



To apply for this position email your resume and cover letter to meredith@wildflowercfc.org.

Title	Lead Nature Preschool Teacher & Land Caretaker
Grade/Level	9 months, part-time, 12-24 hours per week. This position will have the option to stay part time or move to full time in the 2025-2026 school year.
Salary	\$15-20 hourly
Location	Carriage Hill MetroPark, Dayton, Ohio
<p>Wildflower Child & Family Center is a high-quality nature-based child care center in the Dayton, Ohio area. We also partner with other centers and agencies to provide high-quality nature-based programming for children. If Connection to Nature, Belonging, and Growth are important to you, this is a great opportunity! Joining our team means joining children and families as a co-learner during the most critical time of development. There is a great deal of growth potential at WCFC and we encourage you to have big aspirations while with us. We pride ourselves in being the BEST place to work!</p> <p>Mission Wildflower Child & Family Center is a high-quality nature-based preschool and child care center that will lead the early childhood field in staff experience and will align the pedagogy of care and learning with and for our natural world with joy and play.</p> <p>Vision Our team will change the way that early childhood education and care functions in the Miami Valley, by creating a model nature-based child care center using a child-led, process-based, and multi-generational approach. This center will partner with other agencies and serve as a hub for educators to gather and learn thus increasing the capacity of nature-based early childhood education in the local area.</p>	
Job Summary	<p>A Lead Nature Preschool Teacher at Wildflower Child & Family Center works with a small dedicated team to provide custom nature-based care and education. With a small child to adult ratio, in depth child observation, preparation and documentation are possible. WCFC is working to reimagine the top down 'power over' model of management; each teacher will also hold a specialty focus where they are able to practice leadership within the team. The Land Caretaker will be responsible for conceptualizing, planning, sourcing, and managing our gardens and interaction with the local natural environments. All of the team will support in execution and will provide feedback. The ideal candidate is passionate about all children having access to nature-based education and will use best practices in early childhood care and education to create connections to our natural world for children and their teachers. All required background checks (FBI, BCII) must be cleared and candidates must be able to travel to areas in the central Dayton area.</p>

The state of Ohio also requires a physician signed medical statement and that all staff maintain an OCCRRA account. The candidate must be ready to hike in the rain with 16 kiddos in tow, delight in having their hands in the soil, enjoy building forts, be outdoors in the winter, and be ready to paint or have a parent conversation as the day unfolds!

Essential Functions

Teaching-In all aspects of care and education, teachers will strive to create spaces of belonging, with intentional balance maintained that ensure each individual is acknowledged as whole and valued. Teachers, children, and families are all on a path towards growth and wholehearted living and each individual is an important part of the whole community that seeks to thrive in connection to our natural world and environment. The teaching staff will set this tone and intention in their daily work.

- Teaching:
 - Co-teaching preschool classes of 12-15 students. Optional summer or vacation programming of elementary age children may be available.
 - Work with co-teachers to incorporate learning and development standards into repeated trips to the park.
 - Incorporate literacy, math skills, science concepts, physical practices as well as modeling social emotional skills and good communication.
 - Instruction will be delivered in a relationship-led, emergent and play-based manner (all teachers in the room are considered lead teachers and will rotate jobs to disperse responsibilities.)
 - Conceptualizing, planning, sourcing, and managing our gardens with both vegetables, flowers, and herbs.
 - Participate in food preservation.
 - Assisting with budgeting and working within those budgets.
 - Assisting with the content and deliverables of grant writing.
 - Monitoring the phenology of our local natural environments in order to enhance our curriculum and interactions with the land.
 - Lead staff and students in ways to act in the most generative way possible for the land while still adhering to solid developmentally appropriate practices.
- Lesson Planning/Paperwork
 - Share in planning responsibilities including all developmental and cognitive domains.
 - Work with a team to obtain books and materials as needed for lessons. Prepare and assist in clean up before and after programming, as needed.
 - Document lesson plans, staff communications, artifact collection, documentation and all other relevant information in a timely manner.
 - Bi-annual family conferences are a part of the yearly schedule and all staff will participate.
- Safety:
 - Being responsible for the health and safety of the children under care.
 - All staff will adhere to the health and safety plan and have input in its yearly improvement.
 - Creating and regular recheck of risk assessments and monitoring of our environments.
- Communication
 - Will check work communications on a regular basis and respond in a timely manner **during work hours**.
 - Prompt and proactive communication are essential to this position.
- Curriculum, Screening, Assessment & Learning
 - Lead children in playful learning as a co-teacher.
 - Intentionally prepare inclusive activities that follow the phenology of Ohio's environment and Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards, Developmentally Appropriate Practice, and work with centers specific curriculum frameworks.
 - Regularly document children's play and learning and share written and digital artifacts with centers using the agreed upon family communication tool.

