

Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool

Family Handbook

Part One: Our philosophy, Curriculum, Teachers. Our WHY and HOW.

Goal:

Amigos del Bosque wants to open an inclusive space for children in the west Metro Area to have access to a Nature Preschool, where childhood is celebrated. Where child interests and natural drive to inquire and learn are unleashed. All of these, while getting immersed in the Spanish Language.

Our Believes:

- We celebrate and respect childhood
- We believe that an emergent, child led and centered curriculum is the answer for developmentally appropriate best practices.
- We so believe in slowing down, taking the time to notice the world around us.
- We conceive Nature as a teacher
- We want to foster environmental awareness, sensitivity and stewardship
- Foster Independence
- Nature enjoyment

Our Story

Amigos del Bosque was born as a Spanish Speaking community. We shared our passion for a second language as well as developmentally appropriate practices.

The passion for childhood and nature keeps growing.

Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool is evolving from a need to open spaces and opportunities for children to be just that: children. We believe in nature play based learning, child led and emergent curriculum. We want to celebrate childhood by offering an inclusive, child development appropriate program, taking place in natural spaces.

Philosophy and Curriculum

Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool teachers, director and volunteer's believe that children learn best while they are engaged in play, and are amazed by the nature they explore in their surroundings. We believe Nature is a rich classroom where children can observe and notice natural processes, where they can touch and feel without the fear of getting dirty, it's a music class when birds sing for us. Nature is there to teach us.

We prioritize nature based play, child led and emergent curriculum. We have teaching goals that meet early childhood standards. We just wait for the opportunity to facilitate the learning, when the child is ready for it.

We are committed to provide opportunities for children to develop in the six domains established by the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress Standards:

- Social and Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Language, Literacy and Communications
- Creativity and the Arts
- Cognitive Development: Mathematics, Science and Social Systems
- Physical and Movement Development.

All these domains of knowledge are embedded in our daily nature play, exploration, and reflection at the end of the day. Nature is a teacher, laying all the learning opportunities for us. Teachers are facilitators, really listening and observing and inviting opportunities for collective and individual growth. That's how we assure that children are flourishing and getting ready not just for what is next, but for a life in deep connection with themselves, others and nature.

What is a Nature Based Preschool?

By definition, a Nature Preschool should be one that puts nature at the heart of their program accompanied by high quality early childhood best practices.

For Amigos del Bosque Nature Preschool this translates in the following practices and believes:

Child centered:

- Children are given the opportunity to explore their environment in a natural way and at their own pace.
- Children discover what they are interested in, make choices.

- Children problem solve on their own, using tools that as a community we have built together.
- Children assess risk and make decisions, gaining confidence and self esteem.
- Children learn through play and relevant experiences.

Nature Based:

Children will spend most of their time outside, exploring, observing, playing and connecting with nature. Teachers are facilitators and avid observers of children's interest and discoveries. Learning experiences and opportunities happen everyday and can be child led and/or teacher led.

The curriculum emerges from our daily experiences and observations in Nature.

Licensing

Amigos del Bosque LLC is licensed by the State of Minnesota, through Hennepin County Health and Human Services Department. License Number: 1106416

Teachers/Staff

Our director and teachers are Minnesota licensed teachers with ample experience in early childhood and or elementary school and bilingual education. Amigos del Bosque has the commitment to provide training and professional development to their teachers and collaborators.

Teachers share the common core beliefs around child led- emergent curriculum and nature play. We are committed to nurture inquiry and curiosity, in a natural and respectful environment.

We share the common belief and passion about a second language and how this has a positive impact on children's view of the world. We believe that all children have the right to access equal opportunities.

Part 2: Administrative information

A. Ages and numbers of children in care in the residence:

Amigos de Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool has capacity for 12 children at a time. The ratio of teacher: child is 1:6.

