first instance of an overtly aggressive behavior (causing an injury with a mark on themselves or others, destroying property, or an uncontrolled verbal attack), we will alert the parent in writing.
2. After the second instance, we will alert the parent in writing and schedule a parent/teacher conference where we will create an action plan.
3. After the third incident, we will alert the parent in writing, schedule a parent teacher conference and provide referrals for outside services. The child will be placed on



temporary leave. The parent has 30 days to contact resources, schedule appointments and follow up with Wonderbloom. We will hold your child's spot, and you will not be charged tuition during this 30 day period. After 30 days or after resources have provided feedback (whichever is sooner), we will hold a parent teacher conference to decide next steps. We may choose to enact a new action plan, which may include an aid for the child. Conversely, we may decide it is best for the child to seek care elsewhere.

4. After implementing the action plan from the resource/referral service, if there are three (3) more instances of aggressive behavior, we reserve the right to terminate care for your child. We will not refund nor prorate the month's tuition at the time care is terminated.

Grievance and Dismissal

The Wonderbloom administration and staff are committed to maintaining an open door, open-forum approach to problem solving and conflict resolution. If a family has a concern regarding the behavior of a teacher, the concern should be discussed with the Director. If a family has a concern regarding the behavior of the Director, they should speak directly to the Executive Director. If they feel their concerns still have not adequately been addressed, they should present their grievance in writing to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will respond in writing to the parents and schedule a meeting, if necessary. If a family has a concern regarding the behavior of the Executive Director, they should contact the Wonderbloom Board of Directors. Contact information for all parties is located on page 2.

If there is a family or child that is a concern to the program, we will do our best to discuss and solve concerns with the family through phone calls, emails, or in-person meetings. If, at any time, in the opinion of the Director, continued enrollment of a child in the program is deemed detrimental to the child's health, progress, or to other children's health or progress, or for any other reason in the discretion of the director, he/she may be dismissed from the program, with a refund according to the refund policy.

Diversity & Inclusion

We welcome every opportunity to expand children's view of the world as a place rich with many cultures, races, religions and customs. Wonderbloom Nature Playschool is open to all families, regardless of ethnicity, religion, ability, and sexual orientation. We will work with families to provide an inclusive preschool environment for all children. Diversity extends to the family structure as well, and we are committed to the philosophy of treating all family situations equally and without bias. Though we partner with and are sponsored by the Cottonwood Presbyterian Church, our curriculum is non-denominational. Nathan Sautter, the pastor of



Cottonwood Presbyterian Church may be invited occasionally to discuss character values (ie: kindness) in a non-denominational way. Religious holidays are not celebrated specifically, but we may celebrate the spirit and intention of the holiday (ie: during Christmas time we will celebrate generosity). We encourage you to share your family's traditions with our children and staff so that we all may expand our hearts and experiences.

Holidays

Holidays are a joyous time for celebration. Rather than celebrating the traditional American holidays (4th of July, Pioneer Day, ect), we will focus on the seasons and celebrate the changes we see in nature. We respect children's enthusiasm for sharing their thoughts with us about holidays, but we will not explicitly promote any specific holiday.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a wonderful milestone for children and we will find a special time either on or around your child's birthday to celebrate them as an individual. If you want to bring something to give to the class, please consider a hand-drawn picture or craft, rather than food or treats.

Special Needs

Some children have special needs that require unique adaptation or attention by staff and teachers. We welcome children of all abilities, backgrounds, and medical situations. There is accessible parking, doors, and bathrooms throughout the school for all children to access. If your child has special needs or circumstances, please consult with the Director in order to create an Individualized Care Plan. If the care your child warrants regular, one-on-one help from an adult, the parent will be asked to pay a fee to help cover the cost of additional staff.



Health & Safety

At Wonderbloom, we take your child(ren)'s health and safety very seriously. Below you will find information on our policies regarding: handwashing, clothing to wear, toileting, nutrition, allergies, medications, immunizations and more. Please refer to Wonderbloom's 2025-2026 Health and Safety Plan located on our Main Bulletin Board or under the documents tab on Brightwheel for our detailed plan regarding children's supervision, health, safety, and our emergency procedures.

