

REGGIO-EMILIA, MONTESSORI & WALDORF INSPIRED

# THE GROWING TREE PLAYCARE & PRESCHOOL



LARGER SPACE, SAME PLAY-BASED APPROACH

**NEW LOCATION OPENING BY  
SUMMER 2022!**

12831 NE 21ST PL, BELLEVUE, 98005, WA  
EMAIL: [INFO@THEGROWINGTREEPLAYCARE.COM](mailto:INFO@THEGROWINGTREEPLAYCARE.COM)  
PHONE: 425-502-7794



**12831 NE 21st PL, Bellevue, 98005, WA**

**Our new location is just a 5 minute drive from our current Growing Tree location, off of Northrup Way in Bellevue.**

[illegible]



# OUR CLASSROOMS

There will be 6 beautifully designed classrooms with natural materials, soft colors, wooden toys and cozy learning spaces. Although the building will be licensed as a Childcare Center, our goal is to create each classroom to feel like an intimate homelike center which fosters a sense of community. Each classroom will have unique materials that represent different cultures, a plethora of quality books, and open ended toys and activities that promote wonder and exploration.



*"If we want our children  
to move mountains, we  
first have to get them  
out of their chairs"  
-Picolette Gowder*



Children will start in the class they will be in for the 2022-2023 school year and stay with the same cohort of children until they leave for kindergarten. Each September the class will move up to the next room. Teachers will have the option to move up with the class or stay in their designated age-group. Each class will start with 2 teachers and a shared assistant teacher. As enrollment grows, we will add a 3rd teacher to each class.



# OUR CLASSROOMS BY AGE

## INFANT CLASSROOM

Not yet 1 year old by 8/31/22  
2 classes of 8 infants

*2 lead teachers*  
*1 assistant teacher*



## WADDLER CLASSROOM

1 year old by 8/31/22  
Starts with 8 children,  
grows to 13 by fall.

*2 lead teachers*  
*1 assistant teacher/float*



## TODDLER CLASSROOM

2 years old by 8/31/22  
14 toddlers

*2 lead teachers*  
*1 assistant teacher/float*



## PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM

3 years old by 8/31/22  
17 preschool-age children

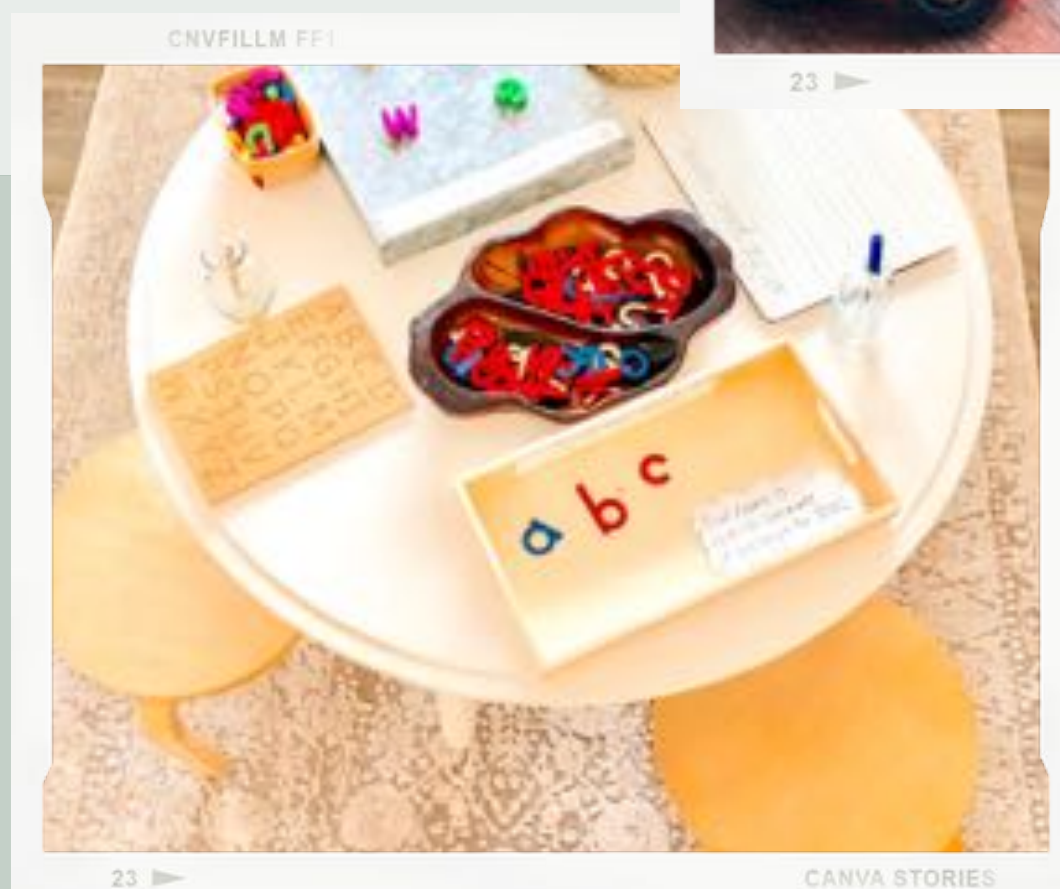
*2 lead teachers*  
*1 assistant teacher/float*  
*(shared with 4's)*



## PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM

4 years old by 8/31/22  
15 Pre-Kindergarteners

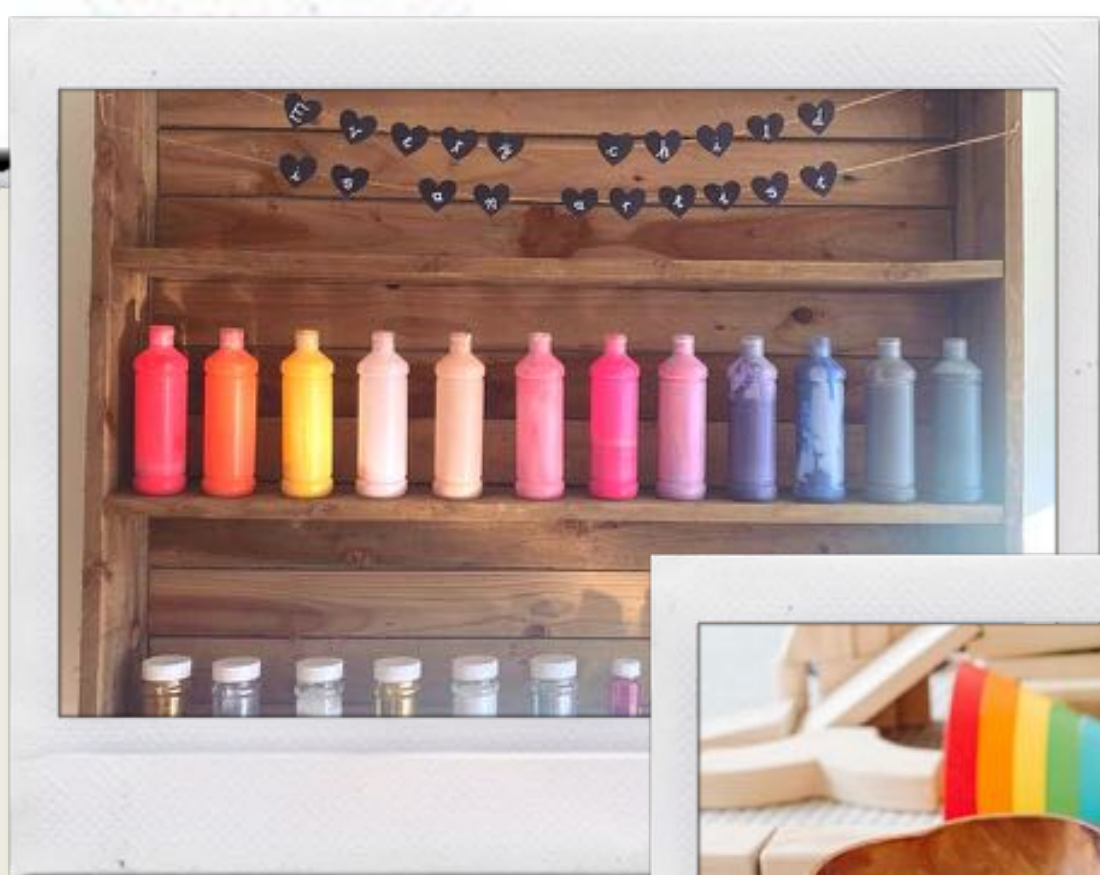
*2 lead teachers*  
*1 assistant teacher/float*  
*(shared with 3's)*





# The Buildout

The building was previously an adult daycare, and thus the general layout was exactly what we were looking for. We are renovating the building to bring it up to code for the City of Bellevue and licensing. This includes expanding a few classrooms, adding sinks and bathrooms to each classroom, replacing the floors and painting. We are currently in the permit process and have chosen a general contractor. Renovations are currently slated to begin end of January and are expected to take about 4 months. Once the building is complete, we will set up and begin the licensing process, which typically takes up to 90 days. While we wait for our license, children above 2.5 may start with half days.



## General Timeline:

### Winter

- Permitting
- Begin taking applicants (\$50 application fee)
- Touring current schools
- Renovations
- Begin reserving spaces (First month's tuition to lock in a space)

### Spring

- Set up and go through licensing
- Tour new space
- Meet the teachers
- Slow start for children 2.5-5, half days
- Scheduled playtime with teachers for under 2.5

### Summer- Officially open!



# Schedules & Rates

**HOURS OF OPERATION: 6:30AM-6:30PM.**  
**DROP-OFF AND PICK -UP TIMES DURING HEAVY TRAFFIC TIMES**  
**WILL BE STAGGERED**



## **EXTENDED DAY** **UP TO 10 HOURS BETWEEN** **6:30AM-6:30PM**

- M-F Infant/Waddler/Toddler class: \$2730
- M-F Preschool & PreK class: \$2520
- M/W/F Infant/Waddler/Toddler: \$1900
- M/W/F Preschool & PreK class: \$1765
- T/Th Infant/Waddler/Toddler class: \$1365
- T/Th Preschool & PreK class: \$1260

## **HALF DAY** **AM PICK UP BY 12:00PM,** **PM DROP OFF AFTER 12:30PM** **\*ONLY OFFERED TO CHILDREN WITH** **SIBLINGS IN YOUNGER CLASS**

- 5 days/week Infant/Waddler/Toddler: \$1640
- 5 days/week Preschool & PreK class \$1515
- M/W/F Infant/Waddler/Toddler class: \$1140
- M/W/F Preschool & PreK class \$1060 \*
- T/Th Infant/Waddler/Toddler class: \$820 \*
- T/Th Preschool & PreK class: \$760 \*

## **PARTIAL DAY** **9:30AM-3:00PM**

- M-F Infant/Waddler/Toddler class: \$2050
- M-F Preschool & PreK class: \$1890
- M/W/F Infant/Waddler/Toddler class: \$1425
- M/W/F Preschool & PreK class: \$1325
- T/Th Infant/Waddler/Toddler class: \$1025
- T/Th Preschool & PreK class: \$945

## **ADDITIONAL FEES:**

- \$50 Application Fee
- \$175 Annual Supply & Registration per school year (Prorated for mid-year start dates)
- \$25/day Late Tuition Fee
- \$5/minute Late Pick-up Fee

## **MEAL FEES**

- \$90/month for 5 days/week
- \$54 for 3 days
- \$36 for 2 days

Monthly tuition rates increase 5% for each family annually in September.

We will be prioritizing families needing full time care and reserving at least 60% of spaces for Full Time. 30% of spaces will go to partial day, half day, M/W/F and T/Th schedules. The remaining 10% of spaces will be divided for alternate schedules such as mix-matched days or 1 day/week schedules.

