

Parent Handbook

2020-2021



2660 UnawEEP Ave

Grand Junction, CO 81503

970-254-1626

Website: eurekasciencemuseum.org/Nest

Email: Nest@eurekasciencemuseum.org

School Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 7:45AM-4:00PM

Purpose & Philosophy

Nest represents the nurturing environment for learners at an important stage in their life, as they prepare to spread their wings and fly into grade school. The vital year before kindergarten is an important learning time for students to gain and apply skills, knowledge, and develop peer relationships.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Focus

Nest is powered by the EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum, so the incorporation of STEAM content within our curriculum is a priority. We believe STEAM is the future and promotes critical thinking in addition to awareness of our environment and planet. Each of our learners will also receive a free family membership to the EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum.

Learning Environment

Our local landscapes and outdoor recreation make Grand Junction one of the most unique and beautiful areas in the world. Our learning environment embraces these unique features, and utilizes the outdoors as a classroom. We are fortunate to have access to the tree-rich space of New Emerson's playground.

Students will use this space, not only to move and stay active, but to observe natural phenomena and ask questions. Nest will also coordinate and lead off-site field trips to learning experiences in our community.

Program

Nest serves 4-5 year olds in the year before they enter kindergarten. We are a full day program (7:45AM-4PM), Monday-Thursday, with a maximum of 15 learners. All learners must be 4 before August 1, 2021.

Classroom Guidelines

Admission and Enrollment

Interested applicants should submit an online form at eurekasciencemuseum.org/Nest. If spots are available, you will be contacted for a family meet and greet. If admitted, families will be provided an admission packet and checklist to complete in order to finalize a learners spot.

Enrollment is for the entire school year, and cannot be prorated for select days.

Scholarship Qualifications

Due to the generosity from the Buell Foundation, Nest is able to provide full scholarships for qualifying families. Families qualify for full scholarships if the household income falls at or below the limits on the following chart:

Annual Household Income Limits (before taxes)

Household Size*	Maximum Income Level (Per Year)
1	\$23,828
2	\$32,227
3	\$40,626
4	\$49,025
5	\$57,424
6	\$65,823
7	\$74,222
8	\$82,621

To be considered for scholarships, families must complete the Scholarship Qualification section on the online application.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Nest does not discriminate based on any race, gender, national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or scholarships.

Immunizations

All accepted learners must submit immunization records prior to finalizing enrollment. Nest will consider medical exemptions upon review of physician generated documentation. All non-medical exemptions will not be accepted.

Tuition (Subject to change year to year)

Nest daily tuition comes to \$38/day. There are 145 school days in the 2021-2022 calendar, resulting in a yearly tuition of \$5,510. This amount will be evenly divided between 10 months, at \$551 per month. This monthly amount is due on the 1st of the month from September-May, and an invoice via Square will be sent to the email address on file.

First month's payment of \$551 is due at the time of acceptance to hold a spot.

Scholarship opportunities are available, and qualification will be determined from the information collected during the online application process.

After School Program

Through our partnership with New Emerson Elementary, we are able to offer after school care from 4:00PM-5:15PM, for preschool-5th graders, for an additional cost.

Withdrawal

If a family wishes to end their participation with Nest, a written notice must be submitted 14 days in advance to Nest@eurekasciencemuseum.org.

Nest reserves the right to suspend or expel any student from our program due to behavior, lack of guardian communication, and unpaid balances, at the discretion of Nest administrative staff..

Calendar

First Day: August 9

Last Day: May 19

Nest will be closed for the following holidays during the 2021-2022 year:

- September 6: Labor Day
- November 22-26: Thanksgiving
- December 20-31: Winter Break
- January 17: Martin Luther King Jr Day
- February 21: President's Day
- March 21-25: Spring Break

Daily Routine

While Nest wants to encourage free exploration in learning, we also acknowledge the importance of consistent and predictable structures throughout the learning day.

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Student morning drop-off will be between 7:45-8:00AM. Student pick-up will be between 3:45-4:00PM. After school options are available until 5:15PM for an additional cost.

If a learner is not picked up by 4:05PM, the guardians listed on the student's emergency contact will be called. If the student is still not picked up by 4:15PM, they will be taken to the EUREKA! New Emerson after school program for an additional fee. If staff has been unable to communicate with guardians by 5:00PM, staff will call the Mesa County Sheriff's Office.

Learners can only be dropped off and picked up by authorized adults.

Attendance

Consistent, punctual attendance is vital for the success of your child's learning. Please notify Nest@eurekasciencemuseum.org if your learner will be absent. Frequent and sustained uncommunicated absences may result in removal from the program.

Snow Days and Inclement Weather

Nest will follow District 51's decision about weather-related closures and changes. Once issued, we will notify families via email and by posting a notice on our website.

In the event that schools need to close early, we will call the learner's emergency contact.

Student Schedule (Subject to change)

- Early Bird Reading with Guardians (optional)
- Yoga and Mindfulness
- Circle and Planning
- Small Group
- Morning Snack
- Center Time
- Lunch
- Quiet Time
- Music and Movement
- Afternoon Snack
- STEAM and Nature Exploration
- Center Time
- Closing Circle

Discipline

Nest will use a positive reinforcement discipline approach, to meet the individual needs of each student.

