



LITTLE EXPLORER

2 HOUR GUIDED PLAY SESSION
BY MY EVENT NANNY



MY
EVENT
NANNY

Est. 2025

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WELCOME WAYFARERS!

In the **Little Explorers** lesson, children will embark on a hands-on journey that blends creativity, movement, and real-world problem-solving. The session begins with independent table top activities and community circle to gently introduce peers, parents, and staff. This is followed by music and storytelling to ground the theme of travel and navigation. In the first guided activity, children will design and build their own landscapes using modeling dough and natural materials. We'll quickly wash hands and have snack time while staff teach children basics of how to use a compass and map. For our second activity, kids will apply directional thinking and teamwork as they navigate the school grounds and locate waypoints (like bathrooms, washing stations, and outdoor playground). After our guided walkabout is complete, children are released to free play in the outdoor playground.

TIMELINE IN A NUTSHELL:

- Welcome Tables: World Puzzles, Collaborative Map Making, Observation Station
- Turf Time: Introductions, WWYR, Story, Wiggle Break
- Grounding Activity: Create a 3D Map
- Wash Up and Snack Time
- Kinetic Activity: School Walkabout
- Closing Circle & Release to Free Play

SUGGESTED AGE: 3-8 Years

TICKET PRICE: \$40 (Class Size Limited to 12, Parental Supervision Required)



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A GENTLE BEGINNING | 15 MIN

INDEPENDENT PLAY

This opening block gives children a self-directed way to ease into the classroom before joining group activities. Starting gently supports emotional regulation, builds confidence, and allows learners to warm up socially and cognitively.

COLLABORATIVE MAP MAKING:

What better way to begin thinking about the world around us than by putting pen to paper? Children work together to create a shared tabletop map, adding features such as a compass rose, a legend, and familiar landmarks. Washable markers, stamps, and ink pads—along with a few gentle guideposts from the instructor—make this an easy, inviting first activity that encourages teamwork, creativity, and curiosity about place.

GAMES & PUZZLES:

Themed wooden puzzles and a National Treasure-style matching game offer a gentle entry point for children who take time to warm up. These activities support spatial reasoning and problem-solving while reinforcing wayfaring concepts like symbols and landmarks, allowing learners to engage at their own pace before joining the group.

OBSERVATION STATION:

Explorers take a closer look at natural items in the sensory bins using magnifying glasses. By slowing down and observing textures, patterns, and tiny details, children are invited to see familiar objects in new ways and practice the careful noticing skills of a true naturalist.



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CARPET TIME | 15 MIN

TURF TALKS

In this block, children practice speaking up, voicing their opinions, and actively listening to others. Through a "Would You Rather" vote and circle introductions, they build confidence in sharing ideas, then explore imagination and curiosity during storytime. A quick wiggle break helps transition back to table activities.

INTRODUCTIONS & WWYR:

Would you rather swim across an ice-cold river or cross a wobbly bridge? Children take a moment to think and quietly share their choice with an adult. Then, in a circle, each child says their name and places a token to cast their vote. At the end, we count the votes and reflect on the results, encouraging reasoning, turn-taking, and community participation.

STORYTIME:

Today we'll read "My Heart Is a Compass" by Deborah Marcero. Rose's heart is set on discovering something that's never been found. She just doesn't know where to find it. So she sets off on a wondrous journey, bounding from one spectacular world to the next. Her only guides are a set of maps drawn from her own imagination and her heart's desire to explore new and exciting worlds.

WIGGLE BREAK:

Before transitioning back to the tables for our first guided activity, we'll have a good ol' fashioned wiggle break. We sing and move along to "Going on a Bear Hunt."



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CALM SENSORY ACTIVITY | 15 MIN

GROUNDING ACTIVITY

In this block, children become little explorers as they shape rivers, hills, and bridges with modeling dough and natural materials, creating maps they can take home to continue their adventures.

MAKE YOUR OWN 3D TERRAIN MAP:

In this block, children become little explorers as they shape rivers, hills, bridges, and forests using multicolored modeling dough and natural materials like twigs, sticks, rocks, and leaves. They are encouraged to think creatively and problem-solve like real adventurers, considering obstacles and imagining how travelers might move through their landscapes—for example, building a twig bridge over a river, carving a winding path around a hill, or adding forests to hide secret trails. This hands-on activity strengthens spatial reasoning, fine motor skills, and imaginative thinking while giving children a tangible way to represent the world as they envision it. As they build, children are invited to talk about their choices, share ideas with peers, and notice patterns in the natural world.