B. Hours and days of operation

We operate from Monday to Thursday from 9:00am- 12:00pm

C. Meals and snacks to be served: Families will provide a healthy and hearty snack for their child. Families will be communicated if they need to consider another child's allergies and restrictions.

E. Sleeping and rest arrangements: Our program is from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Students will not take a nap or rest during the day being at Amigos del Bosque.

G. Records for each child. The following completed and signed forms and documents must be returned to the director before the first day of attendance. This Information will be kept up-to-date and on file for each child.

1. Admission and arrangements form
2. Registration Form
3. Allergies Form
4. Signed Parent Policies Handbook and Contract
5. Immunizations Form
6. Photo/media Release
7. Field trips and Nature exploration form.
8. Permission to Administer Medications, OTC and Rx.
9. Amigos de Bosque LLC Insurance Statement.
10. Signed written consent for emergency medical care or treatment. The consent may be used if the parent cannot be reached or is delayed in arriving.

Once you are informed that your child has been accepted in the preschool, a \$100 registration fee will be required to hold your child spot. This fee helps to pay administrative expenses. This non refundable fee must be paid in order to hold the spot for your child.

Special Health Needs & IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) If a child is admitted having special needs, procedures, stipulated by Rule 3 will be followed. An individualized child care program plan (ICCPP) will be developed to meet the children's individual needs. The plan will be coordinated with either the service plan, education plan, and/ or with the licensed physician, psychiatrist, and/or psychologist. It is the center's responsibility to inform the health consultant of a child with special needs and to obtain a plan of care preferably before enrollment. The ICCPP should be consistent with the child's health care summary and evaluated annually by the child's physician or above mentioned specialist. The program provides any additional staff training required by the child's ICCPP and the 2014 IDEA policy has been added to the parent handbook. Latest IDEA updates can be found at <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>.

Enrollment Policies

Amigos del Bosque is committed to create opportunities for everyone in the community and believes that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

We prioritize the enrollment of currently enrolled children and siblings, latino, black and native families. Also LGBTQ families. Once a child is admitted, we encourage the child to continue until they are of kindergarten age. A \$100 enrollment fee per family is due when the placement is offered. This yearly fee is non refundable.

Amigos del Bosque serves children 3 years old through kindergarten age. The enrollment is initially for a trial period of 30 days. The purpose of this trial time is to assure that Amigos del Bosque, the family and the children are a good fit for each other. During this period the family can withdraw the child from the preschool without a notice.

A child may be discharged from the preschool for reasons such as, but not limited to the following:

1. Failure to pay fees/teacher on time.
2. Inability of teacher to meet the needs of the child. I will consult the family concerning how any problems might be solved before ending the care arrangement. The family will be referred to other community resources.
3. Repeated failure to pick up the child before closing time (12:00 pm).

The Orientation tour/visit is an opportunity for families and teachers to meet to discuss the child's specific needs and to review the program policies prior to the child's first day at the preschool.

Leave of Absence: Enrollment in the preschool is expected to be for an entire school year. No placement will be held without special arrangements and full tuition payment.

Withdrawal from Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool : Parents must notify the director if they plan to withdraw their child. One month paid notice is required. Tuition refunds are dependent upon this notification. The registration and supply fee is not refundable. Tuition will be deducted for the amount of time the child has attended school, plus the one-month notification period.

FEES (9502.0405, Subp. 3 J)

Basic Rate

2 days a week	\$325 monthly
4 days a week	\$650 monthly

Payments are due in advance via check, Venmo or direct pay. Please hand to Ana Morice, a check made out to “Amigos del Bosque LLC” between the 25th and the first of the new month. Families can also set-up automatic bill pay through their bank. Payments must be made by the first of the following month.

Late Fees

It is imperative that children be picked up by the end of the scheduled departure time. A late fee will be charged anytime a child is picked up after 12:10

The late fees are as follows:

Child picked up 10-15 minutes late:\$10 per child

Child picked up 16-30 minutes late:\$15 per child

Each additional 15 minutes or portion of:\$20 per child

Parents who are chronically late will be asked to discuss the problem with the provider

Chronic lateness may result in exclusion from the school. In all cases parents must, if late, pay the appropriate fee, which will be billed to their customer account.