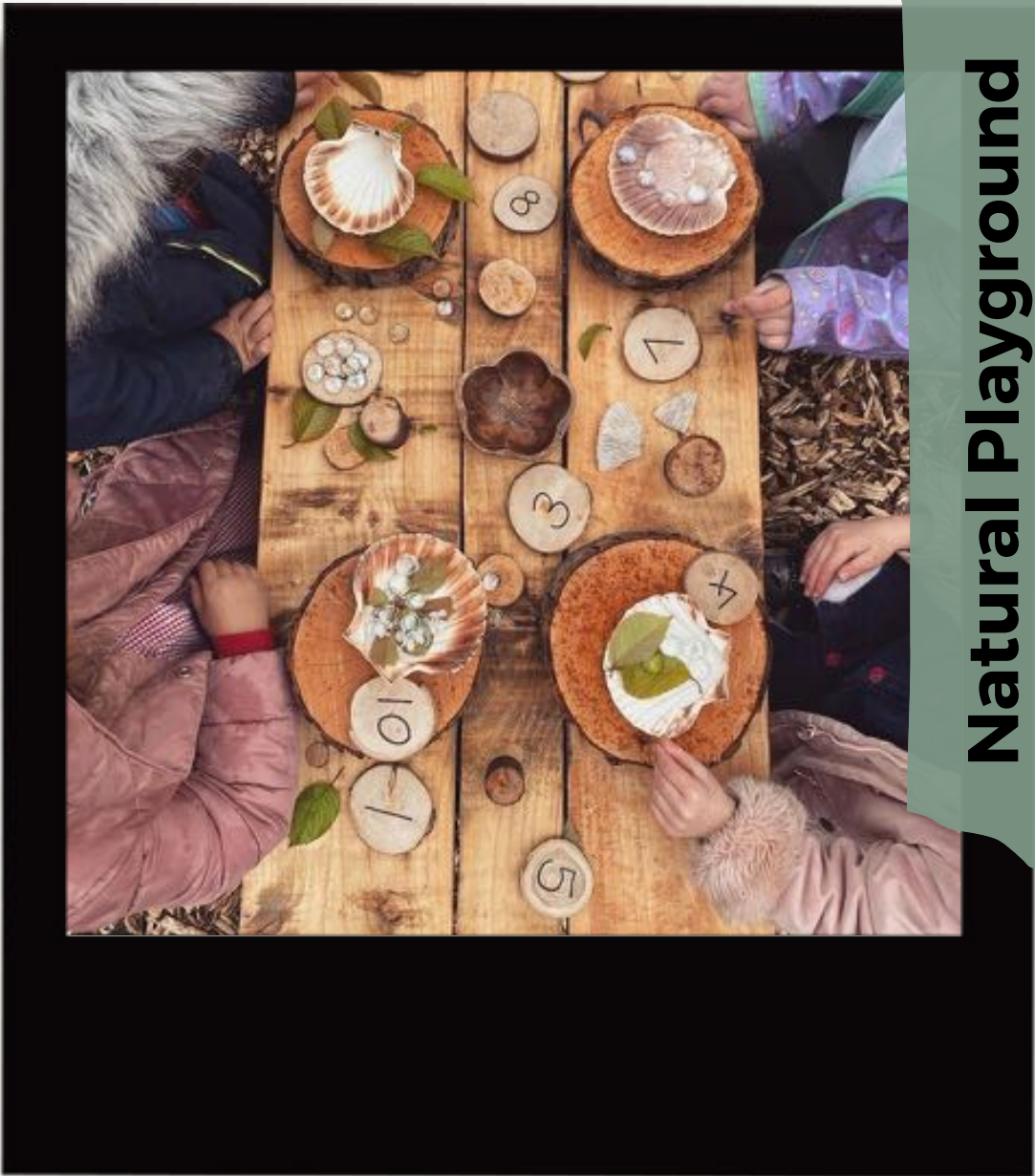
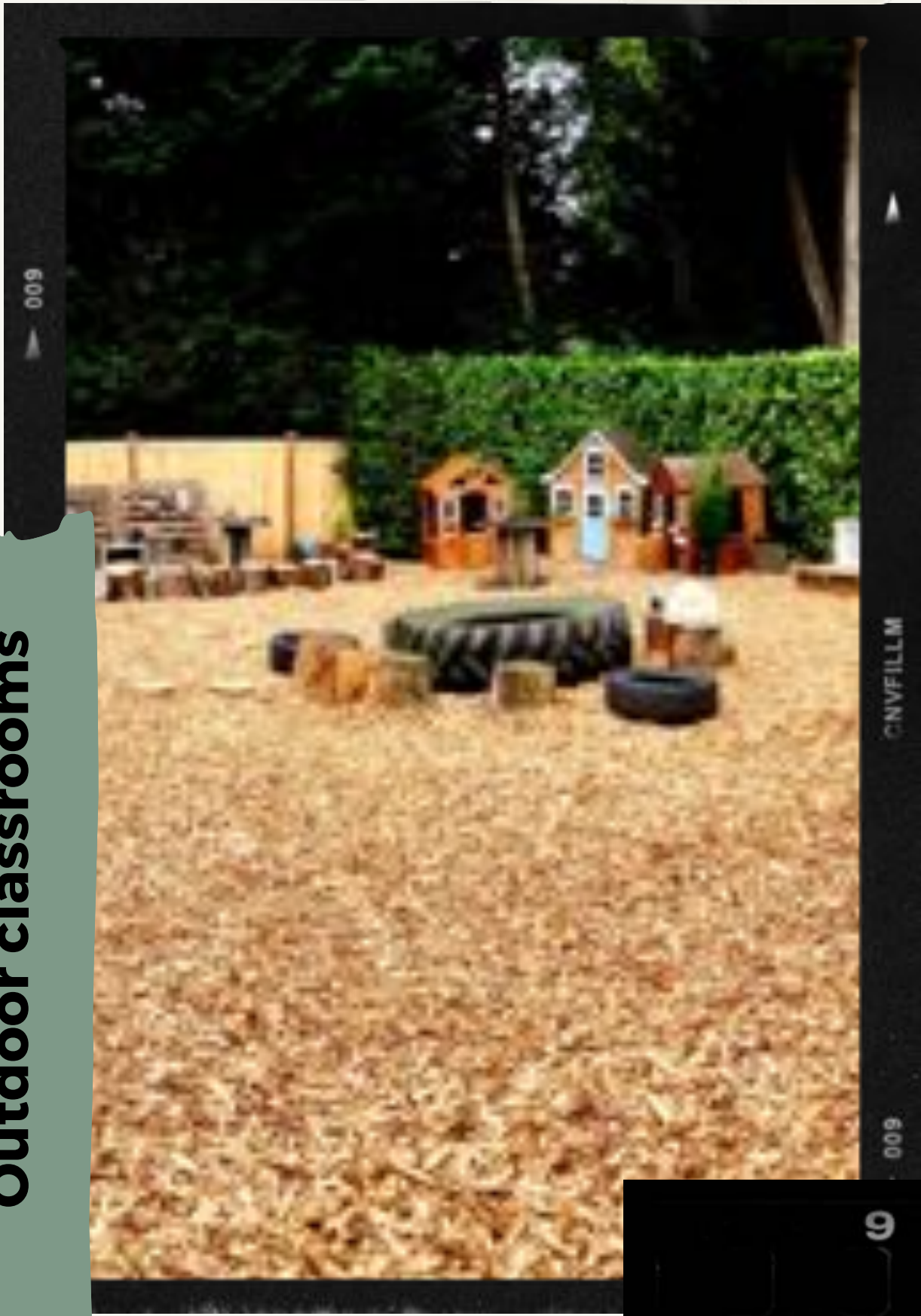


