

☀️🍂❄️ **What is Texture?** - The way something feels is called texture. Let's look around to see what textures we can find in the natural world, then we'll collect a variety of items to take back to the classroom to experiment and discover the fascinating unique impressions and designs with nature's stampers. Nature art stimulates creativity, imagination and brings joy.

❄️ **Winter Animal Tracks** - How animals make tracks can tell us what they are, what they're doing and where they're headed. Let's go on a hunt to see where animal tracks take us; across a trail and up a tree, along the stream, or maybe to a protected home hidden under trees. Indoors we will use rubber tracks to create our own tracks and stories. One step at a time and you'll learn the common tracks we see this time of year.

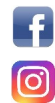
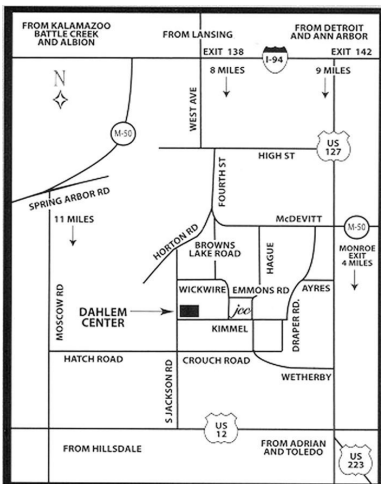
☀️ Spring/Summer    🍂 Fall    ❄️ Winter

### Grants for Programs and Transportation:

All online, information and applications

- **Wheels to Woods** (transportation)  
<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/wheels-to-woods>
- **Michigan Nature Association** (program/transportation)  
<https://www.michigannature.org/menus/education.html> New funds available this school year 2023-2024 for program fees, transportation and educational supplies.

We'll have a great time on the trails investigating the natural wonders that surround us! Please come dressed for outdoor weather.



Just 15 minutes from downtown Jackson!

7117 S. Jackson Rd.  
Jackson, MI 49201  
Ph. 517-782-3453  
DahlemCenter.org



# PRESCHOOL NATURALIST PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2024-2025

Intended for ages 2 to 5 years old

Preschool and Daycare Groups



## PRESCHOOL NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Share your love of nature with your preschool students. We will explore and play with nature while developing critical early childhood skills and growing self-confidence. The Preschool Naturalist Programs are geared toward children 5 years and younger to learn about our changing seasons, animal homes, backyard birds, insects, winter survival, and more. Each program offers a different theme and activities to give your class many program opportunities.

**To Register:** call 517-782-3453, ext. 106 Carrie Benham  
9:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday

**Programs:** 1 1/4 hour long, and are offered Monday through Friday between 8:30 am - 3:30 pm


**Fee:** \$5 per child and chaperone (\$50 minimum/program); teachers admitted free. Fees are payable on the day of the program. Please make checks payable to the *Dahlem Conservancy* or pay with cash or credit card (Visa-Master Card). Cancellations made less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled program are subject to a \$50 charge


### Before you Call:


Check your school calendar and be prepared to provide the following information;


- Program title/theme
- Date and time (am or pm, plus alternative)
- Number of students and adults
- School name, address and phone number
- Names of all participating teachers & email addresses





 **How Animals Survive in Winter** - What are some actions nature takes and why to survive winter? We will explore and learn about hibernation, migration and adaption. Monarchs fly to Mexico, Groundhog goes to bed, and Weasel changes his wardrobe! Find out how other animals cope with winter's worst weather. We will spend time outdoors seeking clues before heading into the classroom for stories, and hands-on activities. Bundle up friends!


 **Life Under A Log** - Some people might see just a mushy, rotten log. We see a fascinating habitat for all kinds of organisms. We see a very important step in the life cycle of nature and a fascinating science lesson. Look for yourself! Our time will be spent outdoors starting with a story, *A Log's Life* followed by a walk in the forest to investigate life in and under logs, among leaf litter, under rocks, and down into the soil. You'll be amazed at what we find hiding in dark places!

 **Our Feathered Friends** - What is unique about birds, and what do their characteristics (feathers, feet, beak, color, etc.) tell us about their life? We will read a bird-themed story, look at owl and other bird mounts up close, and end with a birding hike to observe our feathered friends in action. Join us, it'll be a hoot!

 **Signs of Fall** - Listen! Watch! Touch! Smell! Discover the world around you as summer slowly turns into winter. How many signs can you find at home and school?

 **Signs of Spring** - Discover the wonders of a world awakening to spring! Use all of your senses to experience the changing environment around us. See the shapes and colors, feel the textures, and smell the fragrances of the spring season.

 **Super Squirrely** - If you followed a squirrel for a day, what would you see? Climbing branches, storing seeds, making homes in tree holes, and maybe even flying! Discover different kinds of squirrels as they scamper, eat, and—finally—sleep. We will go on a squirrely outing to look for clues squirrels are actively busy, head indoors to read a cute story about squirrels and investigate squirrel pelts, track and skull.

 **Tree House; Who Lives There?** - Nature is full of hidden clues about the animals that live there. You may not know where to look or what to look for but animal clues are everywhere. You'll learn how to spot and identify common clues that animals live in or near forest trees. We will start indoors reading a story, see mammal furs, feathers and more, engage in discussion, then head outdoors for an adventure.