When No One Comes to Pick Up a Child

If parents have not picked up their child(ren) by 12:15 pm and have not contacted the Director or staff, we will first try to contact the emergency contacts listed on the emergency contact and authorized pick-up permission form. In the event no one can be reached and we have not heard from the parent within one hour of pick-up time, an emergency situation will be assumed and the police may be called.

Authorized Pick-Up

Children can be released only to parents, legal guardians, or individuals designated by parents or legal guardians on the Authorized Pick-Up form or in a written note. It is absolutely essential that parents notify us each time there is to be another arrangement. We cannot allow a child to leave with anyone without prior permission from a parent.

If an unauthorized individual attempts to remove a child, they will not be allowed to take the child until the parent has been contacted and has given verbal permission.

Other than parents and legal guardians, any individual picking up a child must:

- Provide I.D. in the form of a valid driver's license or state I.D.
- Sign the checkout sheet, with staff documenting the time and the name of the individual

Holidays

Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool will follow the school district schedule for Holidays, vacations (with exception of Christmas break) and professional development. During the month of June we host our Summer Camps. The preschool is closed for summer break during July and August.

Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool is also closed on:

- Labor Day
- MEA Break
- Thanksgiving and the Friday after Thanksgiving
- Winter Break
- MLK
- Presidents Day
- Midwinter Break/Christmas break
- Spring Break
- Memorial Day

The preschool schedule is from September to the last week of May. The preschool will remain closed during July and August. Summer camps will be offered during June.

CELEBRATING HOLIDAYS AT SCHOOL: We believe that the most developmentally and culturally appropriate approach to celebrating holidays is to allow families to determine for themselves how they wish to interpret and celebrate holidays at home. We hope to provide a place where children and families can share what happens at home and revisit events, rather than add to the anticipation and over-excitement that is typical of "holiday celebrations" at school. Therefore we do not celebrate holidays at school in a way that adds any expectations for children or families to participate in special holiday activities.

Helpers and substitutes: Provider will contact a sub for days that a family emergency occurs.

Alcohol and drugs policy. Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool will not allow the use of drugs and alcohol in its premises during child care hours.

Pets in the preschool

Our beloved dog, Uno, passed away last Spring. He lives in the woods now, where he loved to walk and chase squirrels. We don't have any pets for the moment.

Part 3: Keeping everyone safe: Policies for the care of ill children, disease notification procedures, immunizations, and medicine permission policies.

Medical Emergency

In case of a serious injury or illness, immediate first aid will be administered to the child. The parents(s) will be contacted and the child will go home or to the appropriate medical facility for further treatment. It is the parent's responsibility to provide their current contact phone numbers to the provider.

In an extreme emergency, when time is a crucial factor, or when parent(s) can not be reached, the provider will call 911 and instruct the paramedics to take the child to Fairview Southdale Hospital, unless a parent has a written request for another hospital. If possible, the provider will accompany the child and a substitute will care for the other children.

Fire

The residence is equipped with two fire extinguishers, one in the kitchen and the other one inside the emergency backpack in the downstairs closet. There are also battery operated smoke detectors on all floors. If a fire occurs in the residence, all the children shall be evacuated and directed through our neighbor's front yard, to the open association area behind the houses and wait for help. Children will return only when the safety of the residence is assured.

The children practice regular fire drills and review fire safety.

Severe Weather: If the weather conditions become severe, and a warning is issued, the children shall seek shelter in the bathroom on the lower level of the residence. Children shall remain down stairs until the weather conditions improve. Children practice regular weather safety procedures and review ways of getting down the lower level, and where to stay in increased weather.

