Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, LLC

Family Handbook

2026 - 2027

Welcome

Welcome to **Wild & Wonder Learning Nook!** We are so excited to partner with your family in creating a joyful, meaningful learning experience for your child.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is a small, play and nature-based homeschool learning community designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, kindness, and a lifelong love of learning. Our program blends hands-on experiences, outdoor exploration, real-world learning, and academic instruction in a nurturing environment that encourages children to grow at their own pace.

Our philosophy is inspired by Montessori and Charlotte Mason principles while encouraging children to learn through exploration, discovery, and meaningful relationships. We also strive to teach strong character and values rooted in God's creation while welcoming respectful conversations and families from all backgrounds.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is a homeschool hybrid model, which means the parents retain full responsibility for their child's education. We are here to supplement and enrich your child's homeschool experience. We look forward to supporting you and your child on your homeschool journey!

This Family Handbook is designed to guide you through this exciting time. We encourage you to fully read our handbook to familiarize yourself with our learning community.

Once you have reviewed this handbook and want to continue with enrollment, please complete the Enrollment Interest Form to request a family interview. We look forward to hearing from you!

Mission

At Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, our mission is to cultivate curious minds, compassionate hearts, and confident learners through meaningful, nature-inspired education. Rooted in God's creation and inspired by the Montessori and Charlotte Mason philosophies, we provide a nurturing environment where children are encouraged to play, explore, create, and discover. Through hands-on learning, meaningful relationships, real-life experiences, and purposeful academics, we empower each child to develop a lifelong love of learning while growing in character, confidence, and wonder.

Vision

At Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, we envision a community where every child's wonder is preserved and their unique gifts are celebrated through the lens of God's creation. Our vision is to create a learning community where every child feels deeply known, valued, and inspired to become the person God created them to be. We envision a place where childhood is cherished, curiosity is celebrated, and learning extends beyond the walls of a classroom into the beauty of nature and everyday life. Wild & Wonder Learning Nook strives to nurture children who are thoughtful thinkers, creative problem-solvers, kind friends, responsible stewards of God's creation, and lifelong learners. We seek to partner with homeschooling families to provide an enriching educational experience that balances academic excellence with creativity, exploration, character development, and joyful discovery. Together, we are creating a place to play, wonder, learn, explore, and grow—rooted in God's nature.

Tuition

Financial Commitment

Specialized education with a highly qualified educator involves financial sacrifice for many families. Wild & Wonder Learning Nook understands that commitment to a quality education can sometimes be a difficult choice. We strive to keep our costs low but competitive with other options in the area.

Registration Fee: $150 fee that is used to secure your child's spot at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook and is non-refundable. Fee must be paid within 5 days of enrollment (after interview process.)

Supply Fee: Covers basic school supplies and curriculum materials and is non-refundable.

- 3 or 4 Days a Week Enrollment: $200 Supply Fee
- 1 or 2 Days a Week Enrollment: $100 Supply Fee

There are no refunds for tuition that has been paid in advance or if this contract is breeched by the financially responsible party.

Monthly Tuition:

- Tuition is separated into 9 monthly payments.
- Monthly tuitions:
  - $500 a month for 4 Days a Week
  - $375 a month for 3 Days a Week
  - $250 a month for 2 Days a Week
  - $125 a month for 1 Day a Week
- Monthly Tuition is due in FULL by the 5th of each month from September 5 - May 5.
- Late fee: After 3 days, a 10% late fee will be applied. After 7 days, a 15% fee will be applied.
- Partial payments will not be accepted.
- Failure to provide payment may result in termination from the program.

Please note: Wild & Wonder Learning Nook observes all federal holidays and will also be closed during the week of Thanksgiving, for Christmas break, and for Spring Break. These dates were factored into the overall cost and are reflected in the monthly payments. Children who are not in attendance due to sickness or vacation must continue making full monthly tuition payments unless otherwise agreed upon in writing. No refunds will be made for weather related or emergency school closures.

A school calendar will be provided to parents upon enrollment.