Handwashing

Handwashing is the most effective way to inhibit the spread of germs. This is why we require your child(ren) to wash or sanitize the children's hands upon arrival at school, when coming in from outside, before and after eating, after use the bathroom, and after coughing, sneezing and/or blowing their nose.

Please help us in teaching your child(ren) the appropriate method of washing hands:

1. Turn on water and wet hands.
2. Turn water off.
3. Get one squirt of soap.
4. Scrub hands, fingernails & wrists for 20-30 seconds. We like to encourage the children to sing the ABCs, count to 30 or sing Happy Birthday twice.
5. Turn water on and rinse all the soap off.
6. Turn water off and dry hands with a paper towel

Extra Clothing & How to Dress Your Child

Wonderbloom is fortunate to have two classrooms: one indoor & one outdoor! As often as possible, your child(ren) will be outdoors. Your child(ren)'s class will go outside all year long - in rain, snow, and sunshine. We **highly recommend** that you check the weather each morning and dress your child(ren) appropriately for the weather. This means dressing your child(ren) in layers, waterproof footwear, sun hats, rash guards, etc. Please dress your child in comfortable clothing that can get dirty, and that they are able to put on independently (zippers, buttons, velco, etc.). Some clothing will need to be left at school. Please refer to the *What to Bring to School* section at the end of this handbook. If you are having trouble finding or affording the appropriate gear for your child, please contact the Admin Team for assistance.



Diapers & Potty Training

We accept children that are still wearing diapers and are not yet comfortable using the toilet. We understand that children need individualized approaches when learning how to use the toilet. However, using the toilet independently is part of normal early childhood development and will gently encourage children to try using the potty. We will coach your child(ren) on the steps to going potty and wiping. In the event that your child(ren) needs assistance wiping, a teacher will help them. We will then inform you, and ask that you help your child learn this skill at home. If your child cannot yet use the toilet independently we will create a plan with you to help facilitate this. If your child(ren) is still wearing diapers we will ask you to supply diapers and wipes. If your child(ren) is in the process of learning to use the toilet, we may ask you to supply additional sets of clothing in addition to the spare clothes we require you leave at school.

Nutrition

We are acutely aware that during the early years, children's bodies and brains are growing exponentially! We plan nutritious snacks for your child(ren) each day a month in advance. You can find the menu on our Main Bulletin Board. When possible, we use locally-sourced and organic ingredients. We feed the children a variety of tastes and textures. It is important that you prepare your child(ren) each day for the menu. We respect children's preferences and choices, but we encourage them to try new foods. Research shows that children are likely to refuse a food up to 15 times before finally trying it. We will continually keep presenting them with a variety of healthy foods, and we hope you do too!

Allergies & Asthma

When you completed your child(ren)'s enrollment, you were required to notify Wonderbloom of any known allergies or health issues your child(ren) might have. If your child(ren) has an allergy or asthma that requires Wonderbloom to medically intervene, we will have you fill out the [American Academy of Pediatrics Allergy & Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan](#) and have your doctor sign off. We have hard copies located in our office for you to take to your child's doctor. If your child(ren)'s allergy is not severe, but still requires medication, please see the following section.

Medications

Staff may dispense over-the-counter or prescription medications provided by parents for their children. Prescriptions must be current and clearly labeled with the child's name as well as in the original container with the original label from the pharmacy or doctor. Wonderbloom will only administer medicine if parents/guardians complete and sign a [Medication](#)



[Administration Form](#). Please DO NOT leave medication in your child's bag or backpack. Give medication directly to a staff member. We always have blank medication forms in the office.