Closing due to Incrementing Weather: In case of severe weather, our policy coincides with the Eden Prairie Schools. If EPS closes, so will Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool. Listen for news regarding EP Public School cancellations.

Shelter in Place: If there is a threat to the children's safety, and the local officials advise "shelter in place", the children will go to the bathroom on the lower level. All doors and windows will be locked. An attempt will be made to notify the parents as soon as the provider is able to.

Illness Guidelines: Sick children cannot be in care. Children who are ill, need to be symptom free for 24 hrs. before they can return to the preschool. The provider decides if a child is too ill or potentially contagious to be in care.

The director/teacher will notify the parent immediately when a child in care develops any of the following symptoms:

1. Underarm temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or over, or an oral temperature of 101 degrees Fahrenheit or higher;
2. Vomiting;
3. Diarrhea; or
4. Rash, other than mild diaper or heat-related rash.

The provider is unwilling to accept a child that is:

1. Registering a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher;
2. Experiencing intestinal disturbance with diarrhea or vomiting; or if these symptoms were experienced in the last 24 hours.
3. Displaying a rash, sores, or discharging eyes, nose or ears;
4. Displaying symptoms of a contagious illness;
5. Noticeably miserable.
6. Having any signs of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
7. Having a deep cut or fracture, and was not properly treated by a medical professional
8. Having any signs of dehydration
9. Fainted prior to coming to the day-care and was not properly treated by a medical

professional

The director/teacher is willing to accept a child for care under the following circumstances:

1. If the child meets the Health Standards as specified by the Department of Public Health and has been excluded from care according to these standards;
2. If the child can participate in the regular activities, including going outside;
3. If the child do not require additional attention in a manner that would hinder the Provider from meeting the needs of the other children in care.
4. If the child has a deep cut or fracture, was properly treated by a medical professional, is no longer in pain and is able to participate in the daily activity
5. A child who is under antibiotics for over 24 hours and can participate in the regular activities

Parents must notify immediately of the diagnosis of any infectious and contagious disease. The director will inform a parent and the Minnesota Department of Health of each exposed child the same day the provider is notified a positive diagnosis has been made for any of the illnesses or parasitic infestations listed above.

- Immunization records must be kept for each child in care, using the forms provided by the County.

Medications

Non prescription medication

A written permission from the parent is required prior to administering medicine, diapering products, sunscreen lotions, and insect repellents.

Prescription Medication

It is preferable that any prescription medication will be given to the child either before or after preschool hours. If that is not possible, for prescription medications to be administered, the school will follow written instructions from a physician or dentist before administering. Signed authorization from the parent or guardian is also required; please ask the Director for this form. · Medications must be kept in their original container and be properly and legibly labeled with the child's name and current

prescription information. · Medications will not be given after the expiration date and any unused portion will be returned to the child's parent or destroyed. · Parents must state dosage, time and duration medication is to be given. Medication will be kept out of the reach of children. · Non-refrigerated medications will be kept in the preschool first aid cabinet in a covered container. DO NOT PUT IN CHILD'S BACKPACK.

·Medications requiring refrigeration will be stored on a shelf of the refrigerator in a covered container. · Proper medication dispensers will be used to administer the medications. Any questions regarding these policies or other policies of the school should be directed to the Amigos del Bosque Director.

A copy of the DHS Rule 3 Guidelines is available upon request.

TRANSPORTATION PLANS (9502.0435, Subp. 9)

For the moment, Amigos del Bosque Preschool will not be transporting children. All our field trips will be walking distance or parents will drop off at the previous agreed destination. Parents will sign a waiver stating that they agree to drop off and pick up in the previous agreed location.

INSURANCE COVERAGE : Amigos del Bosque offers liability insurance in the amount of at least \$100,000 per person and \$250,000 per occurrence.

