

# Kindergarten Enrichment Program

## Are you looking for a unique enrichment program for your Kindergartener?

Two years ago, Riverbend launched a weekly program that supports a child’s developing skills through experiences in the natural world. Its’ value and distinctiveness comes from the significant time children spend outdoors in a setting that allows meaningful learning through free play, hands-on activities, exploration, and observation. Guided by an experienced educator and naturalist, children increase their level of confidence, improve their social skills and advance their academic skills.

### Student Highlight: Elliott Bronner

*Elliott learned so much last year during the Riverbend Kindergarten Enrichment, running around outside in nature really sparked a desire to learn in him and taught him so much about how to learn. He is so much more focused and ready to learn now that he is in first grade than I think a traditional classroom kindergarten enrichment program would have made him. He learned how to pay attention to details, ask questions and think for himself. More than that, my son went from being terrified of all animals to having a pet millipede by the end of the year. His whole personality grew and flourished. I would highly recommend the Riverbend Kindergarten enrichment program and would happily speak with any parent with questions or concerns.”- Jill Bronner*



### Our Philosophy



Riverbend works to support the whole child, with opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, socially and academically. The program also fosters a deep connection with nature, and strong ties to their surrounding community in a safe, nurturing and positive environment.

For children, time spent in nature and discovering the world around them has numerous benefits contributing to healthy childhood development. Research shows that children who spend time in nature are healthier, can think more clearly, have an easier time paying attention, and have the ability to cope more effectively with stress. Childhood experiences in nature help stimulate children’s innate curiosity and interest in the world around them, and help them grow intellectually in their desire to better understand the world and their place in it.

### What Makes Kindergarten Enrichment at Riverbend Special?

- Children explore ponds, wade in the stream, and dig in the dirt, discovering tadpoles, salamanders, turtles and insects.
- Our small group size, 5-10 children, allows Miss Kelly to be flexible, adapting and responding to the unique needs of individual children.
- Children learn to love nature and develop a foundation for this simple, life-long joy through:
  - Investigating fox and rabbit tracks through the freshly fallen snow.
  - Building fairy and gnome houses from the materials found in nature, working together creatively to invent a shelter.
  - Observing and recording in their journals the many seasonal changes that take place in nature.



### Curriculum

The curriculum is balanced, seasonally oriented, age appropriate and focused on current best practices in the field of early childhood and environmental education. However, it also leaves



plenty of opportunities to explore the interests of the children and to enjoy the unexpected wonders that nature provides. Before the age of seven, children mostly communicate through play and learn when they are engaged and active. Using Riverbend's 30-acre site as our number one teaching tool, the program will be infused with nature topics and materials. In addition to nature and science, the curriculum also includes:

- Math (patterns, counting, sorting, etc.)
- Art/Music/Drama/Movement
- Literacy (books, storytelling and writing)

### **Program Schedule**

- Tuesdays and Thursdays (***The program has the flexibility to expand to additional days and times if there is enough interest.***)
- Morning Session: 9:00 am – 11:30 pm

**\*\*\* Please note that transportation is not provided for this program.**

### **2015-2016 Tuition**

- Two Days/Week: Members \$1,550 (\$155/month), Non-Members \$1,750 (\$175/month)
  - *Monthly fees are payable over 10 months*

### **For more information and to enroll:**

For more information please contact:

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***See what our past kindergarten children discovered with our blog and facebook photo album!***