Illness

We would like to reduce the spread of illness, so please keep your child(ren) home if they are ill. Your child(ren) is welcome back to school if they meet the following criteria for at least 24 hours, have a doctor's note, or have been on medication for at least 24 hours:


- o No green or yellow mucus
- o No fever above 101 degrees without the use of fever-reducing medicine
- o No vomiting
- o No diarrhea
- o No persistent cough that interferes with breathing or regular physical activity
- o No unexplained rashes or sores with accompanying symptoms (fever, cough, congestion, ect)

We reserve the right to send any child home if they are exhibiting any of those symptoms. In addition, even if your child doesn't have these symptoms, but we see that they are not able to participate in the school routines because they are not feeling well, we will send them home. We cannot refund you for days missed when your child is sick.

COVID-19 & Respiratory Viruses Policies & Guidelines


According to the CDC, COVID-19 has been downgraded to an epidemic and is now being categorized as a "[respiratory virus](#)" and child care centers are being informed to treat it as the flu or RSV. Since we work with a very vulnerable population here at Wonderbloom, we plan to work together as a community to be vigilant in keeping COVID-19, the flu & RSV from spreading to staff and children.

Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot




Core prevention strategies


Immunizations




Hygiene




Steps for Cleaner Air




Treatment




Stay Home and Prevent Spread*






Additional prevention strategies


Masks



Distancing





Tests




Layering prevention strategies can be especially helpful when:

- ✓ Respiratory viruses are causing a lot of illness in your community
- ✓ You or those around you have risk factors for severe illness
- ✓ You or those around you were recently exposed, are sick, or are recovering

***Stay home and away from others until, for 24 hours BOTH:**


+


Your symptoms are getting better You are fever-free (without meds)



Then take added precaution for the next 5 days

The Health Department and CDC recommend following the above “**Core Prevention Strategies**” as well as “**Additional Prevention Strategies**” when sick with a respiratory virus or illness. We’ve had a really good track record of not having COVID-19, RSV & the flu spread throughout our school. We attribute that to three things:

- 1) Parents being vigilant at keeping children home if the child or anyone in the house has any COVID-19, RSV or Flu symptoms.
- 2) Quarantining and isolating individuals with COVID-19, RSV or the Flu, or who have been directly exposed.
- 3) Spending most of our time outdoors.

If we have a case where a student, educator, or staff member tests positive or is directly exposed, we will inform families immediately via Brightwheel. If a positive case of COVID-19, RSV or the Flu occurs at school, we are required by the Health Department to report it. If a child or staff member tests positive for a respiratory virus we will follow our illness guidelines and ask that individual to stay home until their symptoms improve, and they are fever free for 24 hrs without fever reducing medicine. We know this can be disruptive for families to suddenly have to keep their child home from school for a few days, but it is best practice in order to stop the spread in our facility. Depending on the type of virus, and age of the individual we may require them to wear a mask for up to 5 days upon returning to school to prevent any future spread.

Please inform the school immediately if anyone in your household has tested positive for any respiratory virus, are experiencing symptoms, or have been seen by a doctor and have a confirmed case. We ask for your patience, understanding and open communication from you,



and we will commit to doing the same in return. If you ever have any questions or concerns about our updated respiratory virus policies and guidelines, please come speak to the Admin Team.

Immunizations

If you choose to immunize your child(ren), they must be up-to-date on their immunizations as required by the Utah Department of Human Services prior to enrollment at Wonderbloom. Wonderbloom has access to the Utah Immunization Database. If we cannot find your child's immunization record on this site, we will require you to provide a copy of their record. After your child(ren) have been admitted, you are responsible for regularly updating the Admin Team of your child's current immunizations. If you opt out of having your child immunized, or are on a delayed schedule, we must have an Exemption Form from the Department of Health which can be completed online at:

<https://immunize.utah.gov/immunization-education-module/>. We will also accept a written plan from your child(ren)'s physician indicating how your child will catch up on immunizations.

Incident/Accident Reports

Every effort is made to keep your child safe. However, it is normal for children to acquire bumps, bruises, and scratches during the day. We will fill out an incident report for each incident, accident, or minor injury that we are aware of. The report is completed by the teacher or staff member that observed the incident, then signed by the parent/guardian upon pick-up. If your child bumps their head, has a visible mark to their face, or the incident seems to warrant immediate communication, the staff will contact parents by phone. This will then be added to the Parent Communication section of the Incident Report.