Early Contract Termination/Withdrawal Policy
It is understood that enrollment at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is for the entire school year of September-May. Parents/guardians are expected to provide the director with at least 30 days advance, written notice from the next billing date, of intent to withdraw a child from Wild & Wonder Learning Nook. If a parent/guardian fails to make this notice, the next month's tuition will be due in full. Registration fees and supply fees are nonrefundable. All withdrawal notifications must be submitted in writing.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook LLC Acceptable Forms of Payment: PayPal, Venmo, Check, or Cash.

Program Information

Days: Tuesdays – Fridays

Hours: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Age Groups

- Pre-Kindergarten (Must be 4 as of September 30, 2026 and potty-trained)
- Kindergarten (Must be 5 as of September 30, 2026 and potty-trained)
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade

Children are grouped flexibly based on age, ability, and developmental readiness.

Daily Schedule **(Approximate times, subject to change)**

8:30–8:40

Arrival & Morning Exploration

8:45–9:00

Morning Meeting - May include calendar activities, morning prayer/reflection, Bible verse/story, social/emotional learning activity, or read aloud

9:00–9:45

Language Arts - Will include teacher led activities, student independent work, collaborative work, and center activities with lots of hands-on opportunities

9:45–10:30

Math - Will include teacher led activities, student independent work, collaborative work, and center activities with lots of hands-on experiences

10:30–10:45

Snack Break - Parents must provide a snack

10:45–11:45

Thematic Unit incorporating outdoor exploration, science, history, project-based learning, arts and crafts, music, and more!

11:45–11:50

Wrap Up/Reflection

11:50–12:00

Dismissal

Attendance/Come and Go Policy

Regular attendance is important for your child's success.

Please notify us as soon as possible if your child:

- Will be absent
- Will arrive late
- Needs to leave early

Please note, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is not subject to Virginia's Compulsory attendance laws. In accordance with Virginia regulations governing childcare and private educational programs, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook operates under a "Come and Go" policy. Wild & Wonder Learning Nook provides educational guidance and enrichment experiences; however, children are not legally required to attend or stay on campus. The sole responsibility of children's attendance rests with the parents/guardians. If a child expresses a desire to leave campus, a parent or guardian will be notified. Any decision for a child to remain on campus or depart from campus rests solely on the parent/guardian. Please direct questions regarding this policy to the director.

Touring the Campus

Wild and Wonder Learning Nook will host an open house annually for prospective families. If families need to tour the campus outside of this time (due to missed Open House or late enrollment, etc.), a $50 non-refundable fee must be paid before touring. If families choose to enroll, this $50 will be applied to the registration fee.

What to Bring

Students should bring:

- Backpack

- Water bottle
- Snack
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Change of clothes

We will participate in outdoor exploration unless the weather is severe. Please plan accordingly.

Dress Code

At Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, we believe children learn best when they are comfortable and free to play, wonder, learn, explore, and grow. Because our days include both indoor and outdoor learning, children should come dressed for active, hands-on experiences.

Our dress code is designed to promote comfort, safety, modesty, independence, and readiness to learn while allowing children and families flexibility in choosing clothing.

General Expectations

Students should arrive each day wearing clothing that:

- Is comfortable and allows for free movement, sitting on the floor, playing, climbing, creating, and exploring.
- Is appropriate for the weather and planned activities.
- Provides reasonable coverage for an educational setting.
- Does not display inappropriate language, images, or messages, including references to violence, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, profanity, or other material inappropriate for children.
- Can get dirty! Learning at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook may involve paint, glue, dirt, mud, water, grass, nature materials, and other wonderfully messy experiences. Please do not send children in clothing that cannot withstand active play.

Shoes

Children should wear safe, secure shoes appropriate for active play and outdoor exploration.

Closed-toe shoes or secure outdoor shoes are strongly recommended. Flip-flops, high heels, or other footwear that may make running, climbing, or outdoor exploration unsafe should be avoided.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is an important part of the Wild & Wonder Learning Nook experience. Children will spend time outside throughout the year, so families should send weather-appropriate clothing such as:

- Jackets or coats
- Hats and gloves during cold weather
- Rain boots or other appropriate footwear on wet or muddy days
- Sun hats when appropriate
- Layers for changing temperatures

Unless weather conditions make outdoor activities unsafe, families should expect that we will go outside every day.

