



Hugging Tree Nature Preschool

Outdoor Gear

Since we will be outside for the majority of the day, it is important to make sure your child has appropriate outdoor gear. I compiled a list of suggested gear after asking seasoned outdoor teachers for recommendations. These are just suggestions and if you have gear that works for your child that is just fine!

Rain/Mud Gear

- * Rain boots
- * Rain coat

** Hugging Tree has a class set of Muddy Buddy Rain Suits for children to use while they are at preschool. **

Cold Weather Gear

- * Warm snow boots
- * Hat
- * Neck gaiter or balaclava
- * Waterproof mittens (2 pairs each day)
- * Face mask or neck warmer (no scarves please!)
- * Warm jacket
- * Water resistant snowpants (bibs/suspenders are best!)

Snow Pants

Good quality snow pants are definitely worth paying a little more. Not only do snowpants keep us warm, but they keep us dry as well. It is very important that snowpants are water resistant.

Recommended Brands:

- Columbia: https://www.amazon.com/Columbia-Adventure-Ride-Black-Small/dp/B0815L6XQH?th=1&linkCode=sl1&tag=momgoescampin-20&linkId=bbfc7021b2ae2f81632e24dbb3f09f5c&language=en_US&ref=as_li_ss_tl
- Lands' End: https://www.landsend.com/products/kids-squall-waterproof-insulated-iron-knee-snow-bibs/id_359104?attributes=6794,43399,44365,44369,45161,45412,48354
- Under Armour: https://www.underarmour.com/en-us/p/jackets_and_vests/toddler_boys_ua_alderhorn_bib/5112841.html

Socks

Warm, dry feet are so important! Wool socks are highly recommended! They are a bit more expensive than cotton socks, but well worth it!

Recommended Brands:

- Smartwool: <https://www.smartwool.com/shop/kids-wool-socks>
- Fox River (made in Osage, IA!) : https://foxsox.com/collections/kids-best-sellers?usf_sort=bestselling

Snow Boots

Good quality snow boots are a must! When purchasing snow boots for your child, make sure there is extra room around the foot to allow for air circulation. Tight boots result in cold feet. Also, make sure the foot portion of the boot is waterproof. Fleet Farm and Blain's Farm and Fleet have good selections.

Recommended Brands:

- Bogs
- Muck
- Kamik

Mittens

Mittens that have a cuff that goes up over your child's jacket sleeve are required!

Recommended Brands:

- Jan and Jul: <https://janandjul.com/product-category/waterproof/waterproof-mittens/>
- Stonz: <https://stonz.com/products/mitts-kid>
- MCTI: <https://www.amazon.com/MCTi-Mittens-Waterproof-Winter-Reflector/dp/B07FKPLP94?th=1>
- Burton Toddler Warmest Mitten: https://www.burton.com/us/en/p/toddlers-burton-warmest-mittens/W24-227251.html?dwvar_W24-227251_variationColor=22725102200

Layering

Dressing in layers is the key to making sure your child stays warm. It also allows the option to remove layers if he/she becomes too warm.

How to Layer:

1. **Base Layer:** wicks sweat from your child's skin
 - Synthetic or merino wool is best!
 - NO COTTON FABRIC!
 - More info on base layers: <https://bring-the-kids.com/best-kids-base-layers/>
2. **Middle Layer:** insulates to retain body heat and protect from the cold
 - Fleece is best!
3. **Outer Layer:** Shields from wind and rain

More info on layering kids for cold weather: <https://talesofamountainmama.com/layering-kids-cold-weather/>

Although I like supporting local businesses, sometimes they don't carry the gear I need. Here are some of my favorite websites to get good deals on outdoor gear:

<https://www.sierra.com>

<https://www.backcountry.com>

<https://www.moosejaw.com>

<https://www.rei.com/rei-garage>

Sometimes there are amazing deals on a company's direct website. Companies like The North Face, Columbia, Merrell, Smartwool, and Keen have sale and outlet pages.