

Outdoor Learning Connections
Parent Handbook
2021

VISION STATEMENT

An exceptional, developmentally appropriate (for all ages who are interested), organic learning opportunity grounded in the acceptance of all faiths and walks in life that develops and nurtures the unique potential of each child in partnership with the family and all living beings.

ENROLLMENT POLICY

Organic Learning Connections admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin and faith to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students through this platform. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, or faith in administration of its learning or admissions policies.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

The following are necessary for enrollment:

- Completed registration form and Financial Agreement
- One-time waiver signed

What a typical day will be like:

- First 15/20 minutes: arrival and greeting time
- Child Led activities as well as preplanned as needed
- There will be a low child/teacher ratio with multiple volunteers helping as well so your child will receive the attention they deserve and need
- Some of these activities might include:
 - Shade time under the trees with art and craft activities
 - Nature walk and learning how to peacefully interact with the Herd while seeing them as our equals with respect and love for ALL
 - Mindfulness / Stretching activities while incorporating some educational lessons
 - Water play (you will be notified in advance)
 - Gardening
 - Playing in the “Enchanted Forest”
- Snack and water breaks as needed / Lunch is provided by parents
- Last 15 minutes – close for the day with goodbye rituals

OTHER INFORMATION

This is a very flexible facility, making an effort to be on time for drop off and pick up is essential and at the same time we understand that life happens. If you're going to be late, please let Angela know by texting or calling 281-948-0739. If you feel that you need to stay with your child until they feel comfortable with you leaving, that is completely encouraged. You are also welcome to stay and volunteer as well.

- No child will be allowed to leave with an unauthorized person even if the child knows the person
- Identification will be required such as a driver's license if we don't recognize the person picking up your child

UPDATING INFORMATION

Please notify Angela if changes are made in enrollment information, i.e.: new phone number, new authorization in release, etc.

The Children

ATTIRE

Dressing your child in simple, outdoor appropriate clothing is best. Children are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities during the day and some can be messy. Play clothes are encouraged. **Closed Toe shoes are required (no flip-flops).**

Please also pack a change of clothes for your child labeled with their name. Rain boots are suggested for muddy days; you can also purchase a rain suit for your child as we will have class if light rain is expected (there are many options for rain/mud suits on Amazon).

We will offer a "water play" day, you will be notified in advance and bathing suites / towels will be requested.

SNACK/LUNCH/DRINKS

Please provide your child with a healthy snack, lunch and drink.

We will offer a daily snack but children can also bring their own.

We do not have a facility to heat food.

Please label your child's drink and lunch containers.

Here are some healthy lunch ideas:

- Fruit such as strawberries, blueberries, grapes (please cut up food such as grapes, etc.), apple, melon or oranges
- Vegetables: sliced cucumber, carrots, broccoli, etc.
- Protein: sandwiches, yogurt, cheese (please cut up any food like hotdogs, etc.)

- Water is best for a drink as we will be in the heat and outside (we suggest a thermos type container for water vs plastic bottles)

SUNSCREEN/BUG REPELLANT

Please apply sunscreen and bug repellent before your child arrives. Label any containers you keep in their bag as we can apply as needed.

DIAPERS AND POTTY TIME

If your child is not potty trained, please send diapers in their bags labeled with their name or have their bag clearly labeled so we know which bag belongs to who. Please also provide wipes even if your child is potty trained, we will use them for your child as needed.

There is a restroom and sink at the barn that children can use as needed.

TOYS

Please keep all toys at home or in the car as we have toys that everyone can share as needed.

CHILD BEHAVIOR

Loving guidance and redirection will be given for any and all behavior. There is no right or wrong in behavior at 16 Hands of Love, all misguided behavior is simply looked at as an opportunity to learn and grow. All adults will model the behavior that is desired and lead with heart-centered awareness when a child is having a growing moment.

If there is to be a situation that a parent needs to be aware of, we will communicate that with the parent at that time and strategies will be compassionately discussed.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

16 Hands of Love is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and will be hosting Organic Learning Connections.

We have a backup location that will be used if rain is predicted, you will be notified the night before if this occurs and given the new address/location (this location is 5 minutes from the barn).

No credit will be given for absences, family vacations, or partially attended weeks due to illness or holidays.

If a day is missed due to 16 Hands of Love needing to cancel, a make-up day will be provided.

We are excited to share our space with you and know that this will be an exciting and new adventure for all involved!

With Peace and Love,
The Organic Learning Connections Team