Change of Clothes

Families are encouraged to keep a complete change of clothes at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook or in their child's backpack. Outdoor exploration, art projects, spills, water activities, and bathroom accidents can sometimes make a clothing change necessary.

Please label extra clothing and personal belongings with your child's name.

When Clothing Is Not Appropriate

If a child's clothing or footwear creates a safety concern or significantly interferes with participation in the day's activities, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook staff may ask the child to change into available alternate clothing or contact the parent/guardian for assistance.

A Note to Families

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is a place for children to explore, create, move, discover, and get a little messy. Please prioritize practical, comfortable clothing over "school clothes."

A little dirt on their clothes often means a lot of learning happened that day!

Health, Medication, Safety & Accident Policy

The health and safety of children at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is a priority. Because our program includes hands-on learning, outdoor exploration, active play, and experiences in nature, normal bumps, scrapes, falls, insect bites, and similar incidents may occasionally occur.

Families should carefully review the following policies and provide Wild & Wonder Learning Nook with accurate and current health and emergency information for their child.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook does not have a nurse or other licensed medical professional on staff.

Staff members are educators and caregivers, not medical providers. Wild & Wonder Learning Nook cannot provide medical diagnoses, determine appropriate medical treatment, or provide medical care beyond the level of first aid or emergency assistance that staff members are trained and legally permitted to provide.

Parents/guardians are responsible for determining whether their child's health needs can be safely accommodated within the Wild & Wonder Learning Nook setting.

Student Health Information

Before attending, parents/guardians must inform Wild & Wonder Learning Nook of any health information that may be important to their child's safety while

participating in the program, including allergies, medical conditions, activity restrictions, or emergency considerations.

Parents/guardians are responsible for keeping all emergency contact and relevant health information current.

Medication

Whenever reasonably possible, medication should be administered by a parent/guardian before or after program hours.

Children should not carry, share, or independently take prescription or over-the-counter medication while attending Wild & Wonder Learning Nook unless a specific arrangement has been approved in advance.

If a child requires medication during program hours, the parent/guardian must discuss the need with staff before sending medication with the child and complete a Medication Form. Acceptance and administration of medication will depend on the type of medication, the needs of the child, staff training, and applicable laws and regulations.

Any medication accepted by Wild & Wonder Learning Nook must:

- Be provided directly by the parent/guardian rather than sent loosely in a backpack or lunchbox.
- Be in its original, properly labeled container.
- Include clear administration instructions.
- Be unexpired.
- Include any required written parent/guardian authorization and, when applicable, instructions or authorization from a licensed healthcare provider.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook reserves the right to determine that a medication or medical need cannot safely be accommodated within the program.

Emergency & Rescue Medications

Parents/guardians must notify Wild & Wonder Learning Nook before enrollment or attendance if their child may require emergency medication, such as an epinephrine auto-injector or other prescribed rescue medication.

An individualized plan may be required before the child can attend. The plan should clearly identify the student's needs, warning signs, emergency procedures, medication instructions, and when emergency medical services should be contacted.

Medication Storage

Medication accepted by Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will be stored in a manner intended to prevent unauthorized child access while remaining accessible to authorized adults when needed.

Emergency medication may need to remain quickly accessible during outdoor activities, field experiences, or emergencies.

Serious Injuries & Medical Emergencies

If staff reasonably believe that a student is experiencing a serious injury or medical emergency, 911 or emergency medical services may be contacted immediately.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will make reasonable efforts to contact the child's parent/guardian and emergency contacts as quickly as possible; however, emergency assistance will not be delayed while attempting to reach a parent/guardian when staff believe immediate care is necessary.

Emergency medical personnel will determine the appropriate medical response, including whether transportation to a medical facility is necessary.

