

Prairie People Nature Learning welcomes you and your child(ren) into our Nature based community.

We believe a child learns best through the soles of their feet, the palms of their hands, and the seat of their pants....

- Every child is unique with individual strengths and competencies.
- A child is a child first and they have a right to outdoor play and exploration.
- We work with the Seven Grandfather Teachings (honesty, humility, respect, bravery, wisdom, truth, and love)
- The balanced child is composed of an emotional, social, physical, spiritual, and intellectual self.
- Nature-Deficit Disorder is a real concern regarding the health and wellness of all children.
- No aspect of a child's or adult's identity, be it gender, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, or socio-economic class is ever an acceptable reason for exclusion or teasing.
- Children are experiential learners, and we strive to provide safe risk taking outside.
- Children are competent, capable learners that deserve to be treated with respect.
- Nature is our teacher, grocery store and doctor.
- Healing begins with understanding the land and ecosystems around us because we are nature.

Prairie People Nature Learning is about bringing the child back to nature, back to the home that has been forgotten in a world fixated on digital screens and technology. As parents, most of us can recall a childhood gathering around a campfire telling stories or catching frogs at our favourite pond. Your children will again be able to climb trees, jump in puddles, sculpt with mud and natural clay, count worms, roast an apple over a warm fire or find some shade under a tree to weave a bracelet to give to a friend.

All our programs cover the seven areas of the common curriculum. These include fine/gross motor skills, cognitive development, social/math/science, creative art, music/movement, and spiritual development. These are all occurring in spontaneous ways where the children's inquiry and curiosity take the lead. The benefits of land-based nature exploration are priceless, and the learning is endless; greater respect for others and Mother Earth, connection with our own inner nature, more confidence in oneself, and especially the growth of heart!

Sincerely,

Andrew Morosini Level 3 ECE & Forest School Practitioner

Prairie People Nature Learning

## Hours of Operation:

**Sprouts Preschool** runs Fall/Spring/Summer. Monday/Wednesday/Friday. 9am to 12pm

**Wildergarten** runs all year long. 4 days a week (M,T,T,F). 9:00am to 3:30pm

**YEW Program** runs all year long. Tuesday/Thursday. 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

**Prairie Rangers** runs all year long. Tuesday/Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

**CLOSED: Statutory holidays, Christmas vacation**

## Admission Policy:

- Ages 2 to 3 - Sprouts Preschool Program\*, ratio of 1:5
- Ages 4 to 6 - Wildergarten Program\*, ratio of 1:7
- Ages 6 to 10 - Young Earth Warriors (YEW) Program\*, ratio of 1:8
- Ages 10+ - Prairie Rangers Program\*, ratio of 1:8
- Ages 6 to 12 - Fun in the Forest Program, ratio of 1:10
- Guardian/parent attendance at "Parents Nights" is requested\*
- The **emergency & child information card** and **waiver forms** must be completed and on file.
- Fees must be paid in full by the 25th of the previous month (IE: Jan 25th for Feb 1st program start date).
- Must be toilet-trained (Sprouts exception)

## Payment of Fees

Payments will be accepted on **the 25th day of the month previous to the program's start date** and can be paid by e-transfer to ppnl.saskatoon@gmail.com upon receipt of invoice. ***We do not accept CASH unless prearranged.***

Volunteer hours from a parent can reduce costs by **10%**. Please inquire.

Families with 2 or more children registered in our programs receive **10% off**.

Failure to provide full payment by **the 1st of the month** will result in **refusal of service**.

## Program Fees

**Sprouts**: 2 Half-Days weekly - \$290/mth, 1 Half-Day weekly - \$190/mth, Half-Day Drop in - \$50

**Wildergarten**: 4 Days weekly - \$400/mth, 3 Days weekly - \$350/mth, 2 Days weekly - \$300/mth,  
1 Day weekly - \$200/mth, Drop in- \$60

**Young Earth Warriors**: 2 Days weekly - \$290/mth, 1 Day weekly - \$190/mth, Drop in - \$60

**Prairie Rangers**: 2 Days weekly - \$280/mth, 1 Day weekly - \$190/mth, Drop in - \$60

***(Please contact us if your fees become a barrier to your child's learning. We will be happy to work with you.)***

### **Late pick-up**

If, for any reason, you cannot pick your child up at the designated time, we ask that you call the cell phone numbers provided. Your child is expecting you at a certain time and may become anxious or worried if we cannot tell them why you are late. Overtime rates will then go into effect and the Parent/Guardian will be billed \$25.00 for each 15 minutes after the scheduled pick-up time.

### **Release of Child:**

Prairie People Nature Learning requires written authorization on file for the pickup of each child by anyone other than the legal guardian/parent. If for any reason, the person that is picking up the child does not have written authorization, the parent will need to contact PPNL by phone notifying the educator of this change. The individual will need to provide a provincial ID in this instance. The child will only be released to authorized responsible persons over the age of 18, in good physical and emotional health. Please report any changes in address, phone number, or employment to PPNL so records can be kept up to date. In the event of an emergency, we would still be able to contact you or another family member.