Serious Injury Reports

If the injury is serious, you will be notified immediately by phone. If, in the opinion of Wonderbloom staff on duty, the injury warrants emergency treatment, an ambulance will be called, and your child will be taken to the nearest medical facility. You will then be notified immediately. You will also receive a written report as soon as possible, especially in the event of an emergency that requires medical attention. Wonderbloom is not responsible for any costs incurred due to any emergency treatment or transport.

Air Quality/ Extreme Weather

We monitor the air quality using a Purple Air sensor which is located on site. We check the air quality at the beginning and middle of each day, or more often if the forecast warrants it. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) can check the air quality by searching for our sensor on Purple Air's website: <https://www2.purpleair.com>. Search using '**Cottonwood Presbyterian Church**'. If you



have trouble with the site or unable to locate or sensor, please contact admin@wonderbloom.org.

For **Green (0-49 AQI)** and **Yellow (50-99 AQI)** air quality, we will remain outdoors as usual.

For **Orange (100-149 AQI)** air quality, we restrict outdoor activity to under one hour.

For **Red (150+)** air quality and above, we will keep children indoors.

We follow [Child Care Weather Watch](#) guidelines to know if the temperature and wind chill are safe for children to play outdoors. We may limit outdoor learning when temperatures are below 30 degrees and above 90 degrees (in the shade). Teachers are trained to pay attention to the weather, and signs from the children to make sure everyone stays safe outdoors. However we need your support in ensuring that your child has all the appropriate & necessary gear to protect them in all types of weather.

For more information about Extreme Weather protocols please reference our 2025-2026 Health & Safety Plan located in the Documents Tab in Brightwheel or the hard copy by our Main Bulletin Board in our entrance.

Access to building

The school is housed in the Cottonwood Presbyterian Church. Much of the building is used for purposes other than the school. Therefore, parents/guardians or visitors are not allowed to access areas other than those used by the school. In return, those working in or visiting the church will not have unaccompanied access to the preschool unless they have passed a Child Care Licensing background check and have been approved by the Admin Team. Doors to the school will remain locked at all times and there are security cameras located in each classroom, the hallways, and outdoors around the premises. If you are needing to access the school outside of the designated Drop-off (8:20-8:40 AM or 12:20-12:40 PM) and Pick-up (11:15-11:30 AM or 3:15-3:30 PM) times, please ring the black doorbell at the school's entrance. We also recommend that you send us a message via the Brightwheel App. Parents who are already in the building may not open the door for others, even if they recognize them.

Background Checks & Name Tags

Anyone with unsupervised access to the children will have a current background check through Child Care Licensing. This includes the Educators & Administration Team. We require that all of the Wonderbloom Board of Directors pass a background check as they are making decisions that impact the children. We have also required church administrators who will be working with the Admin team to also pass a background check.



All visitors and volunteers are required to check-in with the Admin Team before having access to the school and when they leave the premises. All visitors and volunteers are required to wear a name tag identifying who they are. No visitor or volunteer will be allowed to be alone with a child. Law enforcement and emergency personnel are exempt as long as they have the correct identification.

Allegations of Abuse or Neglect

All staff are mandated reporters and must report any signs of suspected child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities. If a staff member witnesses or suspects that a child has been subjected to abuse, neglect, or exploitation, they shall immediately notify Child Protective Services or law enforcement. The Admin Team will gather information from the staff who work with the child and support the staff in reporting the suspected child abuse or neglect. The Director will share the report with the Wonderbloom Board. The staff will cooperate in all investigations of abuse and neglect. Staff may discuss the report with families after the report has been made. If you have any concerns or questions about this process, please contact the Admin Team at admin@wonderbloom.org.