Guidance- Playing outside - Parent- teacher communications

Guidance and discipline Policies: Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool environment is designed to minimize the need for adult directives and to maximize children's independence and cooperation. The curriculum is planned to promote positive and enjoyable learning experiences for the child and positive interactions between adults and children. Teachers/facilitators model positive interactions with others and nature, problem solving skills, in an environment of respect.

As Nature Teachers, we understand the relationship between children, environment, teacher and peers. When a problem (learning opportunity) arises, we look at all the factors intervening in the situation and solve it with the group/child as a team. We

discourage competitive activities, instead we encourage collective and collaborative projects.

In our view, conflict between and among children is not only inevitable but also necessary. It opens the door to the viewpoints of others. It forces children to reexamine their own ideas in light of the ideas and responses of others. Through attempts to control and influence their environment, children learn what works and what does not and that other people often have different ideas and goals. Learning to resolve differences occurs through experience.

Punishment will be NOT allowed at Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool.

Instead we use strategies as modeling, reflection, conflict resolution, and self awareness exercises. The goal of our guidance plan is for the children to grow in their social- emotional development, self awareness, self regulation, self esteem and confidence and independence.

Alternative behavioral strategies may be suggested to meet the children's needs. These strategies include redirection toward constructive activity, tutoring in constructive social strategies and providing immediate and directly related consequences for unacceptable behavior. On very rare occasions, a teacher may feel it is necessary to remove a child from the group. However, an adult would remain with the child until he or she is ready to re-enter. The policy of the preschool is one of ongoing discussions so that together parents and teachers can work out solutions.

Persistent Unacceptable Behavior Procedures: Teachers will:

1. Observe and record the behavior of the child and the staff response to the behavior, noting if there is a predictable pattern or if the behavior seems to occur randomly.
2. Inform the director of the problem and solicit input from other staff.
3. Develop and implement a plan to address the behavior in consultation with the director, the child's parents and other professionals when appropriate.
4. Conduct formative evaluation.

When admitting a child to preschool, the provider will discuss with parents the behavior guidance practices essential for the care of the child.

NATURE PLAY

Nature Play will happen inside, outside and beyond the preschool. Children will learn, play and explore outside every day, unless extremely cold or hot weather, or high levels of air pollution limit outdoor time. Children must be dressed appropriately to avoid discomfort. Each child should come to school prepared to begin the day outside. This includes parental application of sunscreen and bug spray, all necessary layers in winter, and rain gear when necessary. To avoid lost items, children's belongings should be clearly labeled. Our general policy is that all children who are in school will go outside when their class goes outside.

INSIDE

When playing inside, children will be offered a variety of natural materials and loose parts to play, build and explore. Books and other materials are chosen intentionally and linked with children's interests. Groups stay inside when the activity requires or when they need to warm up on very cold days.

OUTSIDE

When at the "Escuelita", we will spend most of our time in the backyard, where children get to explore the veggie garden/compost, the pollinator garden, mud kitchen, grassy open area for gross motor play, sandbox and nature play area. When your child comes to school, he/she needs to be dressed to play outside.

Walking distance from the "escuelita" there is a wetland and beautiful woods. After practicing safety measures and when the teacher decides that children are ready, we will take walks to these places, especially during the winter. This land is public.

THE WOODS

We will visit the woods twice a week (Tuesday and Wednesday), unless unsafe weather and air pollution conditions. These days can change depending on the weather. The teacher/director will communicate in advance to parents via email if there is any change. Parents will drop off at Birch Island Woods, 6401 Indian Chief Road. These days we will spend the morning exploring and hiking the woods. This is public land and since there are people walking with their dogs, we might find garbage or hazardous materials. We would do our best to pick up these kinds of materials before class.

While in the woods, teachers will carry a backpack with a fully charged cell phone, a walkie talkie, a complete first aid kit, hand sanitizer, hand soap and water, extra wipes, journals and a trail potty.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

We work under the premise:

“There is not such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing”

We will spend 90%/100% of our time outside, unless inclement and hazardous weather.

