

ART, NATURE & ME Preschool

Stamford Museum
& Nature Center



Ages 3, 4 & 5 Part-week and full-week AM and PM half-day classes

OUR Mission

Art, Nature & Me at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center inspires creativity, promotes self discovery, and nurtures an appreciation for lifelong learning. Our staff supports a child's sense of wonder and natural curiosity by providing hands-on experiences in our classrooms as well as outdoors in the natural world.

OUR Philosophy

- We believe all children are unique and capable learners.
- We believe that parents are the primary educators.
- We believe that home/school communication is of utmost importance.
- We believe in the importance of instilling a lifelong passion for being stewards of the earth.
- We believe that learning can take place both indoors and outdoors.
- We believe in the importance of having children explore outdoors.
- We believe in keeping current with knowledge in the field of early childhood education.

WE'RE Unique

Art, Nature & Me preschool is nestled in the northeast corner of SM&NC's 118-acre site that boasts a working farm, an exotic animal exhibit, 80 acres of hiking trails, a natural playground, an art gallery, and a planetarium for our students to enjoy. **It's like a field trip every day!** Each year, dozens of area schools pay to send their students to SM&NC on field trips to take advantage of our wonderful facilities and educational resources. At **Art, Nature & Me**, our kids get to do all this and more, every day. From participation in all our seasonal activities to almost-daily farm visits and nature walks, these explorations form part of our core curriculum.



Cozy, Colorful Classroom

Hand in hand with our array of outdoor learning environments, **Art, Nature & Me** preschool offers bright and welcoming classrooms. Each is equipped with interest areas that complement and reinforce the work done in our “outdoor classroom.” Thanks to our team of dedicated teachers, these dynamic stations are continually changed and updated to keep our preschoolers’ interest. Our downstairs level is geared to the 3s’ programs; the upstairs is devoted to the 4s.



Playground Fun

Framed by a beautiful forest backdrop, **Art, Nature & Me** enjoys its own natural playground, which is solely for use by our preschoolers. There’s something for every child in this carefully thought-out play area that sports a variety of outdoor play stations, as well as some specially commissioned fun new additions: a natural wooden hut, a hollow wooden log and a fenced-off chicken coop that’s home to our very own chickens.

We are fully licensed and follow the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards.

Hitting the Trails

With more than 80 acres of nature trails to choose from, there’s no time for such a thing as bad weather at **Art, Nature & Me!** We embrace the great outdoors by dressing for the elements and hitting the trails no matter the weather, because it’s out on the trails that our students really get to experience the wonder of nature. One of our favorite hikes is to the vernal ponds, where we love to listen for frogs and scoop up salamander eggs and pond insects.

What Parents are Saying

“ Nothing compares to the preschool’s setting. Having daily access to trails and a full farm is not something most people get to experience on a regular basis. I’m so appreciative that my daughter has been able to be immersed in this environment!”

“I found the teachers to be nurturing as I watched them interact with the children. I felt so comfortable with the directors, which is really important when you’re leaving your three year old child for the first time.”

Down on the Farm

With its large family of farmyard animals, SM&NC’s living, working Heckscher Farm is just a five-minute walk from the classroom. From helping to brush the goats to feeding the chickens, we roll up our sleeves to learn first-hand what farm life is all about. Highlights include meeting the new lambs, kids, ducklings and chicks in spring; chatting with the farmers as they go about their daily chores; and participating in apple cidery and maple sugaring during their respective seasons. Otter pond is also a favorite stop at the farm.