Parents/guardians are responsible for medical, ambulance, hospital, or other healthcare expenses associated with their child's care, subject to applicable law and insurance coverage.

Outdoor & Active Learning Safety

Outdoor exploration and active learning are central parts of the Wild & Wonder Learning Nook experience. Children may encounter ordinary risks associated with childhood play and nature-based learning, including uneven ground, sticks, rocks, mud, insects, plants, weather conditions, playground activities, and active movement.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will take reasonable precautions to provide appropriate supervision and maintain a safe learning environment. Children are expected to follow safety directions and remain within designated areas.

Parents/guardians should ensure that their child arrives dressed and prepared for the day's weather and activities.

Minor Accidents & First Aid

Minor accidents may occur during normal childhood activities and outdoor exploration. Examples may include small cuts, scrapes, bumps, splinters, minor falls, or insect bites.

When appropriate, staff may provide basic first aid within the scope of their training and abilities. This may include measures such as cleaning a minor wound, applying a bandage, providing a cold pack, or helping a child rest while a parent/guardian is contacted.

Parents/guardians will be informed of injuries as appropriate based on the nature and severity of the incident.

Allergies

Parents/guardians must notify Wild & Wonder in writing of any known allergies, particularly severe or life-threatening allergies.

Because Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is a small learning community and not a medical facility, the program cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment. Families of children with severe allergies should discuss their child's needs with Wild & Wonder Learning Nook before attendance so that reasonable safety measures and an emergency plan can be considered.

Sunscreen, Insect Repellent & Similar Products

Because children will spend significant time outdoors, families are encouraged to apply sunscreen and insect repellent before arrival when appropriate.

Any arrangements for staff assistance with sunscreen, insect repellent, or similar products must be discussed with Wild & Wonder Learning Nook and may require parent/guardian permission.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents/guardians must provide:

- Current parent/guardian telephone numbers
- At least one reliable emergency contact
- Relevant allergy and health information
- The child's healthcare provider information when requested
- Any emergency medical information necessary to protect the child

Parents/guardians must promptly notify Wild & Wonder Learning Nook whenever this information changes.

Safety Expectations

Children are expected to follow reasonable safety instructions from Wild & Wonder Learning Nook staff. Behaviors that create a significant or repeated danger to the child or others may require parent involvement and the development of additional safety measures.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

By enrolling a child at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, parents/guardians acknowledge that:

- Wild & Wonder Learning Nook does not have a nurse or licensed medical professional on staff.
- Participation in active, outdoor, and hands-on learning involves ordinary risks of minor injury.

- Parents/guardians are responsible for providing accurate health, allergy, medication, and emergency information.
- Wild & Wonder Learning Nook staff may provide basic first aid consistent with their training and applicable requirements.
- Emergency medical services may be contacted when staff reasonably believe immediate medical attention is necessary.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for promptly picking up a child who becomes ill or cannot safely continue participating in the program.

The goal of these procedures is to provide a safe, caring environment while recognizing the limitations of a small educational program that does not provide on-site nursing or medical services.

Illness Policy

Please keep your child home if they have:

- Fever within the last 24 hours
- Vomiting or diarrhea within 24 hours
- Contagious illness
- Unexplained rash
- Severe cough or difficulty breathing
- Earache
- Stomachache
- Head Lice
- Pink Eye

Children should be fever-free for at least **24 hours without medication** before returning.

If a child is in attendance at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook and becomes sick, a parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the child as soon as possible.

Snack & Food Policy

At Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, we recognize that growing, active children need opportunities to refuel throughout the day. A designated snack time will be incorporated into the daily schedule.

Snacks from Home

Unless otherwise communicated for a special activity or event, parents/guardians are responsible for providing a daily snack and drink for their child.

Snacks should:

- Be packed in a clearly labeled lunchbox, bag, or container.
- Be easy for the child to eat as independently as possible.
- Be appropriate for the child's age and eating abilities.
- Include any necessary utensils.
- Be nutritious enough to help the child stay energized and ready to learn.

A labeled, reusable water bottle is strongly encouraged each day.

