

## Why The Lake Nixon Outdoor Preschool May Be a Perfect Fit For Your Child

It is no secret that children need to be outside, that it is a right, not a privilege, and that they thrive when able to do so. It has also been shown that children who are able to play for long periods of time outdoors are happy and confident, as well as better prepared for future academic work. The Lake Nixon Outdoor Preschool will provide children with learning opportunities not found in traditional settings. The table below shows several ways in which our program provides the benefits of an outdoor preschool while ensuring your child practices age appropriate skills and learns through concrete experiences with a variety of natural objects.

	<i>Lake Nixon Outdoor Preschool</i>	<b>Traditional Preschool</b>
<b>Fine Motor Skills</b>	LNOP requires more frequent dressing for appropriate weather, <u>regularly</u> buttoning/zippering clothing.	Fewer opportunities transitioning outside means less time practicing fine motor skills.
	Additional opportunities at LNOP to copy and draw <u>not only</u> simple shapes but <u>more diverse</u> natural shapes seen more frequently in the outdoors.	Usually only exposed to simple shapes.
	More time spent intentionally playing outside at LNOP with assorted sizes of objects. <u>There are endless small objects found outside!</u>	Only playing with blocks and legos stifles creativity.
<b>Gross Motor Skills</b>	Walking everyday on uneven surfaces.	Frequently only walk on carpet and concrete.
	LNOP affords more chances to manipulate and carry large objects <u>like buckets full of sand and water.</u>	Traditional preschools don't have/let children play with larger/heavier objects.
	Pushing/pulling and balancing in LNOP's outdoor world.	Most preschools only use the traditional playground equipment.
<b>Social Skills</b>	<u>LNOP's smaller group</u> dynamics provide more meaningful interactions with peers.	Larger group dynamics are typically controlled by adults.
	Children will experience more stimulating experiences at LNOP	Less interesting play equals less communication and cooperation.

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	and are <u>more likely to remember</u> and share them with peers and parents.	
	Greater opportunities for <u>emotional regulation</u> in challenging outdoor environments.	Children spending most of their time indoors do not get the chance to build appropriate reactions to the outside world.
	<u>Learning empathy</u> through caring for animals and objects in LNOP's natural areas.	Children simply will not find the assortment of critters at traditional preschools.
<b>Self-Care Skills</b>	LNOP's children will frequently practice washing and drying hands after playing outside thus <u>developing self-care skills faster</u> .	Children attending traditional preschools will get dirty less often and not develop critical self-care skills.
	<u>Slower pacing</u> allows LNOP to develop greater autonomy in eating/dressing/cleaning etc.	Traditional preschools have a schedule which is too fast paced for many children.
	Children learn <u>appropriate risk taking</u> while being supervised outside by trained LNOP staff.	Many preschools are risk averse. Taking chances builds confidence!
<b>Cognitive Skills</b>	LNOP's schedule provides more time to explore surroundings which <u>fosters deeper curiosity</u> .	Indoor preschool's have limited environments to explore.
	Exposure to the names of local animals and plants <u>builds relevant vocabulary</u> .	Only learning the names of savannah and polar animals is vocabulary limiting.
	LNOP's outdoor world provides endless objects for counting, sorting and naming, which is <u>more stimulating</u> and creates unique opportunities for child engagement.	Traditional preschools can only count and name the limited objects they have on hand in a classroom.