# ABOUT OUR SPACES

## Outdoor Classrooms

There are 3 smaller side yards that will each be dedicated to an age group. Our 2 infant classes will share an outdoor class with padded floors, low obstacles to crawl over, and areas for sensory play. The 1 and 2 year olds will have access to an outdoor classroom with cars and trucks to push around and a sand & water table. The 3-5 year olds (Preschool and Pre-K) have a garden space to tend to, as well as a space for books and easel painting.

The outdoor classes are intended for small groups, as well as the whole class. They will also be used during quiet time when some children are no longer napping or have woken up.



## Natural Playground

We believe there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing! We go outside rain or shine, for a minimum of 2 hours a day. Children wear rain suits and are encouraged to jump in puddles, look for insects, and make mud soup!

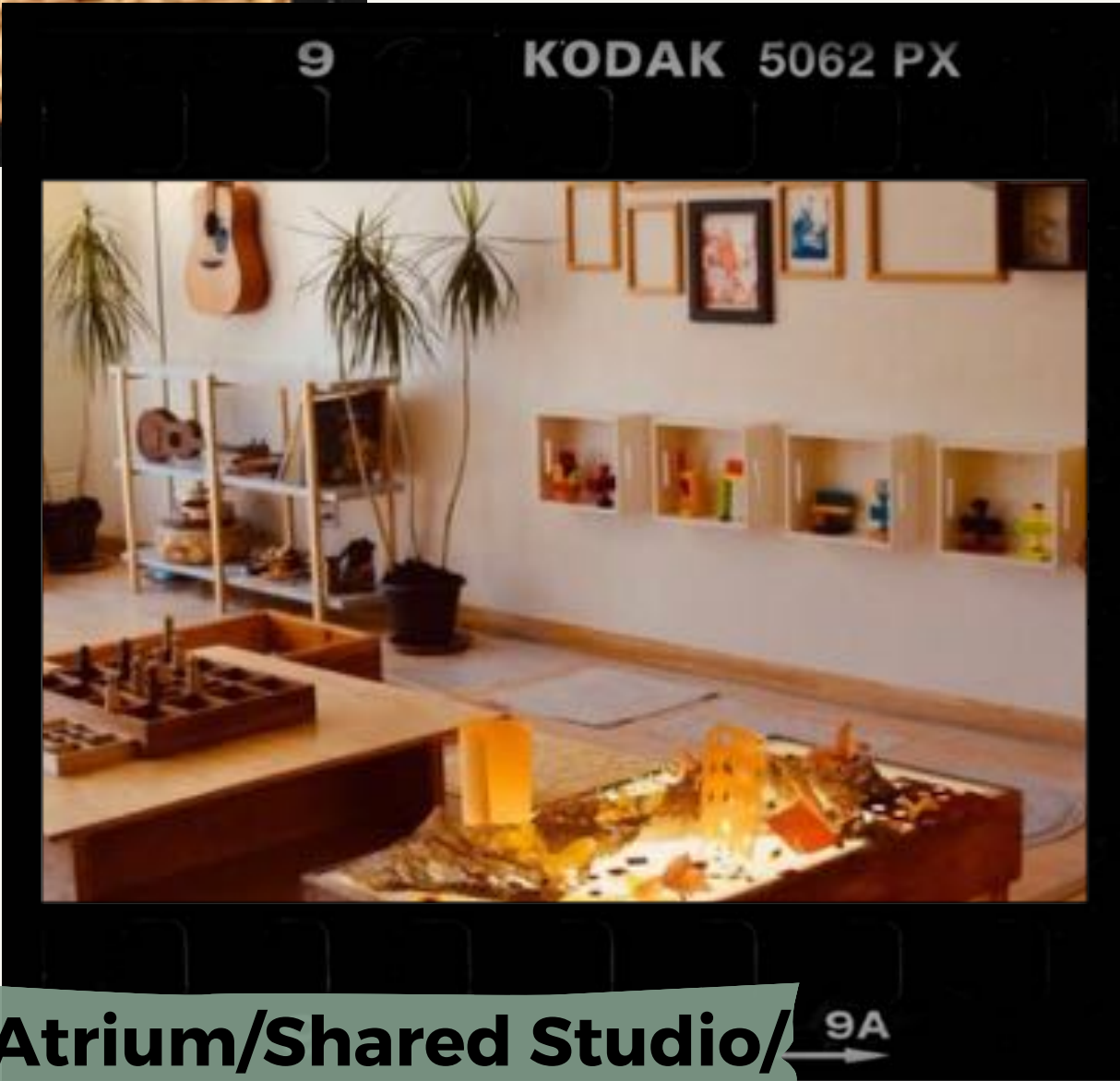
Our large outdoor playground on the south side of the property will be fully fenced and spread with play chips. A neighborhood of wooden playhouses will be connected with stepping stones. A climbing dome will be in the center to build gross motor skills, along with obstacle courses made from stumps, tires and beams.

