

Summer Themes

Nature-al Learning Summer '08 at Dandelion

Five fun-filled units will expand children's imagination and learning throughout the summer. Exciting projects, experiments and time to explore will provide children with summer memories that will last throughout the year! Each study will include a focused Discovery Walk and plentiful time in outdoor spaces.



June 16—27: Creepy Crawlers

The ants go creeping one by one... What creepy crawlers make their homes in nature?

June 30—July 11: Terrific Textures

Please touch! Explore the many textures just waiting to be discovered in nature.



Summer Themes

July 14—25: Rivers, Streams and Ponds

Water, water, everywhere!

Paint with mud from a river bed. Discover who and what lives in these special places.



A Creek Study guided by Naturalist Marion Bundens will occur on July 14 and 16th.

July 28—August 8: Rocks Rock!

What kinds of rocks are found along a creek bed, on a hillside, along the Discovery Walk trail? Enjoy finding your lucky rock, making rock "pets," and painting rocks.

August 11—22: Wind and Weather

Do you like cloudy days, raining days, or do you care "whether" the weather is clear? Become a weather watcher and be surprised at what you will see.



DANDELION "NATURE-AL" LEARNING SUMMER 2008



*Let's discover nature at
Dandelion this
Summer!*

**Children will experience the
gifts of nature and have
plenty of fun while learning
— nature-ally!**

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Nature-al Learning '08 at Dandelion

Children will take walks through our 16 wooded acres, enjoy wading in our creeks, and make creations from materials found in the natural world around us. Programs will be held in large well-equipped air-conditioned classrooms and spacious outdoor play areas with plenty of time for outside water play. Outdoor events for families will round out the summer activities.



Experiences for Children at Dandelion this Summer Include:

Nature-al Creations

Ms. Angela, our art teacher, will help children explore nature through art activities. Art will be **offered Tuesdays for Rooms 1-3 and Thursdays for Rooms 5-6.**



Musical Moments

Miss Janice will continue to share her musical talents with children **Wednesdays** throughout the summer months.

"Thilly Thursdays" (Wacky Days)

Wacky Days will be on **every Thursday** and will include Hat Day, Inside/Out Day, Mismatch Day, Funny Hair Day, Spectacular Shades, Pajama Jam, 60's Sock Hop and much, much more.

Discovery Walk Days

Classrooms will take guided Discovery Walks down the nature trail **at least 5 times** during the summer

Creek Days

Preschool through school-age will explore the creek areas on-site.

Water Play Days

Children will enjoy refreshing fun during outside water play which will include water tables, squirt bottles, sprinklers, and more. NOTE: Preschool through school-age will have scheduled times to explore our creek area.

Water Days Schedule :

- Mondays-Room 1
- Tuesdays-Room 2
- Wednesdays-Room 3
- Thursdays-Room 5
- Fridays-Preschool (a.m.) and Room 6 (p.m.)



"On-Site Field Trips" for All Ages

- Monday, June 30: A Palm Tree Moon Bounce will provide children with a new way to "commune" with nature – while bouncing in the great out-of-doors.
- Wednesday, July 9: Pony-to-Go Petting Zoo will provide large and small animals for children to enjoy including ferrets, lambs, llamas, alpacas and more.
- Tuesday, July 22: Mom & Me musical performance. This performance is especially designed for young people and reinforces the values that parents work so hard to instill in their children.



School-Age Off-site Field Trips

- Thursday, June 19: School-agers will travel to Fountain Rock Nature Center to enjoy the Amazing Animals show followed by a picnic lunch on-site.
- Wednesday, August 6: A trip to the Franklin Water Park will give school-age children a chance to cool off while enjoying hot summer days.
- July-August: Bi-weekly Trips to the Brunswick Pool. Rooms 5 and 6 will alternate traveling to the Brunswick Pool for special days of fun.

Family Fun

Special Events

Dandelion Keys Night: A special night out for families is planned at the Keys ball park on **Saturday, July 12th, 6 p.m.** game (gates open at 5:00 p.m.). Fireworks and Carousel rides will also be part of the festivities. Watch for sign-ups at front desk. Cost for tickets will be \$6.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child. Registrations and payment will be due by June 30th.

Family Discovery Walks: Families are invited to enjoy self-guided Discovery Walks on Friday evenings from 4–6 p.m. Bottled water will be provided.



Research shows that lack of experiences in nature has contributed to attention deficit, near-sightedness, and obesity in children.