Food Allergies

Parents/guardians must notify Wild & Wonder Learning Nook in writing of any known food allergies, sensitivities, or medically necessary dietary restrictions.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will take reasonable precautions regarding known food allergies; however, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment.

Depending on the severity of a child's allergy, additional safety measures or an individualized allergy/emergency plan may be required before attendance.

Sharing Food

Children should not share or trade food or drinks with other children. This helps protect children with allergies, dietary restrictions, and other individual needs.

Children will be reminded that even when they are trying to be kind by sharing, another child's food may not be safe for them.

Special Treats & Celebrations

From time to time, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook may incorporate food into celebrations, cooking activities, thematic units, or other special learning experiences.

Families will be informed when appropriate, particularly when food is being provided to children. Parents/guardians should make Wild & Wonder aware of any dietary restrictions that could affect their child's participation.

If families wish to bring food or treats to share for a birthday or special occasion, they should receive approval from Wild & Wonder Learning Nook in advance so that allergies and dietary needs can be considered.

Outdoor Snacks

Because outdoor learning is an important part of Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, snack time may take place outside or picnic-style when weather and activities allow.

Family Responsibility

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that the food they send is appropriate for their child's individual dietary, medical, developmental, and nutritional needs.

Our goal is to make snack time a safe, relaxed, and positive part of the Wild & Wonder Learning Nook day while encouraging independence, healthy habits, conversation, and community.

Field Trips/Special Programs

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook recognizes the educational value possible from well-planned field trips and special programs. It is the intent of Wild & Wonder Learning Nook to encourage participation of children in worthwhile educational excursions. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing for any special programs that will take place at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook. Opportunities off campus

will require parent/guardian transportation. Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will not provide transportation for any children due to liability.

Birthdays and Other Celebrations

We love to celebrate! When your child's birthday is approaching, please let us know if you would like to plan something together so we may make a plan in alignment with our schedule! Children are welcome to bring a treat to share! We will also celebrate regular holidays with learning activities, crafts, etc.

Behavior, Discipline & Enrollment Termination Policy

At Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, we believe that learning extends beyond academics. Our goal is to nurture children who are kind, curious, responsible, respectful, resilient, and ready to grow.

We recognize that children are still learning how to manage emotions, solve problems, communicate their needs, respect boundaries, and navigate relationships. Mistakes and conflicts are a natural part of childhood and can provide meaningful opportunities for growth.

Our approach to behavior is centered on connection, clear expectations, natural and logical consequences, restoration, and teaching appropriate skills rather than punishment or shame.

Our Core Values

Children at Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will be encouraged to:

- **Be Kind** — Treat others with compassion, empathy, and respect.
- **Be Respectful** — Respect yourself, other people, our learning spaces, materials, and nature.
- **Be Responsible** — Take ownership of your choices, belongings, work, and actions.
- **Be Safe** — Make choices that protect yourself and those around you.

- **Be Curious** — Ask questions, explore ideas, and approach learning with wonder.
- **Be Courageous** — Try new things, take healthy risks, and understand that mistakes are part of learning.
- **Be a Problem Solver** — Work through challenges, communicate needs, and seek help when needed.
- **Be a Community Member** — Understand that our individual choices affect the entire Wild & Wonder community.

Behavior Expectations

Behaviors that interfere with the safety or well-being of the learning community will be addressed. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Hitting, kicking, biting, pushing, or other physical aggression
- Bullying, intimidation, threats, or harassment
- Repeatedly using cruel, disrespectful, or inappropriate language
- Deliberately damaging property or materials
- Stealing
- Leaving designated or supervised areas without permission
- Unsafe use of classroom, outdoor, or learning materials
- Repeated refusal to follow essential safety directions
- Behavior that substantially disrupts the learning environment
- Bringing prohibited or dangerous items to Wild & Wonder
- Any behavior that places the child, another child, or an adult at significant risk of harm

Expectations will be considered in light of each child's age, developmental level, individual needs, and circumstances.