The time we spend outside everyday will vary according to the weather and temperature. On our days in the woods, we will be outside for the whole school day, combining woods exploration and nature play. While at the “escuelita”, weather permitting, we may spend the entire class time outdoors. We might come inside during the winter for toilet/hand washing time.

When selecting clothing for the day, be sure to check the hourly temperature and send your child with appropriate clothing for the coldest temperature you see between 9:00am-Noon, as it won't always reach the high temperature for the day during the time we are outside.

For shoes/footwear, we suggest either closed-toed shoes such as tennis shoes or rain boots daily (no sandals). Closed toed shoes that are firmly attached to feet allow for safe, confident movement. Children must wear shoes at all times when inside the “Escuelita”, with the exception of teacher designated activities. Classroom shoes may be slippers or crocs with a heel strap. In the case of a fire, these shoes will be worn out of doors.

Also, please pack a rain jacket with a hood or one-piece rain suit daily. Comfortable, sturdy, washable clothing permits children the necessary freedom to participate in all school activities without undue concern for spills, spots, rips and tears.

Pants or shorts are much less dangerous than dresses for jumping and climbing. Clothing that is easily managed by the children encourages self-help and independence. Many toileting accidents are prevented if children can unbutton or pull down pants without a struggle.

All children must have a labeled change of clothes to be kept in their backpack for emergencies and in situations when their other clothes get wet or muddy. This should include underwear, pants, shirt, shoes and socks. This extra set of clothes should change with the seasons and be appropriate for the expected weather.

In winter, we also ask that parents pack an additional pair of mittens, and if below 15 F, an additional neck warmer. In addition to having an extra set of clothing, children should bring a reusable cloth grocery bag for soiled/wet clothes.

If obtaining appropriate clothing for your child is difficult, please let us know and we will help outfit your child during the school day. Please inform us as soon as possible of your child's outerwear needs to allow us to provide appropriate sizes.

The following outdoor clothing is required to ensure your child is able to be comfortable and able to enjoy our outdoor learning experiences. Make sure ALL clothing is labeled with your child's name

Rain boots: These aren't just for rainy days. Often the grass is wet or the ground is muddy in the fall and spring, so wearing rain boots during our hikes will help ensure your child has dry feet. When in doubt, send your child in rain boots.

Gloves versus Mittens: We recommend mittens vs gloves as mittens are easier for children to put on/take off independently. In addition, we highly recommend mittens which are able to go over the child's coat sleeves, creating a barrier from the snow. DO NOT send your child in thin knit gloves/mittens. These get wet quickly and as a result will not keep your child's hands warm for the duration we'll be outside.

Winter Boots: Get a winter boot that is one size larger than your child's foot (this is with socks on). This creates a "dead-air space" to assist in insulating the foot. The best insulations for feet are wool socks with water-proof boots.

Socks: MYTH: If one pair keeps your feet warm, then two pairs should keep them even warmer. Boots are designed to hold your feet and one pair of socks, not two. The second pair compresses the foot, cutting off circulation and making feet colder than with a single pair. This impaired blood flow makes feet even more vulnerable to frostbite.

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
-Rubber boots (preferably insulated such as Bogs) -Rain jacket -Rain pants -OR a rain/mud suit with hood -Fall windbreaker/jacket	Warm, water-resistant Winter coat Snow pants (or One piece snowsuit) Waterproof mittens (2 pair needed each day)	Rubber boots (rain boots) Jacket/sweatshirt Rain jacket with hood Rain pants or Muddy body (one piece suit)

<p>As it gets colder: -Waterproof mittens -warm hat that covers the ears -wool socks or other moisture wicking, warm sock such as polar fleece</p>	<p>Neck cover (no scarfs) Hat/ear covers Insulated Boots (snow boots) Wool/fleece socks Long underwear top & bottom</p>	
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Additional items: In order to ensure your child is comfortable throughout the morning, we recommend you send two pairs of mittens/gloves to ensure your child has a dry pair each time we are outside. On cold days, we recommend an additional scarf or neck warmer for exchanging mid-morning. As mentioned above, an entire change of clothes including socks and classroom shoes is required daily.