Open ended, imaginative play will be encouraged with loose parts such as tires, stumps, buckets, gutters, and 2x4's. Greenery and garden beds will be tended to with the help of the children. We will have 2 picnic tables undercover for art, provocations, picnics, and reading books.

## Atrium/Shared Studio/Cozy Area

There is a Foyer in the school which will be shared by all classrooms as needed. This space will be the shared art studio, with a table for small groups and a plethora of supplies and materials ranging from paint to seashells.

There will also be a cozy corner with picture books and a couch for small groups to use.







# INFANT ROOM

2 CLASSROOMS WITH 8 INFANTS EACH

2 LEAD TEACHERS PER CLASS AND 1 ASSISTANT TEACHER PER CLASS  
FOR INFANTS WHO ARE NOT YET 1 YEAR BY 8/31/22

DECIDING TO SEND YOUR BABY TO DAYCARE ISNT ALWAYS AN EASY CHOICE. AT GROWING TREE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PATH TO BECOMING A HAPPY AND HEALTHY ADULT STARTS HERE. OUR CAREGIVERS GIVE BABIES THE LOVE AND ATTENTION THEY DESERVE IN A SAFE, CLEAN, NURTURING ENVIRONMENT. OUR INFANT ROOMS WILL BE CALMING, SOFT, AND INCLUDE SENSORY-RICH ACTIVITIES. CAREGIVERS WILL SPEND THE DAY SNUGGLING WITH, READING TO, AND ENGAGING OUR YOUNGEST LITTLE HUMANS.

EACH INFANT ROOM WILL HAVE A CHANGING STATION WITH A SINK, REFRIGERATOR FOR MILK AND FOOD, 8 CRIBS, A ROCKING CHAIR, MATS AND ACTIVITY GYMS FOR TUMMY TIME, STRUCTURES FOR CLIMBING ON AND PULLING THEMSELVES UP WITH, SILICONE TEETHING TOYS, WOODEN TOYS, BOARD BOOKS, BLOCKS, AND LOTS OF LARGER LOOSE PARTS. TEACHERS WILL FOLLOW EACH INFANT'S INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULE FOR SLEEPING, FEEDING AND PLAY TIME. THIS WILL BE RECORDED ON THE PROCARE CONNECT APP. FAMILIES WILL BRING MILK AND FOOD FROM HOME WHILE IN THE INFANT CLASSROOM.







# Waddlers Room

**STARTS WITH 8 CHILDREN AND GROWS TO 13 BY FALL.**

**2 LEAD TEACHERS**

**1 ASSISTANT TEACHER/ FLOAT (SHARED WITH 2'S CLASS)**

**FOR CHILDREN WHO WILL BE 1 YEAR OLD BY 8/31/22**

THE WORLD OF A ONE YEAR OLD IS FULL OF WONDER! THEY ARE LEARNING TO WALK, LEARNING NEW WORDS, AND BECOMING MORE INDEPENDENT EACH AND EVERY DAY. EVERY EXPERIENCE IS NEW TO THEM, FROM LEAVES FALLING ON A CRISP AUTUMN DAY, TO THE FEEL OF DRIED RICE IN A SENSORY BIN. AT THIS AGE CHILDREN BEGIN TO FORM FRIENDSHIPS AND WE FOCUS ON SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS.

OUR ONE YEAR OLD ROOM IS FULL OF RICH SENSORY ACTIVITIES, A CLIMBER TO CLIMB UP AND SLIDE DOWN, COZY SPACES TO CUDDLE UP WITH A TEACHER AND READ BOOKS, A COMMUNITY RUG FOR MUSIC, DANCE AND GROUP ACTIVITIES, AND A TABLE FOR ART AND SCIENCE ACTIVITIES. THE PRIMARY NAP TIME WILL BE IN THE AFTERNOONS, BUT MORNING NAPS WILL BE OFFERED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASES. MEALS WILL BE OFFERED, BUT FOOD FROM HOME IS ACCEPTED.





# TODDLERS ROOM

Class of 14 children

2 lead teachers and 1 assistant teacher/ float (shared with 1's class)

For children who will be 2 years by 8/31/22

At age two, we focus our learning on social-emotional and independence skills. Children are learning to share, play side by side, use their imaginations, and develop more vocabulary. They are learning how to put their shoes and coats on by themselves, how to eat more independently and how to use the bathroom. Our toddler environment will be set up to teach and encourage these skills.



Wooden furniture will all be sized for little ones, tables and chairs are low, a small kitchen and dramatic play area, a climber with a slide, and low shelves for them to access open-ended wooden toys and puzzles. A cozy classroom library will always be available to expand their vocabulary and encourage dialogue between the children and teachers. A community circle rug will be in the center of the class for daily group activities, singing and dancing. Toddlers are given choices between 2 different activities most of the day to encourage autonomy of their learning. They are taking in the world around them, exploring, pushing boundaries, and asking a million questions! Our teachers help guide this curiosity through open-ended play-based activities and provocations. Quiet time will be between 1-3pm, but alternate activities will be provided when they awake. Meals will be offered, but food from home is accepted.



# PRESCHOOL ROOM

17 preschool-age children

2 lead teachers

1 assistant teacher/ float (shared with 4's)

Children must 3 years by 8/31/22



The preschool years are all about exploring the world around them. Preschoolers are curious, independent, confident, and eager to learn. They are able to communicate easier with other children and adults; resulting in friendships forming and motor skills developing.

