



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WILDBERRY CLASS: New Outdoor Nature-Based Class

### Why Wildberries?

Research shows that spending time outside can increase concentration, observation, problem solving, social skills, and instill a sense of calm. This is the ideal learning environment for young children! The essential life skills of resilience, risk taking, planning, and collaboration are embedded in time spent outdoors.

### Will the Wildberry experience prepare my child for kindergarten?

The Wildberry learning experience is supported by the research and professional development offered through the MN Department of Education's Nature-Based Early Learning Resource that aligns high-quality outdoor curriculum with Minnesota's Early Childhood Indicators of Progress. The natural curiosity built into outdoor learning provides a foundation for Kindergarten preparedness in all domains: social and emotional learning, math skills, literacy and communication skills, scientific inquiry, physical strength and agility, and fine motor skills.

### How much time will the Wildberries spend outside?

As long as your child is dressed appropriately for the day, they will enjoy themselves. We will embrace all weather Minnesota has to offer! With that in mind, the health and safety of our students is our first priority. As long as temperatures do not pose a safety risk we will spend as much as 2-2.5 hours outside each day.

*\*We will give detailed guidance on the best outdoor gear for nature-based learning.*

### What ages can participate? What is the teacher:child ratio?

Our Wildberry class will be a mixed-age class of potty-trained children 3.5-5 years old and will have a ratio of 7:1 with 2 teachers and up to 14 children. This lower staff:child ratio will allow for rich outdoor learning experiences in small groups, as a large group, in partners, and in meaningful one-on-one interactions.

### How can I learn more?

Join us for a [tour and information session on December 11th, 12th or 19th!](#) We will explore the trails and outdoor spaces at Berry Patch West, share more about our vision for this exciting new program, and have time for Q & A. Scan the QR code below to register for the tour.



### REGISTER NOW for a Wildberry Tour

Mon, Dec. 11 | Tues, Dec. 12 | Tues, Dec. 19

11am at Berry Patch West

6200 Colonial Way, Edina, MN