

Parent and Child Program

This program provides social interaction in a nurturing environment for parents, caregivers, and their children from babies and up to 3 years old (if your child turns 4 *after* September 1, they are still 100% welcome).

Under our observant eye, our children will have the space to explore their world and to meet new friends. Parents benefit from meeting new people too! Join conversations around parenting topics and interact with your child in new ways.



We will share about Waldorf education and child development, and about ways that you as a parent can weave the experience at school into your life at home as a parent of young children.

What to Bring: Your indoor slippers/shoes, for you and your child and a vegetable to contribute to our soup. For our outdoor play following 10:30am, please wear appropriate **outdoor gear** for the weather. ** Please note that the Outdoor Monday program will *not* be making soup, please bring your own nut free snack.

Our morning together begins at 9:00am, but you are never late for Parent and Child. Whenever you arrive it is fine. While the children play freely inside, the adults can take time to observe their children in play, enjoy a warm cup of coffee or tea, visit with each other, and perhaps help make our daily soup, or work on a craft project that you bring from home.

Creative Play: Because children absorb the world around them and can easily notice our feelings, we strive to create a mood worthy of imitation. Children's play reflects their environment. When adults carry with them a simple feeling of kind thoughtfulness, this mood will find its way into their play. As much as possible, we try to create a space for children to play uninterrupted and without commentary.

Circle time and Puppet Show: I will lead you and your children in Circle Time, followed by a simple seasonal puppet play. If your child feels hesitant (and that is completely normal), perhaps try observing circle time and the puppet show with interest, and perhaps with your child from a distance. This can help build security.

Consciousness of Gesture: Of importance here, and throughout our morning, is maintaining a mood worthy of imitation. Sweeping, tidying blocks, and tucking dollies in their beds, returning sand toys to the shed, raking leaves, shoveling snow, can all be opportunities for our children to observe us and our mood. You might find that this habit of being present will help to bring a peaceful mood to both you and your child. *Please refrain from using your cell phone during the class if possible.*

Snack Time: Following circle and story, we will enjoy our soup together, all sitting at the table. After a simple blessing, we will eat and visit. After the snack, we will tidy away the dishes, wipe the table and get ready to go outside for our outdoor play.

Daily Outdoor Play: Following snack, we will go for outdoor play in our play yard, rain, or shine (there is a covered deck with benches for parents who want to stay dry). For children, there are shovels and a giant sand pit, rakes, and brooms; hats, splash pants, sturdy footwear are all recommended. Rhythm and repetition are cornerstones of our program. Young children delight in and are nurtured by predictability and familiarity. Knowing what to expect gives them a healthy sense of security.

Settling of Conflicts: While I have found that it is best when each parent remains aware of and takes responsibility for their own child, we are given a golden opportunity in Parent and Child to observe our child – observe how they interact with others, observe how they find a place in their social world, all the while being nearby, ready to minimally intervene if the going gets tough. It is particularly important to remember that our young children are just beginning to learn social grace, and simply cannot yet share, apologize, or say 'please' with any degree of sincerity. They will learn in time, but what we DO is much more important than what we say to them at this age. Simply saying, "Madison is riding the horse right now," works much better than trying to explain the concept of taking turns. Acknowledging our children in this way is not always easy, but it gets easier with practice. Together we can help one another.

Choose a morning that works best for you:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Parent Support: In addition to the program time spent outside, Miss Judi will offer **1:1 office hours** by appointment and send weekly emails containing a brief review of the week together, including interesting information about events going on around campus. They may include helpful articles, podcasts and websites that are supportive in our lives as parents.