Our preschool classroom will be full of different areas for focused learning experiences. A dramatic play corner is full of diverse real life materials such as clothes from different cultures, play foods from around the world, baby dolls in all skin tones, and unique household items such as silver spoons and old telephones. A nature and STEM table set up with items from nature, magnifying glasses, measuring tools, and books to inspire curiosity and research answers. A sensory table will be ever-changing with small motor tools to investigate different textures and senses. The preschool classroom will have a writing and an open-end process art table with a shelf of materials to inspire and create with. Developmentally appropriate toys, puzzles and games will fill the shelves and be rotated as the season change. Numbers, letters, colors, and shapes will be integrated into every day activities and provocations. We do not believe in requiring worksheets or flashcards for this age, instead they are invited and encouraged to explore the teachers well thought out provocations. Quiet time will be between 1-3pm, but alternate activities will be provided when they awake. Meals will be offered, but food from home are accepted. Children do NOT need to be potty trained to join our Preschool class.





# Pre-Kindergarten Classroom

15 PRE-KINDERGARTENERS  
2 LEAD TEACHERS  
1 ASSISTANT TEACHER/FLOAT  
(SHARED WITH 3'S)

Pre-Kindergarteners are now the oldest at the school before graduating to kindergarten. They are strong-willed, confident, and carefree. This is the last of their early childhood years and we strive to instill their love for learning through play and wonder. While focusing on the skills they will need for kindergarten, our philosophy is that children should be joyful, happy and well-adjusted little learners who are able to securely communicate their feelings and thoughts.



Our Pre-Kindergarten class will be full of areas that promote investigation and discovery. Well planned provocations will be set out by teachers to spark curiosity. Our activities are designed to teach children how to think and learn rather than what to think. Our Pre-K classroom will have a beautiful dramatic play area that changes with the seasons and represents items from all over the world. Developmentally appropriate toys, games, and puzzles will be rotated in throughout the year. There will be a large, soft-colored community circle rug for class meetings and group activities. A large table will be open for art and group science activities with accessible materials. A nature and STEM table will be set up for investigating and using measuring tools, magnifying glasses, beakers, and scales. A wide variety of books will be set out throughout the classroom to supplement the activities set out, as well as in a cozy reading nook with pillows. Quiet time will be offered but not required for full day children. Meals will be offered, but food from home is accepted.



# WHAT WE BELIEVE



## PROGRESSIVE CURRICULUM

Experience-based learning is a central theme at Growing Tree. Our teachers guide children how to think, rather than what to think. We offer activities and a learning environment which encourages children to take ownership in their own learning and be curious about the world around them. Teachers observe, ask questions, and alter the curriculum based on the children's interests and skill level. We strive to raise critical thinkers and nurture children's innate curiosity in the world around them.



## NATURE BASED

At The Growing Tree, we believe there is no such thing as bad weather, just poor clothing! We spend at least 2 hours outside each day, rain or shine! Children keep rain gear at school so they are prepared for the elements. Spending time outdoors has many benefits to children's health, development, and happiness. Studies have shown that spending more time outdoors builds immunity, promotes physical health, develops sensory skills, increases attention span and contributes to cognitive and social development. In addition to outdoor play, we bring nature indoors!

Our new space will have natural colors, soft lighting, wooden furniture and materials, natural loose parts, and be filled with classrooms with indoor plants.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ONE OF OUR FAVORITE ARTICLES ABOUT OUTDOOR PLAY FROM NAEYC](#) OR [HERE TO READ ONE FROM HARVARD HEALTH](#)



# WHAT WE BELIEVE



NORDIC INFLUENCE

The Nordic model revolves around childhood, children's well-being, play and learning through participation and discovery. There is a large focus on curiosity, creativity, and the idea that children are the world's most valuable resource. Nordic parents and educators are strong believers in unstructured outdoor play to teach children to better understand their place in relation to the natural world, to appreciate the need for preserving the environment, and to strive to be more sustainable. We have adopted the Swedish word *friluftsliv*, which means being close to nature and the Danish word *Hygge* which means a feeling of coziness and contentment.



COMPASSION AND EMPATHY

Every child is born with a sense of compassion and empathy. It is a complex skill that will continue to develop through their life. Teachers model compassion, validate a child's big emotions, role play, and work through difficult conflicts with the child to teach them the skills they need to problem solve. Saying "sorry" does not help them learn empathy. A more meaningful approach is to focus on the other person's feelings. We believe children deserve to be treated with respect and taught to treat people of all races, abilities, and backgrounds with kindness and decency.

*"Gardens and children need the same things- patience, love and someone who will never give up on them."*

*--Picolette Sowder*



# WHAT WE BELIEVE



**REGGIO EMILIA, MONTESSORI,  
& WALDORF INSPIRED**

Each of these philosophies are wonderful on their own, but we do not believe there is only one right method to approach early childhood education. Therefore we use a blend of each approach that results in multi-age classrooms, child-centered learning, and an emphasis on art, play, and nature.



**PLAY-BASED LEARNING**

Meaningful play is open-ended, fun, spontaneous and intrinsically motivated by the child. A play-based approach is characterized by learning through exploration, discovery, and trial-and-error. Not only is play fun, but it promotes children's cognitive, social, emotional, psychological and physical development. At Growing Tree we provide extended amounts of unstructured free play in a supportive environment. We balance structured activities and free play to instill a sense of curiosity and purposeful learning. Children are given a lot of choice when it comes to their daily activities and duration of each activity.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MONTESSORI,  
WALDORF AND REGGIO-EMILIA?  
[SEE A VISUAL HERE](#) OR [LEARN MORE HERE](#)  
[OR HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT THE  
BENEFITS OF PLAY-BASED LEARNING](#)



# WHAT WE BELIEVE



## PROCESS OVER PRODUCT- WE GET MESSY!

Process-based learning is a holistic approach. Aspects of learning are thought of in a more broad sense, rather than teaching to specific targeted objectives. For the teacher, the process of the learning becomes the objective where learner decides where the process will go, the pace and direction of the learning, and therefore the pace and the direction of the teaching. The teacher may prompt and try different strategies to elicit progress but will ultimately be guided to the learning outcome by the student (Imray and Hinchcliffe; 2014).



