



Nature-Based Approach

2025-2026 School Year • Sep 2-May 15

Acorns to Oaks • Ages 3-5

Hickory Knolls Discovery Center & Natural Area

stcnature.org/preschool

Acorns to Oaks provides a unique nature-based preschool experience that fosters a love for the outdoors. Seasonal inquiry units emphasize hands-on exploration, allowing children to learn about their environment through play and discovery. The focus is on emotional and social development, encouraging teamwork, resilience and creativity. Our teachers foster a love for the environment, teaching the importance of stewardship and connection to the world around us. Enroll today and watch your child thrive as they transform from acorns into mighty oaks!

- Spend the majority of time exploring the outdoors; program will be held in the nature-inspired, indoor classroom during severe weather conditions
- 2:12 teacher/student ratio
- Co-teachers with education/science degrees and/or extensive experience in early childhood settings
- Daily schedule provides predictable routines while allowing opportunities for spontaneity and child-led interests
- Science, math, literacy and gross motor skills included in activities such as discovering insects under logs, finding animal tracks, observing songbirds, measuring tree trunks, weighing rocks and studying flowers and snowflakes
- Cultivate a profound connection to nature to become a lifelong steward of the environment expressing compassion toward plants, animals and the natural world

			RES/ month	RES/ year	NR/ month	NR/ year		
Nature-Based Approach - Acorns to Oaks • HKDC							Sep 2-May 15	
Ages 3-5	MWF	9-11:30am	\$273	\$2,500	\$288	\$2,635		36246
Ages 3-5	MWF	12:15-2:45pm	\$273	\$2,500	\$288	\$2,635		36247
Threes	TuTh	9:15-11:45am	\$200	\$1,850	\$215	\$1,985		36248

For payment options and refund policy, visit: stcnature.org/preschool



Frequently Asked Questions

Acorns to Oaks Nature-Based Approach

Why nature preschool?

A nature preschool program provides young children with a unique opportunity to learn, grow and explore the natural world. By spending time in nature, children develop a love and appreciation for the environment and learn valuable life skills such as problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking. Research shows that spending time in nature can improve cognitive, physical and emotional health.

Will my child go outside every day?

Yes, children spend 25-100% outside every day in all safe weathers and temperatures, including light rain and snow

What should my child bring daily?

A labeled, child-size backpack that is easy to open and close with extra clothing including a shirt, pants, underpants, socks and appropriate weather-related items such as gloves, rain coat, etc. A small, no-spill, reusable filled water bottle and healthy snack.

Class Level Requirements

NbECE: Must be age 3 by Sep 1 and fully toilet trained.

Emergency Info

After registering for Preschool, you will receive an eMail from ePACT, the District's secure emergency network, to create an account and complete medical & emergency contact information. As part of the District's Emergency Response Plan, it is critical that all participant information is accurate and updated on an annual basis.



Emily Shanahan
Supervisor of Nature-Based Approach Preschool
630-513-4393
eshanahan@stcparks.org



In James O. Breen Community Park
3795 Campton Hills Road • St. Charles, Illinois 60175
stcnature.org • 630-513-4399