

Drumlin Farm Community Preschool Mission

Drumlin Farm Community Preschool's (DFCP) philosophy is rooted in the idea that the education of young children should be evolutionary, steady, and unhurried—just like the cycles in nature. We believe children should be given the opportunity to develop and express themselves cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically, while also being appropriately challenged in each area. By applying a multidisciplinary approach to learning and teaching, we foster growth of the “whole child.”



Each class participates in weekly farm chores, allowing them to nurture and frequently observe the farm animals. Wildlife including reptiles, birds, and small mammals visit the classroom in presentations by teacher-naturalists who lead discussions at a young child's level of understanding. Visits to the Learning Garden and Boyce Field help teach students about the life cycle of flowers and vegetables. The classroom offers opportunities for dramatic play, block building, art activities, cooking, and science exploration.

What Makes Drumlin Farm Community Preschool Unique?

Drumlin Farm Community Preschool takes advantage of our location to provide an exciting and rich school experience for children of all abilities. Outdoor exploration is an important component of our curriculum, and we visit a variety of areas around the sanctuary—farmyard, field, forest, ponds—on a daily basis. This gives the children an opportunity to get to know these areas through the changing seasons. Parents are welcome to visit and share nature-related books, hobbies, or special interests, or join us on one of our nature walks.

“It is always enjoyable to arrive at the door as smiling, enthusiastic staff members welcome the kids with warm greetings. The ‘stop and smell the roses,’ teaching attitude is wonderful. My favorite observation of how truly nature-based the program is, was the day that the class stayed outside all morning-taking advantage of the great weather.”

— Parent

Teachers

All DFCP teachers have a background in early childhood education and are licensed as teachers through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Staff have been carefully selected based on teaching experience, commitment to working with young children, and knowledge of natural history. All staff must pass background checks and be currently certified in CPR and first aid.



Application Process / Enrollment

All interested families must submit an application for enrollment. DFCP strives to balance classes based on both gender and age. Within this framework, admission is done by chronological order as applications are received. Application forms are accepted by mail, fax, or in person at the admissions window. Applications will be accepted from all families without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, cultural history, political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

Key Dates

September 8, 2009 - First day of school

Program History

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary has been offering educational programs for young children for over 40 years. The 2009-2010 academic year is the fifth for Drumlin Farm's preschool-age program, and the second for Drumlin Farm Community Preschool. DFCP is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.



"As a mother, I am delighted to see the children come up the hill after their morning of exploring Drumlin Farm. Whether their cheeks are smudged from play in the dirt, or have a rosy tint from the winter wind, I feel lucky to have found such a wonderful place for my children to grow."

— Parent

Mass Audubon and Drumlin Farm

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 33,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 200,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Mass Audubon's mission and actions have expanded since our beginning in 1896 when our founders set out to stop the slaughter of birds for use on women's fashions. Today we are the largest conservation organization in New England. Our statewide network of 45 wildlife sanctuaries welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our conservation, education, and advocacy work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary strives to promote awareness of the interdependence of people, land and wildlife through environmental education, stewardship of regionally significant habitat, and sustainable agricultural practices. By fostering an understanding of how our everyday choices affect the environment, we seek to inspire individuals, groups, and communities to develop and act upon their own conservation ethic in protecting the nature of Massachusetts.

For more information about DFCP, please contact Paula Goodwin, DFCP Director/ Lead Teacher
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A nature-based preschool where children develop an awareness of, and appreciation for, themselves, each other, and the environment.