- Work together to cook snacks or prepare materials as needed.
- Provide rich process-oriented art opportunities indoors and out regularly.
- Professional Development - WCFC pays team members during professional development hours and covers all training and coursework fees.
 - Maintain an OCCRA file.
 - Participate fully in the Wildflower CFC's onboarding series.
 - Maintain First Aid, Child Abuse Recognition, Communicable Disease and CPR training.

Staff Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1-3 hours of regularly scheduled plan time is allotted each week, in addition to breaks and lunch. ● Discounted child care ● Paid professional development, both cost of classes and hours. ● Intentional boundaries on work time and personal time. ● Yearly gear allowance and access to staff gear library. ● Use of center technology including communication devices, and laptops.
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Physical & Environmental Demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must be out in all types of weather, every day of the year, unless thunder and lightning or extreme temperatures. In case of extreme weather, classes will meet indoors. ● Staff is responsible for dressing for comfort, safety, and ease of movement in the outdoors in all seasons of Ohio weather. ● To ensure student safety, candidates must be able to lift 40 pounds, sit on the floor, crawl, bend, squat, and move with children on a variety of terrain and conditions.
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Belonging Statement
 WCFC recognizes the history of childcare in the United States has been built on the unpaid and paid labor of women, often women of color. The current environmental, childcare, early childhood education, and agriculture systems are ones that our society depends on, but remain hidden while capitalism values output and products. We seek to disrupt the dichotomy of care and early childhood education through a Pedagogy of Care that enables early childhood educators to reach their goals and aspirations. WCFC will continue to identify, recruit, and support those who may identify as members of historically underrepresented groups in environmental education, early childhood education, childcare, and agriculture. WCFC does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

Ideal Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear all required background checks, FBI, BCII ● Some specialized coursework in childcare, early childhood education and/or the health sector. (i.e., CDA, Associates, BS or MA in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Nursing, Psychology, Nutrition, Emergency Services, etc.) ● 5 or more years working with preschool aged children. ● Experience working with children outdoors in varied seasons. ● CPL 4 or higher in OCCRRA
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Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A high school diploma ● Clear all required background checks, FBI, BCII ● 2 years Experience working with children ● Some experience with outdoor education OR a personal connection with nature with an excitement to learn and grow in learning about nature.
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Characteristics for a successful team member:

- Comfortable working with co-workers, children, and families with different racial backgrounds, socio-economic levels, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities, and communication styles.
- Understanding that assisting children in the care of themselves is integral to good early childhood education. This includes assisting with toileting, personal care, dressing themselves (out of wet and muddy clothing as well as teaching them to be independent with outerwear each day), resting, and through self-regulation.
- A continuous growth mindset and willingness to progress in the early childhood profession.
- Understanding of co-teaching OR willingness to learn this style of teaching.
- Proactive work ethic as well as good self-regulation skills.
- Readily and positively shares ideas for improvement and approaches, creative problem-solving with a collaborative approach to change and learning.

Last updated June 12, 2024

*If a lower amount of hours is assigned on the range in 2024-2025 the planning and documentation requirements will also be fewer.