TAKE HOME ITEMS:

Each child gets to take their 3D map home, extending the learning and play beyond the classroom. By revisiting and sharing their creations, children continue to explore, tell stories, and expand their understanding of landscapes and navigation, deepening their connection to creativity, problem-solving, and the natural world.



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TENDING TO OUR BODIES | 15 MIN

TRANSITION TIME

Attending to bodily needs helps children maintain focus, regulate energy, and reduces the likelihood of accidents or distractions during activities. In summer months, it is especially important to hydrate before outdoor play.

BATHROOM BREAK & HIGH-SPEED HANDWASHING:

Before diving into our final hands-on activity, we take a moment to reset and tend to our bodies. Children have the opportunity to use the bathroom and wash their hands. Staff guide children through quick, effective handwashing methods.

SNACK & BEVERAGES:

Children enjoy a healthy selection of snacks and fresh produce, along with water or other beverages to stay hydrated. Suggested snack: trail mix and apples. Parents can relax with a complimentary coffee or cold drink while their little explorers refuel.

MINDFUL TRANSITIONS:

With bodies and minds refreshed, staff guide a short instructional moment, introducing navigation tools and demonstrating how a compass works. Children receive a kid-friendly explanation and watch a demonstration before being introduced to a real map of the school grounds, setting them up for success as they prepare for the next stage of exploration.



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LEARNING ON THE MOVE | 30 MIN

KINETIC ACTIVITY

This activity strengthens spatial reasoning, observation skills, problem-solving, and teamwork, while encouraging curiosity, attention to detail, and a sense of ownership over their surroundings. By integrating navigation tools and playful challenges, children actively connect physical activity, environmental awareness, and early map skills in a real-world setting.

SCHOOL GROUNDS WALKABOUT:

What better way to explore your environment than through a hands-on scavenger hunt? Young explorers grab a clipboard with an aerial map of the school grounds and set off to locate key waypoints, including bathrooms, wash stations, playgrounds, and other landmarks. Along the way, children practice using a compass to orient themselves and navigate from one point to the next, building early wayfinding skills.

To make the adventure even more engaging, mini challenges are sprinkled throughout the walk: children might hop over a “river,” balance along a log, or count steps to a waypoint, combining movement with problem-solving. Hidden trail markers and natural features are discovered along the route, and explorers record or stamp their locations on their maps to track their journey.

CLOSING CIRCLE:

We conclude the day's lesson by sharing our favorite parts of the day's journey before children enjoy free play on our natural playground.



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FREE PLAY | 30 MIN

NATURAL PLAYGROUND

The natural playground blends play, exploration, and connection to the outdoors, using materials and layouts inspired by nature. Natural playgrounds are designed to engage multiple senses, foster curiosity, encourage creative problem-solving, and support physical, social, and cognitive development while connecting children to the environment. Key features of our playground include:

LOOSE PARTS & NATURAL MATERIALS

Logs, stumps, rocks, sticks, sand, and water allow children to build, balance, and invent their own games.

CLIMBING STRUCTURES

Hills, boulders, rope ladders, or wooden climbing frames encourage gross motor development, balance, and spatial awareness.

WATER & SENSORY ELEMENTS

Streams, ponds, mud kitchens, or sand-and-water tables invite sensory learning, problem-solving, and scientific observation.

PLANTINGS & GARDENS

Native plants, flowers, and trees support environmental learning, observation of wildlife, and tactile exploration.

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

COLLABORATIVE MAP MAKING

Encourages teamwork, creative representation, and understanding of spatial relationships through shared map design using symbols, a compass, and landmarks.

GAMES & PUZZLES

Strengthens memory, pattern recognition, and independent problem-solving while supporting focus and confidence.

OBSERVATION STATION

Develops careful observation, classification, and fine motor coordination while exploring textures, patterns, and details in natural items.

INTRODUCTIONS & WOULD-YOU-RATHER

Builds oral communication, active listening, and social-emotional skills by practicing turn-taking, expressing opinions, and engaging in group discussion.

STORYTIME: "MY HEART IS A COMPASS"

Fosters language development, comprehension, and imagination by listening to narrative, recalling details, and connecting ideas to personal experience.

WIGGLE BREAK: "GOING ON A BEAR HUNT"

Supports gross motor skills, body awareness, and self-regulation while transitioning between seated and active learning.

MAKE YOUR OWN 3D TERRAIN MAP

Encourages creativity, spatial thinking, and problem-solving as children build three-dimensional landscapes while integrating natural materials and storytelling.

HIGH-SPEED HANDWASHING

Teaches personal hygiene, health awareness, and fine motor control while establishing habits that prevent the spread of germs.