If a staff member is suspected or accused of child abuse, they will immediately be removed from caring for children. The admin team will make a report to Child Protective Services or law enforcement and cooperate fully with any investigation. Our Human Resources department and the Wonderbloom Board will also be notified immediately. If the investigation shows the report is substantiated, the staff member will be terminated and Wonderbloom will cooperate with any charges that are filed. If the investigation shows the report is unsubstantiated, the staff member will return to their regular duties.

Volunteering in the Classroom

We do not require parent volunteering during the Summer. Although, we always appreciate extra hands, so, if you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. We are requiring all in-school volunteers to complete a background check. Coordinate this with the Center Director.

What to Bring to School...

Required Items To Stay at School For The Duration of Your Child(ren)'s Enrollment:

- Diapers & Wipes - if needed
- Squirrel, Raccoon, and Rabbit Classes (Full Day): a crib-sized sheet and light blanket. A small stuffy is optional. These are sent home to be washed each week.
- Medications - if needed. Must have the original label from the pharmacy.
- An extra change of clothes (shorts/pants, shirt, underwear & socks) in a gallon size ziploc bag, with another empty, labeled ziploc bag inside for sending soiled clothes home.

LABEL EVERYTHING WITH YOUR CHILD(REN)'S FIRST AND LAST NAME

Items to Bring to School Each Day:



- **Have your child dressed for the weather.**
 - On warm sunny days, we recommend UV protective clothing such as a long [sleeve sun shirt](#) and [board shorts](#) as they help keep the child safe from the sun and they dry quicker than regular clothes when we play in the mud and water. Wear [shoes](#) that won't slip off (no flip flops) and are waterproof. We also strongly encourage you to bring a sun hat for your child(ren).
 - On rainy days, we recommend a waterproof raincoat with a hood, waterproof pants, [rain boots](#), or a [waterproof suit](#).
 - During cold days, please send your child with warm, waterproof gloves and a warm hat. We recommend extra layers in the morning that we can help your child remove as the day gets warmer. Waterproof snow boots and a waterproof outer layer are required on wet or snowy days.
 - PLEASE Label all gloves, pants, hats, and shoes with your child(ren)'s name.
 - We like to get messy! We regularly play with paint, mud, and other messy materials, so make sure your child is dressed in clothes that can get dirty or stained.
- **A plastic or metal reusable water bottle**
 - Please have your child(ren)'s water bottle filled with water and labeled with your child's first and last name.
 - NO SODA, JUICE, HOT CHOCOLATE, OR OTHER SUGARY BEVERAGES.
 - If your child comes to school with any of the above mentioned restricted items, we will not allow your child to have that drink while in our program and will send it home.



- It is okay to add electrolytes, lemon or cucumber to your child's water bottle. We will not be replenishing these if your child drinks all their water.
- **If Full Day, LUNCH**
 - Your child(ren)'s lunchbox needs to fit in their cubby and not need to be refrigerated or warmed. [Here](#) is a great option with a built-in ice pack.
 - We want to promote your child's independence and ask that you please pack containers/items that your child can open themselves. Hard things for your child to open are yogurt, fruit snacks, and prepackaged crackers.
- **Transitional object, if needed**
 - Must be small enough to fit in your child's cubby, and big enough that it is not a choking hazard. (ie: nothing smaller than a large marshmallow.)
- **Bags or Backpack**
 - Your child is welcome to bring a bag or backpack for their daily items.
 - Bags and backpacks must be small enough to fit in your child's cubby.
 - Do not leave toys, medicine, food, or candy in your child(ren)'s bag or backpack.
 - Do not leave anything that could be a choking hazard, like small pebbles, jewelry, bracelets, or coins.
 - Please label your child(ren)'s bag or backpack with their first and last name.

Lost & Found

In the event that your child(ren)'s items are not labeled, they may end up in the Lost & Found. This is a small labeled basket that is located on the check-in desk. We recommend that you check in with teachers if you notice items that are missing and periodically check the Lost & Found baskets. Any items that are left in Lost & Found for longer than one month will either be donated or thrown away. Sometimes children wear similar gloves, hats, and jackets, so it's possible your items may head home with another child. We are sorry when this happens, but labeling your child's items is the best way to prevent it.