

# Growingup Naturality

Thank you for your interest in Elachee Nature Academy's 2024-2025 nature-based program. Parents choose our unique setting to prepare their young children for future success while recognizing that opportunities to play and explore are important building blocks for a well-rounded education. As such, at Elachee Nature Academy, our mission is to provide educational experiences in the classroom and in outdoor settings that will encourage a child's natural curiosity, inquisitiveness, affection and respect for the natural world.

Our half-day Preschool program is a nature-based educational approach that offers a variety of activities that promote pre-literacy and pre-math skills, physical growth, and social development. Our full-day Pre-K/K Readiness program builds upon the holistic approach in our preschool while also incorporating skills needed for Kindergarten. Our K-2 multiage program features a specially designed, standards-based method of experiential learning which invites children to engage in creative discovery and reflection, with instruction predominantly taking place in our beautiful natural setting.

Elachee Nature Academy is accredited through Cognia and is managed and operated by Elachee Nature Science Center, a regional environmental education resource with a legacy of providing quality programming for children, adults, and families since 1979.

We would love for you to be part of our family!

The **Elachee Nature Academy** school year begins in mid-August and ends in late May. Ours is a 10-month program, and we require a commitment for the entire school year. Half-day program hours are 8:15-12:15 and full-day program hours are 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

## **Eligibility**

Children must be age 3 by September 1, 2024 to be eligible for Elachee Nature Academy's half-day Preschool program. Additionally, children in our half-day preschool program may not turn 5 before March 1, 2025 (not born before March 1, 2020). Children must be age 4 by September 1, 2024 to be eligible for our full day Pre-K program and age 5 as of September 1, 2024 to be eligible for the Kindergarten program. Students previously enrolled in a traditional elementary school setting must be in good academic and behavioral standing. Each student applying for the Preschool or Pre-K programs must also be **competent with independent bathroom skills**.

## **Elachee Nature Academy Admissions Process for New Students**

- Complete the New Student Application between December 1, 2023-March 1, 2024.
- Sign up via Pay it Forward by December 31, 2023 if seeking financial assistance.
- Participate in a one-on-one interview with school personnel.

### **UPON ACCEPTANCE to ELACHEE NATURE ACADEMY**

Pay the non-refundable **\$499 enrollment deposit** (per child) and complete the enrollment contract by March 31, 2024. The enrollment deposit will be applied to your August 2024 tuition payment. **After March 31, 2024, your enrollment is binding, and you will be responsible for the entire amount of the 2024-2025 tuition cost if we are not able to fill the spot we have held for your child.** This helps us ensure that we are able to retain the highest quality staff.

## Tuition Payment Schedule

Tuition may be paid monthly or in one lump sum. Monthly tuition payments start the first day of the school year, with subsequent payments due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month, September through May. Tuition payments received on or after the 5<sup>th</sup> day are subject to a late fee.

See the tuition fee schedule below. Pay by check (payable to Elachee Nature Science Center referencing your student's invoice number), cash or online through Brightwheel.

### Elachee Nature Academy: 2024-2025 Tuition (per student)

Preschool	Pre-K/Readiness K	Primary (K-2)
\$2300/year (\$230/month) (2 days – T/Th)	\$7500/year (\$750/month)	\$8500/year (\$850/month)
\$2500/year (\$250/month) (3 days – M/W/F)	5 days	5 days

\*Because Elachee Nature Academy is an accredited school, students in grades K-2 are required to attend daily.

*Elachee Nature Academy (ENA) admits qualified students of any race, color, national or ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded and made available to ENA students. ENA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions policies, financial aid program and other administered programs. Disabled students (or disabled family of member of applicants) requiring any type of accommodation during the application process or otherwise are encouraged to identify themselves and indicate what type of accommodation is needed.*

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## **Elachee Nature Academy Statement on Independent Bathroom Skills**

Because our program is exempt from Bright from the Start requirements, there are strict standards for changing and disposing of wet or soiled diapers or pullups, and our classrooms are not equipped to meet these standards. Additionally, when adults are busy changing a child, it takes away from learning time for all students and removes one adult from the direct supervision of and interaction with the rest of the class. Therefore, children enrolled in our programs must be competent with independent bathroom skills before attending.

Competency with independent bathroom skills means a child can do the following:

- Wear underwear, not pull ups.
- Communicate to the teachers that he/she needs to go to the restroom before he/she needs to go.
- Alert him/herself to stop what he/she is doing to go and use the bathroom.
- Pull down his/her clothes and get them back up without assistance.
- Wipe him/herself after using the toilet (with minimal assistance for 3 year olds).
- Get on/off the toilet by him/herself.
- Wash and dry hands.
- Postpone going if they must wait for someone who is in the bathroom or the class is away from the classroom.
- Wake up during nap time (when applicable) should they need to use the bathroom.

We do understand that even toilet trained children will occasionally have accidents. By definition, accidents are unusual incidents and should happen infrequently. In these instances, the teachers will help children to change their clothes, encouraging independence as much as possible.

Additionally, teachers will ask children many times throughout the day and before nap time if they need to use the bathroom. A teacher will assist children as needed, but children should be able to complete toileting activities independently. This is an issue which protects all concerned.

If a child consistently has toileting accidents, alternate processes may be put into place, up to and including removal from the program. Please note that this procedure is not in place to shame or punish a child or inconvenience families. Rather, cleaning accidents in the preschool setting is time consuming, and this time that teachers spend attending to and cleaning accidents is time that they are not spending interacting with children and facilitating the curriculum in a safe manner.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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