Our Approach to Discipline

At Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, discipline means teaching, not simply punishing.

When behavioral concerns arise, staff will respond in a way that is appropriate to the situation and the child's developmental level. Depending on the behavior, responses may include:

- A reminder or redirection
- Reviewing the expectation and explaining why it matters
- Offering appropriate choices
- Moving the child to a different activity or area
- Providing an opportunity to calm and regroup
- Helping the child identify emotions and communicate needs appropriately
- Problem-solving with the child
- Using a natural or logical consequence related to the behavior
- Repairing or replacing something that was damaged
- Cleaning up an intentionally created mess
- Offering an apology or another meaningful way to repair harm
- Temporarily limiting participation in an activity when necessary for safety
- Communicating with the parent/guardian
- Developing an individualized behavior or safety plan for repeated concerns

Whenever possible, consequences will be connected to the behavior rather than arbitrary.

Parent Partnership

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook views families as essential partners in addressing significant or recurring behavior concerns.

Parents/guardians will be informed when a behavioral concern is serious, becomes a pattern, presents a safety concern, or requires additional support.

Parents/guardians are expected to communicate respectfully with staff and participate in reasonable efforts to address ongoing concerns.

Serious or Unsafe Behavior

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook’s first priority during a serious behavioral incident is the immediate safety of all children and adults.

If a child's behavior presents an immediate safety risk, the child may be removed from an activity or separated from the situation while remaining appropriately supervised.

A parent/guardian may be contacted and required to pick up the child early when behavior cannot be safely managed within the program or when the child is unable to safely return to the learning environment that day.

Depending on the severity of the incident, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook may require a parent meeting or safety plan before the child returns.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is not required to progress through every level of intervention before taking stronger action when behavior is serious or presents a significant safety concern.

Repeated Behavioral Concerns

When concerns continue despite reasonable interventions, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook may establish a written behavior or safety plan.

The plan may include specific expectations, strategies, parent responsibilities, goals, and a period for reviewing progress.

Continued enrollment may depend upon the child's ability to participate safely and successfully within the Wild & Wonder Learning Nook environment and the family's willingness to cooperate with reasonable interventions.

Suspension or Temporary Removal

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook may require a temporary absence from the program when necessary to protect safety, allow time to develop an appropriate plan, or address a serious behavioral incident.

The length of any temporary removal and the conditions for returning will be determined based on the circumstances.

Enrollment Termination

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook strives to work collaboratively with families whenever possible; however, we recognize that Wild & Wonder Learning Nook may not be the appropriate learning environment for every child or family.

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook reserves the right to terminate a child's enrollment when the program determines that continued enrollment is not safe, appropriate, or reasonably sustainable.

Reasons for termination may include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated physical aggression or dangerous behavior
- Serious threats or acts of violence
- Repeated elopement or leaving supervised areas
- Behavior that creates an ongoing safety risk to the child, other children, or staff
- Significant or repeated disruption that prevents the child or others from participating in the program
- Intentional or repeated destruction of property
- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation that continues despite intervention
- Repeated failure to follow essential safety expectations
- A child's needs exceeding the level of supervision, staffing, support, or services Wild & Wonder Learning Nook can reasonably provide
- Failure of a parent/guardian to cooperate with reasonable behavior or safety interventions
- Serious or repeated inappropriate, threatening, abusive, or disrespectful conduct by a parent/guardian toward staff, children, or other families
- Any other circumstance in which continued enrollment would significantly interfere with Wild & Wonder Learning Nook's ability to maintain a safe and productive learning environment

Termination decisions will be made by Wild & Wonder Learning Nook based on the individual circumstances, the needs and safety of the learning community, and applicable law.

A Community Built on Grace & Growth

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook does not expect children to be perfect.

We expect children to make mistakes, have difficult days, experience big emotions, disagree with one another, and need guidance. Those moments are part of growing up and learning how to live in a community.

Our goal is not unquestioning compliance. Our goal is to help children develop self-control, empathy, responsibility, resilience, problem-solving skills, and respect for themselves and others.

