



"Your child's home away from home"

2017-2018 Preschool & Nursery Care

Information & Application

September 5th - May 25th ☀️ Ages 3 months - 7 years

Monday ~ Friday ☀️ 8:30-5pm ☀️ Full & Half Day Options

Dear Interested Families,

At Mountain Bluebells our goal is to protect the simplicity of childhood and create a haven for children where they are nurtured, loved and allowed to be themselves in an often too busy world. Much like the "slow" food movement that is gaining popularity, we consider ourselves part of a "slow" childcare movement, returning to the basics of "play-based ~ imagination-powered" child development for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Our program has a warm, home-like feel with our nursery students mingled among our preschoolers. During the bulk of the day the mixed-age group plays together; however each day also allows time for preschoolers and nursery students to break off into their own groups for developmentally appropriate curriculum. We strive to serve organic and locally produced foods as often as possible. The children participate in gardening, harvesting, and preparing what we eat as much as possible to foster a positive relationship with healthy foods and an awareness of where their food comes from. All of our food is made from scratch, with love. We honor special diets and will work with parents to establish appropriate dietary plans for each child, however parents are responsible for providing any foods outside of our normal meal plans.

Our well trained staff consists of one lead teacher and two aides who work as a team daily. Our small child to staff ratio allows us to build strong relationships with the children in our care. These relationships along with the consistent rhythm of our days give the children the security to flourish. It's from this place of security and comfort that the child begins his journey of learning discovery. And what a journey it is! At Mountain Bluebells, we know that children learn best from real-life experiences. Just what is a child learning as he helps his teacher bake muffins or fold the laundry? Measuring, counting, following directions, nutrition, sorting, color recognition, the process of following a task through to completion, and language skills, to name a few! We will spend our days playing, learning songs and stories, working and practicing healthy self-care. We believe that it is in this environment that children truly thrive.

Mountain Bluebells is a fully-licensed facility. Our rich whole-child curriculum is inspired by Waldorf education and rooted in the principles and practices of LifeWays North America. As such, care is based on human interaction and developmentally appropriate activities that foster healthy development and a passion for learning. All staff are certified in child & infant CPR and first aid and partake in ongoing early childhood education & development through LifeWays North America as well as local HRDC trainings.

It is important to us that, together with you, we form a partnership of care for your child. Our goal is to be your child's home away from home. We invite you to attend open house to learn more about our program or to contact us anytime for a school tour or to answer any questions you may have. Open house will be Sunday, August 27th, 9-3pm. Please read on for a brief description of our daily and yearly rhythm, our tuition schedule, and application for this coming school year.

Warmly, Miss Lista

Daily & Weekly Rhythm

Morning Care

- 8:30am Welcome & morning tea
- 9:00 Circle time ~ followed by the day's activity & free play
- 10:15 Clean-up, hand washing, potty breaks
- 10:30 Morning snack
- 11am Outside time & neighborhood walks
- 12pm Cleanup & Storytime
- 12:30 Lunch

Afternoon Care

- 1pm Transition time – farewell to morning students hello to afternoon arrivals
- 1:15 Settling into rest (lavender footbaths, stories)
- After rest** free play & crafts
- 3pm Afternoon snack
- 3:30 Outside time & neighborhood walks
- 4:30 Back inside for free play
- 5pm Farewell to afternoon students

Morning Care ~ Weekly Activity & Snack Rhythm

Mondays: Bread baking & walk day * Snack: fresh baked bread & hand churned butter

Tuesdays: Stone soup (children bring a veggie from home to chop for lunch) & walk day * Snack: brown rice & fruit

Wednesdays: Seasonal crafts & modeling * Snack: millet bars

Thursdays: Bread baking & seasonal crafts * Snack: fresh baked bread & hand churned butter

Fridays: Watercolor painting * Snack: oatmeal

Afternoon Care

The afternoon care rhythm allows time for rest & naps, simple seasonal projects, simple snacks, & ample indoor and outdoor free play after a busy morning. This is a lovely time for Shooting Stars who have been with us for the morning program and for Snapdragons & Sweet Peas who may just be joining us for a half day. *It is not recommended for Shooting Stars to start the day in the afternoon as it can be a difficult transition to arrive and be expected to rest right away.*

Yearly Rhythm

At Mountain Bluebells we strive to build strong relationships with our families and the community through festivals, fundraisers, field trips, parent evenings, & handwork nights throughout the school year in tune with the seasons and holidays. Parents are expected to participate in the school community as much as possible ~ it takes a village to build great things.

