K-Camp 2023
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Who: Acorn children ages 5 years or older attending kindergarten in August 2023

Where: Vanderbilt Campus and Arboretum

When: Monday - Friday
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Dates: July 3 – 28, 2023
(closed for Independence Day holiday on July 4th)

What: Howdy Form due May 1, 2023

What else? No naps! Lunch provided by VCFC. Please apply sunscreen (required) and insect repellant (not required) before arrival. Sun hats encouraged.
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Regular Program Drop-off
Child signs in at current childcare center location.
Same parent/guardian sign-in procedure.

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM K-Camp Hours

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Regular Program Pick-up
Child signs out at current childcare center location.
Same parent/guardian sign-out procedure.

Arriving on time to K-Camp (by 8:30 AM) and staying through 3:30 PM supports children’s readiness for the predictable schedule of kindergarten.
Family volunteers are very welcome! Parent engagement is an opportunity to playfully share knowledge to co-create curricular activities.

This biologist mom created an apiarist scavenger hunt! Using clues, children worked collaboratively to find “nectar” throughout the campus arboretum which they carried back to the teacher “queen bee.”
How Playing Outdoors Empowers the Child

- Appropriate risk-taking
- Communication and collaboration
- Decreased anxiety
- Enriched perceptual ability
- Heightened focus
- Planning and assessing
- Persistence and resilience
- Self-esteem and self-image
- Strength, agility, and coordination
Play and learning out-of-doors is also an effective classroom management strategy, providing opportunities for children’s communication and collaboration, reducing undesirable behaviors, and reinforcing a sense of esprit de corps and the value of community.
By creating experiences of place and belonging beyond the classroom, children grow into their self-image as a “citizen of the world” capable and competent to navigate their neighborhood and the next rigorous year of kindergarten.
K-Camp counselors are mindful that within all the program’s goals for children’s biophilia, and cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development for kindergarten readiness the adults should not lose sight of the opportunity to create a childhood filled with JOY!
K-camp was helpful because it prepared Val to go out and try new things every day. She was fearless when she got out of the car (by herself!). When I dropped her off on the first day, she was fearless when she marched on to the bus; neither time did she look back 😊 Thank you for inspiring her to be self-reliant and confident!

Mallory is loving kindergarten! K-Camp really helped with the transition! Being in a new location for K-Camp helped—instead of the same classroom, meeting new people at camp, exploring and gaining independence were huge helpful factors for her transition. Also, managing her backpack and water at camp helped her to be more confident starting kindergarten.

The transition was really a breeze, and I give credit to K-Camp for that. Getting her off naps a month in advance and preparing her for a full day of kindergarten was just what she needed. I can’t say enough about how much both of my girls loved K-Camp, and I’m so glad they were able to be a part of the first 2 years!

I believe that K-Camp prepared my daughter for kindergarten—especially, cutting out naps. Many children in Olivia’s class are still having difficulties transitioning through that but we had no problems at all.