One piece rain suits and/or snowsuits: These are very popular for children in nature preschools across the world and are a great option for ensuring your child stays warm and dry. When choosing a size, make sure you think of what clothing your child will be wearing underneath as well as allow room for your child to grow into it. If you don't have rain or snow gear yet, these are an option worth considering.

Important considerations: Dressing in layers is the key to ensuring your child stays warm. It also allows your child the option to remove layers if he/she becomes too warm. We will be very active outdoors but will also spend some time sitting for circle time and observation activities.

On wet and cold days, pay close attention to the layers close to their skin. Clothing made from materials such as poly-propylene or capilene, fleece or wool takes moisture off of the body and transfers it to other layers, rather than soaking through. This is called "wicking." Cotton holds moisture close to the body and makes a person cold and damp.

Classroom Shoes: Your child must bring classroom shoes every day for wearing inside the classroom. Slippers and crocs with heel straps are allowed.

Brand Clothing Recommendations:

A few of the following brands have been recommended by previous nature school families. These have been proven to be successful with nature preschool students

across the country. If you have brand recommendations not on this list, please let us know!

- Bogs: Bog boots are versatile and can be worn as rain boots and snow boots. Oakiwear: Rain-pants & Muddy buddies are very popular & work well to keep students dry and mud free. They are also very easy to wash.
- Columbia (check outlet stores): Rain Coat & Rain Pants
- L.L Bean: Rain Coats & Rain Pants
- Tuffo Muddy Buddy Rain-suits
- Polarn-o-Pyret: Swedish outdoor children's clothing company
- Sierra Trading post: Sells discount outdoor gear:
<https://www.sierratradingpost.com> Artix snow pants (Amazon)
- Mittens: Stonz, snow-stoppers
- Smartwool socks

Before Arriving Daily:

- Pack an extra set of clothes and rain gear
- Apply sunscreen (optional)
- Apply bug spray (optional)
- Tuck socks over pants (if wearing pants)
- Ensure your child's face, hands, and clothing are free from peanut and nut butter residue to protect children with life-threatening peanut/nut allergies.

Recommendations for sun protection:

- Supply a hat for your child to wear while outside
- Inform staff if your child burns easily
- Inform staff of any medications that may counteract with the sun.

Tick Spray : We will have a homemade tick spray available for April and May. Note: This is not effective against mosquitoes and still requires daily tick checks by parents/guardians. The spray is a mixture of vinegar & water with peppermint oil (2:1 mixture, few drops of peppermint).

Tick Information:

Check for ticks daily. There are several tick-borne diseases in Minnesota, including Lyme disease carried by Deer/blacklegged ticks. To reduce exposure to infection, the best

prevention of all tick-borne illnesses is to remove any ticks within 24 hours of becoming attached. Ticks can be removed by pinching the tick as close to the mouth as possible (tweezers are helpful) and slowly pulling opposite the head until the tick separates from the skin. More info at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/tickborne/prevention.html> .

We also recommend changing out of all preschool clothing when your child gets home. Putting clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes will kill any ticks on the clothing.

When Returning Home:

- Unpack muddy, wet gear
- Check for ticks
- Wash skin exposed to bug spray(recommended)

Parent- teacher communication:

THE HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool wants to open opportunities to build a strong community between parents, children and staff. The school aims to feel as an extension of home, where we all are learning and working together to enrich each other's lives. Active parent involvement in all aspects of our program is essential to achieving this goal. When parents are actively involved in their child's school, children feel valued and experience the security and comfort of continuity in their world. There are many opportunities for communication, collaboration, and participation throughout the school year. We encourage parents to take full advantage of being part of our community...in all weather! Here are some of the ways teachers will communicate with families:

- Walk the Woods: Families will be invited to walk the woods with their teacher around two weeks before the school year begins in September or prior to enrollment for families entering later in the year. The purpose of this meeting is to allow the child and parents to become acquainted with a teacher and begin to establish a trusting relationship. It also gives parents and teachers an opportunity to exchange information.
- Parent Information Night: This is an activity for new families where teachers share important information about the preschool and themselves.