August~ Open house, applications due, home visits, orientation

September ~ School begins: Sept. 5th,
First parent evening, Handwork nights begin

October ~ Harvest Festival & pumpkin patch field trip

November ~ Fall fundraiser & second parent evening,
Thanksgiving break Nov. 22nd ~ 24th

December ~ Spiral of Lights Festival,
Winter break Dec. 18th ~ Jan. 1st

January ~ School back in session Jan. 2nd,
third parent evening

February ~ Mid-Winter Festival,
Teacher training break: Feb. 15th~19th

March ~ Seed sale, museum field trip, final parent evening,
Easter break: March 30th~April 2nd

April ~ Farm field trip

May ~ May Day Festival, Memorial Day yard sale
Graduation & **last day of school: May 25th**

June~ Summer program begins

Monthly Tuition Schedules

“Drop and go” child care doesn’t allow children, caregivers, and parents to build the relationships that are vital for children to feel safe and secure. Consistency is needed for these relationships to form and blossom so that children can truly thrive. Therefore, you’ll notice some deliberate differences in our program in comparison with many traditional day care & preschool facilities. We ask for a consistent schedule throughout the school year for our nursery and preschool students and tuition rates are set with this in mind. We do make exceptions from time to time but in an ideal world, with the best interests of the school as a whole in mind, we like to hold to this scheduling consistency. *If you are in need of a scheduling exception just let us know and we’ll chat about it.*

Our tuition rates are based on the total calendar days of school for the year, which is then divided equally into nine monthly payments due at the beginning of each month throughout the school year. Holidays & school breaks have been taken into account.

2017-18 Sweet Peas Ages 3 ~ 12months			
Monthly Tuition Chart			
	Tuesday & Thursday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Monday - Friday
Full Day	\$479	\$685	\$1164
Half Day AM 8:30am -1pm	\$263	\$375	\$638
Half Day PM 1pm ~ 5pm	\$233	\$333	\$567

2017-18 Snapdragons Ages 1 ~ 3years			
Monthly Tuition Chart			
	Tuesday & Thursday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Monday - Friday
Full Day	\$446	\$638	\$1084
Half Day AM 8:30am -1pm	\$245	\$350	\$595
Half Day PM 1pm ~ 5pm	\$218	\$311	\$529

2017-18 Shooting Stars (Preschoolers) Ages 3 ~ 7years			
Monthly Tuition Chart			
	Tuesday & Thursday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Monday - Friday
Full Day	\$413	\$590	\$1003
Half Day AM 8:30am -1pm	\$228	\$325	\$553
Half Day PM 1pm ~ 5pm	\$202	\$289	\$491

{ We are dedicated to making our programs available to all interested families regardless of financial circumstance. With that in mind, there are a few financial aid & scholarship options available- please check the box on the application to learn more. }

Mountain Bluebells Preschool & Nursery Care Application

At Mountain Bluebells, Space is limited and is determined on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply soon!

All School Year applications are due by August 28th. Orientation is August 31st.

1. Child's Name: _____ Age: ____ Birthday: _____ Gender: ____

I would like to enroll my child in:

	2 day option (T & Th)	3 day option (M, W, F)	5 day option (M-F)
Full Day (8:30-5pm)			
AM (8:30-1pm)			
PM (1-5pm)			

2. Child's Name: _____ Age: ____ Birthday: _____ Gender: ____

I would like to enroll my child in:

	2 day option (T & Th)	3 day option (M, W, F)	5 day option (M-F)
Full Day (8:30-5pm)			
AM (8:30-1pm)			
PM (1-5pm)			

Mother's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Enrollment Process

Applications are considered on a first come first served basis. Once submitted your child(ren) will be added to our list and we will contact you so that we may schedule a school visit to meet with you in person, meet your child and discuss the program. After this visit you will receive a school calendar, parent handbook, and a packet of enrollment documents that will need to be filled out before the start of school. Finally, prior to the first day of school we will schedule a home visit, where Miss Lista will come to your home for a brief visit to help build the bridge between home and school for your child. This is a completely non-judgmental visit, simply a chance to connect with you and your child where they are most comfortable. During these visits we will also discuss any special needs your child may have & develop care plans. **Home visits will be conducted August 24th - 31st.** Orientation is Thursday, August 31st.

Program Payment Information*

Tuition will be due by the first of each month.

Invoices are sent via email and may be paid by check or cash.

There is a one-time materials fee that will be due along with your first payment

Materials Fees are collected at the beginning of each school year for each student so that we can stock up on much needed school supplies, groceries, and craft materials.

The one-time Fee for 2 day students is \$70, for 3 day students it is \$100 and for 5 day students it is \$170

A \$10 application processing fee is due now.

* We have done everything in our power to make tuition & material fees as reasonable as we can while sustaining the school. We are dedicated to making our programs available to all interested families regardless of financial circumstance. With that in mind, there are a few financial aid & scholarship options available and we are happy to explore these with you.

Check here if you would like more information about available financial aid & scholarship options. _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send application along with \$10 non-refundable processing fee to:

Mountain Bluebells Preschool

Po Box 1065

Red Lodge, MT 59068

For questions or more information please contact Miss Lista @ (406)290-4391

or email: mtbluebells@gmail.com