

Field Trips

The children in our summer camp enjoy field trips to local county, state, and metro parks for a variety of eco-adventures and environmental educational programs. We also spend some time visiting art museums and galleries. Our field trips have taken us to The Detroit Institute of Art, Indian Springs Metro Park, Huron Valley Council for the Arts, Howell Nature Center, and University of Michigan's Botanical Gardens to name a few. These excursions allow the children to expand their world, experience new activities and have real-life, hands-on learning experiences.



Building the Foundation for a Love of Learning



Children & Nature

In addition to exploring many different mediums and techniques of art, every day includes a Green Hour®. The daily Green Hour® provides the children with an hour of unstructured outdoor play that allows them to interact and make a connections to the natural world around them. Sometimes this Green Hour takes place in the form of a Nature Walk at the Highland State Recreation Area and other times we spend our time exploring the natural setting surrounding our school. A simple nature walk can open one's senses to the natural world in a way few other activities or games ever could. This awareness stimulates a natural curiosity, a love of learning, and may initiate a very positive and long-lasting personal connection to our natural environment. Over time, a heightened sense of respect, caring and appreciation for our world, our natural habitats and the creatures that inhabit them will also be fostered.



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PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

3-5 Year Olds

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

June 19 — August 30

\$75.00 per session

Nature Walks at the Highland State Recreation Area Open Ended Art
Water Fun Days Clay Field Trips
Hands-On Math and Science Activities Gardening



School-age Creative Art And Outdoor Adventure



SUMMER CAMP

June 11 — August 30

Children Completing Kindergarten through 11 Years of Age

\$42.00 per day

\$175.00 per week

School-Age Creative Art and Outdoor Adventure Summer Campers at Building Blocks will create visual art projects exploring a variety of materials and techniques: Creative Art, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Pottery, Printmaking, 3D Art, Woodworking, etc. A daily GREEN HOUR® will provide children with unstructured play and interaction with their natural environment (Highland State Recreation Area). Children will enjoy weekly field trips to local county, state and metro parks for a variety of eco-adventures and environmental education programs along with art galleries and museums.

Preschool Summer Camp

We look forward to Preschool Summer Camp. We believe that children have 100 or more languages of expression. Your child will enjoy the morning with a story, a song, art, free play, go outdoors and will follow a topic of interest of the children to explore. Following the interest of the children (Emergent) and the arts are an integral part of the curriculum – and daily life – at Building Blocks Preschool. We base our program on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community through exploration and discovery in a supportive and enriching environment. Summer campers are encouraged to investigate, create, and problem solve. We learn through play, and what we learn, we can use when to create work that is important to us. Building Blocks is Building the Foundation for a Love of Learning.



Outside at the picnic table, some of the children created symmetrical butterflies. To do this activity, the children would begin by drawing the butterfly's body. Then they would scoop small spoonfuls of paint on one side of the butterfly. After they were done scooping the paint, they folded their butterfly over and pressed the paper down. Then, they would open it up and look to see how the paint had changed. Many of the children were very surprised to see the color spread over the wings. We also took a minute to notice the symmetry of the wings.



Sydney was disappointed to see how her butterfly's wings changed after she folded her paper. She decided to paint another one with a paintbrush.

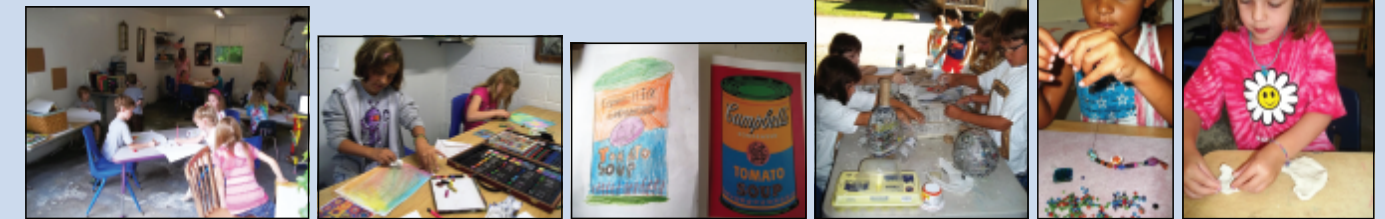


Creative Art and Outdoor Adventure Summer Camp

We are looking forward to an exciting summer filled with art, field trips, outdoor adventures and fun. Our Summer Campers will be spending our days in the art studio and exploring the natural world on nature walks and field trips. Our art studio is filled with a variety of art materials and mediums for the children to explore and create with. Every morning and afternoon the children will have art studio time, either working on a specific project or engaging in what we like to call "free art" time. Throughout the summer we will be focusing on different mediums including paint, oil pastels, paper mache, and clay to name a few. We will also spend time studying specific artists and different techniques from contemporary to modern, and pop art. Some of the Artists we have learned about are Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock and Vassily Kandinsky.

Art Studio

While introducing children to a variety of new artists and art techniques, we are encouraging them to grow and develop as an artist. Open ended, creative art allows children to grow at their own speed. Children draw, paint, and sculpt what they know. As they translate their ideas and feelings into art, they use thinking skills to plan, organize, select media, and represent their impressions. When children draw, paint, and make collages, they experiment with color, line, shape, and size. Through art, our children are able to develop emotionally, cognitively and creatively.



The Love of Learning by Melissa Carey

My 11 year old son, Max, and 4 year old daughter, Emma, attended the Building Blocks summer camp in 2010. I had the opportunity to go on a field trip with them to the nature center at Indian Springs. While on this trip, I had the absolute pleasure of observing what children who have a love of learning look like. The nature guide was leading the group around the pond and toward the end of our tour we stopped at a pond with a small dock. To most observers, this particular spot would warrant perhaps 5 minutes of observation, noticing the plant and animal life. However, this group of 3 to 11 year olds, were on their bellies pointing out all there was to discover. Sometimes they got up and ran to another spot and laid back down in response to another's observation. Sometimes they shouted with excitement. They drew the teachers' attentions to what they were seeing. They asked questions based on their observations. They were completely engaged. The guide was very impressed with how much the children were able to notice. They would have stayed longer had she not had to get back to the center. As an educator myself, I know that the ability to attend to something long enough to really draw out all that can be gained from an experience is not innate to most kids – it must be fostered through continuous opportunities and role modeling by teachers. I thanked the teachers on the spot. I also said that their elementary school teachers would thank them because they will have delivered to them kids who love to learn. What is more important than that?

Art Show

Over the course of the summer we save pieces of art, so that each child may have a portfolio. Our summer concludes with an art show showcasing the work of the children. In preparation, the children choose the final pieces of art they want showcased and arrange these pieces onto a board. On the evening of the art show, the children proudly show off their work to their families and friends. The self-confidence, positive self-esteem, and sense of accomplishment that has been building all summer is evident in all of their faces.