SNACK & BEVERAGES

Reinforces healthy nutrition, independence, and self-management while supporting sustained energy and focus for learning.

MINDFUL TRANSITIONS

Develops attention, executive function, and listening skills by guiding children smoothly from one activity to the next while introducing new concepts.

SCHOOL GROUNDS WALKABOUT

Builds navigation, observation, and decision-making skills as children explore the environment, use a compass, and complete movement-based mini challenges.

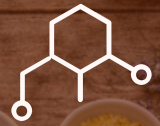
NATURAL PLAYGROUND

Supports imaginative play, sensory exploration, and physical development while fostering environmental awareness and curiosity about natural landscapes.



LITTLE BOTANIST

CHILDREN STUDY PLANTS AND GROWTH CYCLES THROUGH HANDS-ON EXPLORATION OF THE LIVING LANDSCAPE.



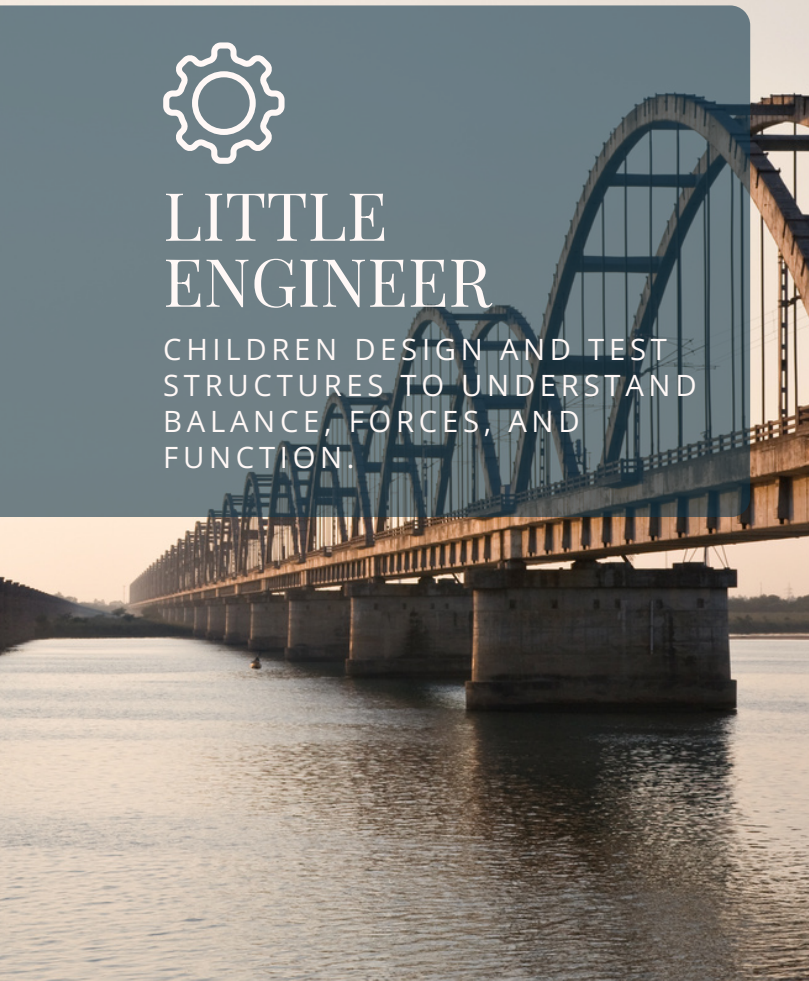
LITTLE APOTHECARY

CHILDREN INVESTIGATE HOW ITEMS INTERACT AND CHANGE THROUGH SAFE, HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTS



LITTLE ENGINEER

CHILDREN DESIGN AND TEST STRUCTURES TO UNDERSTAND BALANCE, FORCES, AND FUNCTION.



LITTLE BIOLOGIST

CHILDREN EXAMINE ANIMALS AND HABITATS, BUILDING AWARENESS OF HOW LIVING SYSTEMS CONNECT.





LITTLE STARGAZER

CHILDREN INVESTIGATE STARS, PLANETS, AND WEATHER PHENOMENA THROUGH INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES.



LITTLE LUMINARY

CHILDREN STUDY REFLECTION, REFRACTION, AND COLOR USING HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES WITH LIGHT AND PRISMS.



LITTLE SCRIBE

CHILDREN DEVELOP STORYTELLING SKILLS THROUGH DRAWING, WRITING, AND COLLABORATION.



LITTLE WEAVER

CHILDREN EXPLORE PATTERNS, TEXTURES, AND COLORS THROUGH WEAVING AND TEXTILE ACTIVITIES.