## PARTNERS IN PARENTING

You want what is best for your child, and so do we! At Growing Tree, we strive to partner with families to develop individual learning plans that set your child up for a lifetime of success. We believe in building personal connections with families and creating a sense of community throughout our school.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT PROCESS ART FROM  
NAEYC HERE](#)

[OR CHECK OUT THIS GREAT ARTICLE FROM OUR  
FRIEND MELANIE AT EAT PLAY PAINT ABOUT  
OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR LITTLE  
ARTIST!](#)

[HERE IS ANOTHER GREAT ARTICLE ABOUT  
PROCESS ART FROM TINKERLAB](#)



LEARN MORE ABOUT

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# OUR EMERGENT CURRICULUM

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*Our curriculum is all about sparking curiosity and wonder! The teachers set up the environment with different activities where children can explore, create, and learn through play. The year follows the seasons and the constant changes going on in the world around us. The teachers pay close attention to the children's interest and design meaningful lessons based on what excites them. The duration of each unit can vary and overlap with other units. School readiness skills such as number and letter concepts are integrated into every lesson in developmentally appropriate manners.*

WANT TO LEARN MORE?  
CLICK TO CHECK OUT SOME  
OF OUR FAVORITE ARTICLES &  
RESOURCES BELOW

PLAY BASED LEARNING FROM NAEYC  
THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURE PLAY  
EARLY LEARNING DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDELINES



"NEVER HELP A  
CHILD AT A  
TASK AT  
WHICH THEY  
FEEL THEY CAN  
*succeed*"  
- MARIA MONTESSORI







## Enrichment Programs

Enrichment programs such as music, dance, yoga, and woodworking are included throughout the week! The days and times will vary based on the classroom and age of the children.

Seasonal community events are held on weekends and evenings. Examples of these events include meeting at a pumpkin patch in the fall, renting out KidsQuest in the winter, visiting a zoo in the spring, and a summer picnic!



MEALS PROVIDED BY

# GREEN SPROUTS



**With many allergies and dietary restrictions, we understand that some families prefer to bring their own food from home. Snacks will be included in tuition, but families can decide to order lunches each month for \$4.50/day.**

**Meals will be delivered daily by Green Sprouts Food. Their menu features the highest quality seasonal organic, natural and sustainably farmed produce, meats and seafood, and is sourced primarily from the Pacific Northwest. Their chefs create "brilliant, nutritious and engaging meals for young learners that draw from diverse sources and global cuisines." They have a regular menu and an allergen menu. All meals exceed USDA's food requirements.**

**[Click here to visit their website and view the menu](#)**



# 2022 CLOSURES

WE ARE A SMALL BUSINESS WITHOUT BACKUP EMPLOYEES AND THEREFORE SCHEDULE HOLIDAY VACATION AHEAD OF TIME. WE HOPE THAT BY PROVIDING A SCHEDULE TO FAMILIES IN ADVANCE, YOU CAN MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS OR TAKE FAMILY VACATIONS OF YOUR OWN! TUITION IS BASED ON A YEARLY RATE AND DIVIDED EVENLY AMONG THE 12 MONTHS OF THE YEAR, REGARDLESS OF CLOSURES, HOLIDAYS, AND VACATIONS. THE GROWING TREE WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES:



## JANUARY

- Not expected to be open yet

## FEBRUARY

- Not expected to be open yet

## MARCH

- Not expected to be open yet

## APRIL

- 11th-15th-Closed for Spring Break

## MAY

- 26th-27th- Professional Development Days
- 30th - Memorial Day

## JUNE

- 20th- Juneteenth

## JULY

- July 4th-8th Independence Day/Summer Break

## AUGUST

- No closures scheduled

## SEPTEMBER

- 1st-2nd: Professional Development Days
- 5th- Labor Day
- 6th- First Day of School

## OCTOBER

- No closures scheduled

## NOVEMBER

- 10th-Professional Development Day
- 11th: Veterans Day/ Teacher Training Prep Day
- 24th-25th: Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER

- 26th-30th: Winter Break



# 2023 CLOSURES

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## JANUARY

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- 2nd- Return from Winter Break
- 16th- MLK Jr. Day

## FEBRUARY

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- 16-17th- Professional Development Day
- 20th- President's Day

## MARCH

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- No closures scheduled

## APRIL

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- 10th-14th- Spring Break

## MAY

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- 25th-26th- Professional Development Day
- 29th - Memorial Day

## JUNE

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- 19th- Juneteenth

## JULY

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- 3rd-7th Independence Day/Summer Break

## AUGUST

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- 31st- Professional Development Day

## SEPTEMBER

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- 1st-Professional Development Day
- 4th- Labor Day

## OCTOBER

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- No closures scheduled

## NOVEMBER

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- 9th-Professional Development Day
- 10th- Veterans Day
- 23rd-24th: Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER

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- 25th-29th: Winter Break
- January 1st- New Years Day



# OUR COVID POLICY

*At Growing Tree, we have been taking our Covid precautions very seriously and following all King County, CDC and DOH recommendations to minimize risk of spreading sickness*

## All Teachers are Vaccinated & Wear Masks

Teachers and specialists are all fully vaccinated and wear masks. Adults wear masks at pick up and drop off.

## Mask Policy

Masks are required for teachers throughout the day and parents during drop off/pick up. Children over 5 are required to wear a mask. Mask wearing is strongly encouraged for children ages 2-5. Children under 2 will not wear any face coverings.

## Illness Policy

Children will be closely monitored for symptoms upon entrance and throughout the day. If any symptoms are present throughout the household, children must stay home until symptom free for at least 24 hours. Illness policy currently includes all household members.

## Increased Hand Washing & Additional Cleaning Procedures

We practice additional hand washing for both teachers and children, including but not limited to: arrivals, transitions, before and after meals, after high-contact activities, and with potty or diapering activities. Toys and surfaces are cleaned, disinfected, and laundered regularly.

## Daily Temperature Checks

Parents must take child's temperature before coming to school and medicine may not be given to reduce fever before school. Temperatures will be checked by teachers throughout the day and teachers may send children home if they feel they are too sick to be at school

## Safe Return to School

Doctor's note and/or proof of a negative Covid-19 test are required upon return for children with any symptoms. Children must be symptom free of any non-COVID illness for at least 24hrs (48hrs is preferable) before returning.