We will extend grace while maintaining boundaries, encourage restoration when mistakes happen, and celebrate growth along the way.

At Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, every child deserves the opportunity to play, learn, grow, wonder, explore, and belong—and every member of our community deserves to feel safe and respected while doing so.

Technology

Technology is used sparingly and intentionally.

Most learning takes place through:

- Hands-on experiences
- Books
- Nature
- Conversation
- Projects
- Play

Communication

Families can expect regular communication through a monthly newsletter regarding:

- Weekly plans

- Thematic units
- Upcoming events
- Learning highlights
- Important reminders

Please reach out anytime with questions or concerns.

Homeschool Responsibilities

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook is a homeschool learning community.

Parents retain full legal responsibility for their child's education and must comply with all applicable homeschool laws and regulations in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Enrollment in Wild & Wonder Learning Nook does not transfer legal educational responsibility from the parent.

Parents must file an annual Notice of Intent with the school division and provide an annual Proof of Progress. Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will provide a letter for Proof of Progress for all students who are enrolled for the entire year.

Assessments & Grading

Homework Wild & Wonder Learning Nook believes that home experiences are just as important as the more structured learning experiences that occur at our learning center. There will be no homework assigned to students; we encourage playing (outside especially!), learning to help around the home, and other life-skill development as appropriate.

Student Progress Reports/ Assessment/ Evaluation/Reporting: Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will send home a quarterly progress report showcasing children's progress and mastery of learning skills and topics taught in class.

Grades will not be a part of progress reports as there is substantial evidence of mastery and growth through the small class size, teacher connection, and child attributions and will be documented and showcased in the child's progress report. There will be no regular teacher-parent conferences scheduled; parents are welcome to request a conference at any point.

Holidays & Closures

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook generally follows a holiday schedule similar to local school calendars but reserves the right to adjust the calendar as needed.

Families will receive an annual calendar before the start of the school year.

Weather Closures

In the event of severe weather or unsafe travel conditions, families will be notified as early as possible. Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will follow the guidelines/decisions of Sussex County Public Schools regarding closures for inclement weather. If SCPS is closed, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will be closed. If SCPS is delayed 1 hour, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will open at 9:30 am. If SCPS is delayed 2 hours, Wild & Wonder Learning Nook will be closed. Wild & Wonder Learning Nook does not have a make up day policy. Tuition will not be refunded/prorated or inclement weather or any other unforeseen emergency closures.

No Smoking, Vaping, Alcohol, or Drugs

To provide a safe and healthy environment for children:

- Smoking, vaping, tobacco products, alcohol, marijuana, and illegal drugs are prohibited anywhere on the property during program hours.
- Individuals under the influence of drugs or alcohol may not drop off or pick up children.
- This policy applies to all visitors, family members, and staff.

Photography

Photos may occasionally be taken to share classroom activities with enrolled families or for promotional purposes.

Parents may opt out of photography by indicating their preference on the enrollment forms.

Safety

Emergency drills may include:

- Fire
- Severe weather
- Lockdown

Emergency contact information must remain current throughout the year.

Parent Partnership

We believe children thrive when families and educators work together.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Communicate openly
- Read monthly newsletters

- Reinforce respectful behavior at home
- Encourage outdoor play and reading
- Celebrate curiosity

Child Abuse Reporting

Wild & Wonder Learning Nook staff members are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse/neglect. Any suspected abuse will be reported to Social Services for investigation as required by Virginia state laws.

Statement of Values

At Wild & Wonder Learning Nook, we seek to create an environment where children are encouraged to grow academically, socially, emotionally, and in character. We value kindness, honesty, respect, responsibility, gratitude, perseverance, and stewardship of God's creation. Every child is unique, wonderfully made, and deserving of love, encouragement, and the opportunity to flourish.

Parent Acknowledgment

I have read and understand the Wild & Wonder Learning Nook Parent Handbook. I agree to follow the policies and procedures outlined within and understand that

they are intended to provide a safe, respectful, and enriching environment for all children.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Child(ren) Name(s): _____