

What is the Baird Creek Little Explorers Program?

The program is designed to connect parents or caregivers and their child with nature in a safe environment within Baird Creek. It is a once-a-week, one-hour program facilitated by a Leader in Tinkergarten Curriculum. The Leader engages Explorers (children) and their Guide (parent or caregiver) in a one-hour lesson including but not limited to, opening circle time, guided play activities (getting dirty, singing, invitation to play ideas, learning of new animals, etc.) The program is designed for Explorers to develop creative mindsets and strategies they can use throughout their lives to invent new things, solve problems, express their ideas and feelings, and to nurture relationships. We'll do it all through enriching, outdoor play!

What ages does the program serve?

The program is designed for children ages 18 months-5 years (please no children over 5). Siblings, younger than that age range, are welcome to attend at no cost. Please be sure caregivers if you are bringing children under 18 months you are still able to participate and engage with your enrolled Explorer.

Can families try a class for free before enrolling in the program?

Families are invited to enroll in a free trial class. This date will be listed on the website.

Are refunds offered?

If a refund is requested BEFORE the season of classes begins and BCPF can fill the spot, families can receive a full refund. Refunds are not granted AFTER the season of classes begins.

Are credits or refunds offered for missed sessions?

Credits and refunds are not offered for classes missed by families.

If a session needs to be canceled vs rescheduled, families are eligible for a refund for those canceled sessions.

What happens in inclement weather?

Decisions about whether it is safe to hold class outdoors are determined by the teacher using local weather guidance and a [weather chart](#). If weather does not allow for class to be held outdoors, the class will move indoors. If the building is not available for use and class cannot be held a reschedule date will be offered. The teacher will update families at least 90 minutes prior to class by email or text message. Whenever possible, the session will be offered at another time the same week.

When you register you will be asked if we can use photos from the Baird Creek Little Explorers Program...

BCPF uses photographs to illustrate learning concepts and promote outdoor play and playful learning on our website or in other materials/media. We will never post a child's name with a picture!!!!

Parents also often choose to share pictures of their kids at play with Baird Creek Little Explorers across social media, as they do with many other kids activities. Those choices are up to the individual parent.

How do teachers foster a safe learning environment during class?

Each Explorer (child) is accompanied by a Guide (parent or caregiver). Leaders support Guides and do all that they reasonably can to provide a learning environment that allows for safe risk-taking.

Leaders bring a First Aid Kit to class, which can be utilized by Guides (attending adults) if needed.

A few, simple rules help to address most situations:

- Explorers (children) can explore on their own as long as they are within reach of their Guide (parent or caregiver) or the Leader.
- If explorers are taking physical risks, The Guide (parent or caregiver) checks in to make sure that they feel sturdy and safe in their risk-taking.
- The Leader and Guides (parent and caregiver) encourage children to engage in outdoor play, but give clear redirection if or when safety and the safety of friends in the class could be compromised. For example, we celebrate that sticks are the #1 toy of all time, but we make sure that our sticks have plenty of space so they do not touch our friends' bodies. Ultimately, over time, we want to help children learn how to learn their limits while still playing in a way that keeps them and their friends out of true harm.
- We encourage children not to put nature treasures in their mouths. If an Explorer is doing so as a natural part of exploring the world, we work with their Guide to try to honor that need in the safest way possible.

This class is led by the Leader to connect Guides (parent or caregiver) and Explorers (children) through play in nature. It is the responsibility of the Guides (parent or caregiver) to monitor their Explorer (child) AT ALL TIMES.