Depending on the CDC recommendations, travel restrictions may be in place .

## Play it Safe!

Please play it safe! Do not rush back to school if there is any hesitation. It puts the child, other children, other families, and teachers at risk.



# About Our Beginning



We met as toddlers at a home-based daycare on Mercer Island. As children we were always found with baby dolls in our arms or even assisting with the younger infants at our daycare. In middle school our entrepreneurial spirit engaged and we started a neighborhood babysitting business. With dreams of one day starting our own childcare business, we both attended Washington State University and earned our degrees in Early Childhood Education. Our wonderful daycare experience set us on our life path to open a daycare of our own!

After graduating from college in 2011, we spent the next few years gathering invaluable experience by working at local daycares. We got hands on lessons about running a daycare and began planning how to incorporate our own childcare philosophies and open a business of our own.

2013: opened The Growing Tree Playcare & Preschool, a licensed home daycare in Bellevue, WA.

2016: opened The Treehouse Playcare & Preschool for children 2.5-4 years old.

2019: added a Pre-Kindergarten Annex to Treehouse Playcare & Preschool for children 4 and 5 years old.

2022: Opening The Growing Tree center!

We started with just the two of us doing all the teaching and have grown to a current team of 15 wonderful teachers. Our program and curriculum continues to grow and adapt. We take great pride in continuing education and stay up to date with the latest research in early childhood education.

Our mission is simple. We want to provide a unique, enriching, and loving environment for children to thrive in. All of our locations are play and nature-based to help us accomplish this. A curriculum inspired by a blend of philosophies by Montessori, Reggio Emilia, and Waldorf approaches will help your child learn, grow, and be happy.

We look forward to meeting you and your family!

-Jessi and Alli





# MEET OUR TEAM

MS. FAITH WILL BE JOINING THE NEW SCHOOL AS A LEAD INFANT TEACHER. FAITH JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2019. FAITH HAS A BACKGROUND IN NANNYING AND DECIDED TO SWITCH INTO EDUCATION. SHE WILL BE WORKING TOWARDS HER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEGREE THIS YEAR.

MS. CHLOE IS EXCITED TO BE LEADING OUR PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM! SHE GRADUATED LESLEY UNIVERSITY WITH A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN 2018. CHLOE HAS BEEN WITH US SINCE HER MOVE TO SEATTLE IN 2020. AFTER DISCOVERING HER LOVE FOR THE PRE-K AGE GROUP WE KNEW SHE WOULD BE A PERFECT PERSON TO LEAD THE PRE-K TEAM.

MS. EMILIE WILL BE JOINING OUR WADDLERS CLASS AS A LEAD TEACHER! EMILIE JOINED OUR TEAM IN EARLY 2020 AS A LEAD TEACHER AT GROWING TREE WHERE SHE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH KIDS OF ALL AGES! EMILIE HAS AN AA IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND A BA IN PSYCHOLOGY.

MS. BROOKE BEGAN WORKING AT THE GROWING TREE IN MARCH OF 2016. SHE GRADUATED FROM BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY WITH A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY. BROOKE DECIDED TO PERSUE HER PASSION FOR TEACHING AFTER MOVING TO SEATTLE IN LATE 2015. IT FEELS LIKE SHE HAS BEEN WITH US SINCE DAY ONE AND MAKES A WONDERFUL ADDITION TO OUR TEAM. SHE'LL BE TRANSITIONING INTO A PROGRAM SUPERVISOR ROLE AFTER RETURNING FROM HER MATERNITY LEAVE THIS SPRING.





# WHAT WE LOOK FOR *in our teachers*

HIRING QUALITY AND QUALIFIED TEACHERS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO US. NOT ONLY DO WE LOOK FOR TEACHERS WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, WE LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE ABSOLUTELY PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT THEY DO! WE WANT OUR TEACHERS TO LOVE COMING TO WORK EACH DAY, TO MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH EACH CHILD, AND TO WORK WELL WITH THE TEAM OF TEACHERS. WE LOOK FOR TEACHERS WHO ARE EXPERIENCED IN AND WILLING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REGGIO EMILIA, WALDORF AND MONTESSORI PHILOSOPHIES, AS WELL AS PLAY AND NATURE BASED EDUCATION.

TO HELP REDUCE TURN OVER, ALL STAFF START WITH A TRIAL PERIOD. DURING THIS TIME WE WANT TO MAKE SURE IT IS A GOOD FIT IN ALL ACCOUNTS AND MAY TRY THEM OUT IN DIFFERENT CLASSROOMS, WITH DIFFERENT CO-TEACHERS OR AGES. AT THE END OF THE TRIAL PERIOD, IF BOTH PARTIES FEEL IT IS THE PERFECT FIT, TEACHERS SIGN A YEAR CONTRACT.

ALL STAFF MEET THE DCYF REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION (STARS HOURS), UNDERGO TRAINING BY THE DIRECTOR, PASS BACKGROUND CHECKS, ARE CPR AND FIRST AID CERTIFIED, HAVE A CURRENT FOOD HANDLERS PERMIT, HAVE A NEGATIVE TB TEST, AND ARE FULLY VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19.

Great Basket  
and fell in love with it.



# HOW TO ENROLL

1.

FILL OUT THIS APPLICATION TO REGISTER FOR THE WAITLIST. IT DOES NOT MEAN YOUR SPACE IS GUARANTEED. WE WILL REVIEW THE APPLICATION QUESTIONS, LOOK AT AGES AND SCHEDULES.  
[CLICK HERE](#)

2.

SET UP A VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON TOUR OF OUR CURRENT SPACE TO GET AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

3.

WE WILL GIVE UPDATES ON BUILDING PROGRESS

4.

AS SOON AS WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF OPENING DATE, WE WILL START LOCKING IN SPACES (MOST LIKELY FEBRUARY) WITH FIRST MONTHS TUITION

5.

STAY TUNED TO TOUR THE NEW SPACE, MEET THE TEACHERS, AND FOR OPENING INFORMATION! WE HOPE YOU JOIN OUR GT FAMILY!