- Teachers will schedule conferences in Fall and Spring. These conferences give parents and teachers the opportunity to meet privately and share information about the child's overall development at home and at school. In the Fall, parents and teachers work together to establish goals addressing each child's cognitive, creative, social, emotional and physical development. In the Spring, teachers provide parents with a written summary and assessment of their child's growth and development. A parent or a teacher may also initiate conferences at any time during the year.
- Brief daily communication can take place at drop off and pick up times. Plan to take time periodically for a brief discussion of your child's activities at home or at school. *As the arrival and departure of children are busy times for teachers, you are encouraged to arrange a phone call, email contact, or a conference for more lengthy discussions. Please allow 48 hours for a response from a teacher.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Class Participation Parents may visit and/or observe their child's classroom at any time the program is in operation. Involvement in the classrooms can be spontaneous and informal or arranged on a regular basis. Some examples of ways parents participate in the life of a classroom are: facilitate special activities, share a special talent or interest, accompany the class on hikes, join snack time with the children, or read stories. We ask that parents consider that while their presence in the classroom is valuable and welcomed, we want to strive for a balance of giving children support and helping them achieve a sense of self confidence and independence while at school. Volunteering or visiting too frequently or involvement during the first few weeks of the school year may interfere with children's ability to create a social network and feel the competence that comes along with managing school on their own.

*Special considerations when coming into the classroom with a younger sibling. Although it is optimal for parents to arrange to participate in class activities without younger siblings, we recognize that many of our families have babies, toddlers or young preschoolers at home. While this does not prohibit parental participation in the classroom, it does present some challenges for teachers as well as for other children, and can decrease the special attention that parents can give to their enrolled child, which is the primary benefit of volunteering in the classroom. We do not have a universal policy about accommodating younger siblings in classrooms when parents are volunteering. Each situation is considered unique and should be discussed and arrangements agreed upon by the lead teacher and the parent before the actual visit. The temperament, personality and activity level of each child are important variables to

consider when determining the feasibility of a sibling spending an extended time in the classroom. In order to avoid accidents and upsets we ask that parents coming in to the classroom with babies, toddlers or young preschoolers, at any time of the day (including arrival and departure times) remember the following: *Many of the children enrolled in our school come from families with babies or toddlers at home. It is not unusual, under those circumstances, for a preschooler to feel uneasy about having a baby or toddler at school (which is their special place). *Teachers are responsible for the enrolled children in the classroom. Watching over and intervening in situations with a visiting sibling takes away from their ability to do their job. *The indoor/outdoor classrooms are not designed for very young children and contain many potential safety hazards. Parents must stay close and supervise their younger children at all times.

PARENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE: A parent who has a grievance or complaint about some aspect of the program should first try to settle the grievance directly with the teacher or other adult involved. If the conflict is not resolved, the grievance should be discussed with the director of the Amigos del Bosque Spanish Nature Preschool.

MALTREATMENT OF MINORS MANDATED REPORTING POLICY Child Protection Reporting - Appendix A: Maltreatment of Minors Mandated Reporting Policy Form.

TOYS FROM HOME Toys brought from home present special problems for the child and the staff. Prized possessions are very difficult to share and often get soiled, lost or broken. For these reasons, bringing toys from home is discouraged. If your child's adjustment to school could benefit from having a transitional object from home, please discuss this with your child's teacher to aid in making a good choice that will be easily managed by your child and the teachers.

A complete copy of Family Day Care Rules is available for parents to read. (9502.0405, Subp. 2)