### **Suspicion of Abuse and/or Neglect**

If the parent/guardian arrives to pick up the child, and he/she appears to the instructor to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, extreme stress, or physical illness, the instructor will have the option of contacting the proper family members or authorities to ensure the child's safety. This also applies to anyone the parent/guardian has authorized to pick up the child in his/her place.

### **Lunch and Snacks**

Parents are to provide their child's snacks and lunch for the day. Please provide enough food for your child for the full time he/she is in attendance. You know better than anyone else what amount your child will consume. During the YEW program, your child will have a snack in the morning, lunch, and a snack in the afternoon. Sprouts preschool will have one snack time. Good nutrition is something we learn about and reinforce so please **do not send gum, candy, pop, chocolate bars, juice etc.** From time to time, we have children in attendance who have severe allergies. In these cases where the result can be death, we will request that these food items not be brought with your child. You will be notified of allergens via email when this occurs in your child's group.

All packaging and compostable materials will need to be packed out of every program. Please note that fresh food (fruit/veg) will freeze in the winter months and often certain items (single serve yogurt) make for a very messy lunch bag.. We are more than happy to assist with lunch and snack ideas that work well with our outdoor classroom environments. Just ask!

### **Clothing**

Children should always come dressed in comfortable play clothes, appropriate for the weather. If you need help choosing clothing for the weather, we have included a “Clothing for all seasons” checklist. Life can get messy, so we ask you to please pack a full change of clothing for your children for the day.

### **Toys and Other Items**

We provide a variety of hands-on experiences and equipment which makes it unnecessary for you to let your child bring toys from home. This impedes a child’s learning throughout the day. As backpack space is at a premium, choose carefully! Please utilize the space in your child’s backpack for extra clothing, tissues, food, water, and a journal/pencil.

### **Celebrations**

We do not make special days for birthdays or holidays. These are each family’s unique celebrations. We live in a country where many celebrate different holidays (Halloween, Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Valentines Day, etc.), we will not presume that everyone should or will do the same. It would be unfair to celebrate one holiday and not the other. So, you may be asking what we celebrate? We will create our own parties, fests, feasts, and solstice celebrations and invite you! Most importantly we will be celebrating every day that we get to explore, laugh, love, and breathe.

### **Wellness Policy**

Due to the physical nature of this program, Prairie People Nature Learning is asking parents to PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME if they are feeling under the weather. This means fevers, coughs, yellow/green discharge from their nose, vomiting, diarrhea, flu’s, colds, etc. The program is always on the move in all types of weather and so are the children. A healthy child is a safe child.

Illness can happen to Educators too and we like to stay healthy! Please stay home and rest until fully recovered. We will do the same for you when we are ill.

### **Discipline**

We encourage the children to discuss their feelings/problems and try to solve them by themselves using words. We have as few “rules” as possible; in fact, we only have three and they all have to do with respect. If we **respect ourselves, others, and our environment**, then everything should be covered. We give the children many opportunities for choice and to give voice to their feelings. We stress safety, consideration for others, and logical consequences for their actions. We work at reinforcing positive, appropriate behaviour and the Seven Grandfather Teachings. If a child is found breaking one of our three “rules”, they will be assisted in being redirected to another activity until they make better choices. It will be a decision they will make on their own. This helps the child recognize their own responsibility in making change in their own life.

## **Communication**

Out of consideration for the children, we ask that you let us know when unusual things happen in your child's life. That way we can begin to understand and sometimes help with his/her feelings or actions. We try not to talk about your child in front of him/her unless it's positive. Please feel free to contact us by email or by phone (appointment only) if there are any concerns or worries and we can try to work them out together.

## **FIELD TRIPS (special locations)**

There are many kinds of field trips that educators, children, and parents participate in. We schedule in special overnight survival camps, special skill programs for YEW/PR (industrial arts, fishing, archery) and day programs at certain locations. There are many enriching benefits to these programs including visitor educators/musicians, exploring a new forest site, specialty skill building, and community building through combining all age groups together.

All announcements of these types of trips will be made in advance through your Signal Group chat page.

### **Large Group Field Trip:**

All parents/guardians will be invited 2 weeks in advance of the planned field trip allowing time for families to RSVP if they are going to be in attendance. This ensures that Educators can be scheduled for the special event. *Trips will be cancelled with 7 days notice due to low enrollment.* Activities are planned for all children to attend so schedules may change somewhat. Some examples include trips to Ancient Spirals, Camp Wolf Willow, Pike Lake.

Participating children must have a completed waiver form and/or an emergency card on file.

### **Small Group Outing:**

This is a less formal activity, but the parents are still invited to "tag along" with their child. The outing and its destination and times of arrival/departure will be discussed with the parents in advance. We will only go ahead with parental approval and signed paperwork. Some examples include trips to the north swale and to local swimming pools/splash parks.

**Welcome to the Prairie People community!**