We will emphasize peer to peer conflict resolution, and embrace the importance of respect and safety in our learning environment.

If significant challenges of student behavior arise that impact the learning and safety of the classroom, the following steps will be taken:

1. Guardians will be notified of the behavior challenges, and will work with staff to brainstorm solutions to apply in the learning environment. The support and cooperation of the family with Nest is key to the success of our learners.
2. Nest will implement the agreed upon solutions in a timely manner.
3. If challenges still continue, another family meeting will occur to revise and modify the plan, in a timely manner.
4. Staff will document all behavior challenges and solution plans.
5. If student challenges continue and continuously affect the learning and safety of others, the student may be suspended or expelled from the program.

Visitors & Meetings

To schedule a visit or meeting with Nest instructors, please contact Nest@eurekasciencemuseum.org.

Meals and Snack

There will be a morning snack time and an afternoon snack time, in addition to a midday lunch. Please send your learner with 2 portable snacks and a healthy lunch. Lunch Lizard, through D51, is available to purchase lunch for \$3.00 or at no cost for qualifying students.

If a student is dropped off with no lunch or lunch money, Nest will purchase them a lunch and add the charges to the upcoming invoice.

Student Birthdays & Special Snacks

Nest encourages the celebration of student birthdays! If families would like to provide a special class treat on their student's birthday, please ensure to send a class set (15). We will distribute and celebrate during lunch.

If you wish your student to not be given special treats with sugar for birthday or holiday celebrations, please notify us, and provide a bag of alternative snacks as a replacement. We will notify families if these alternative snacks need to be replenished.

Student Personal Items

Please mark all student items and removable clothing clearly with their name. Our staff will do the best to organize and locate removable student items, but are not responsible for lost or stolen belongings.

Lost and Found

Unlabeled student items whose owner can't be identified will go into the classroom lost-and-found box. This box will be emptied at the end of each semester.

Student Toys

Please do not send your learners to school with personal toys. These items can be easily lost or broken. Nest will provide opportunities and supplies for play during Fresh Air.

Student Clothing

Please provide an extra set of clothes for your student in a labelled bag. This set of clothing will be kept in the student's cubby in case of spills or accidents. If the extra set needs to be used, a new set must be provided the following day.

Learners should arrive in school appropriate clothing, where they can learn outside and engage in hands-on crafts and activities. Please ensure the student is dressed weather-appropriately during the year.

Naps

Afternoons will include a time for students to nap. If a student does not fall asleep within 30 minutes, they may use the remaining time as quiet time and will be provided books, coloring pages, or other quiet activities.

We will provide blankets, pillows, and mats or cots for each student to sleep on.

Field Trips

During the school year, we will apply our learning by taking field trips within our community. We will inform families at least 2 weeks in advance, and will transport learners in a EUREKA! activity bus or van. If traveling in the van, all learners will be provided a booster seat.

Each field trip will need its own permission slip signed by the guardian before they are allowed to participate.

If a learner is late for drop-off on a field trip day, it is the responsibility of the family to transport the child, or drop off after the class returns to school.

Media Policy

Nest reserves the right to use publications of audio, video, and/or photographic image of our participating learners, without the payment of compensation or royalties.

Screen Time and Media Use

Learners will not receive more than 30 minutes a week of recorded media, such as videos or TV, and these will never be shown during snack or lunch time.

Learners will not receive more than 30 minutes a day of tablet and computer time, which will be split into increments under 15 minutes at a time.

Family Communication

Our website, eurekasciencemuseum.org/Nest, will be the main source of preschool information, in addition to email.

Nest will provide 2 opportunities for family conferences during the school year. Special meetings can be scheduled anytime during the school year by either Nest or the family in advance.

Health and Safety

Illness and Medications

For the health and safety of other learners and staff, please do not send your student to school when sick.

Students should stay home if experiencing the following:

- Fever of 100.4°F or higher
- Severe stuffy or runny nose
- Fatigue and muscle aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours

If your student is out sick, please notify Nest and inform us of the symptoms and onset time. If they have been diagnosed with a contagious illness, please inform Nest immediately so we can take proper precautions to keep our learners and staff healthy.

In the event a student becomes sick at school, guardians listed on the emergency contact will be called to pick the student up. Students may return when they are free of fever and/or vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.

If your student needs to be administered medication, the following steps must be taken:

- Guardians must submit a written and signed request for both prescription and over-the-counter medications. All medication delivered during school hours will need a medication plan written out with our Medical Administrator staff that covers the necessary information required for that child's specific medical needs.
- Families must provide the medication in the original container with the student's printed name, dosage, and directions.

- A trained Medical Administrator staff will administer the medication at the assigned time.
- Guardians are allowed to come to the school to administer medication themselves, without written request.

Sunscreen

Families should apply sunscreen to their students before school. Nest staff will reapply sunscreen before lunch.

If you prefer your student to use a specific sunscreen, please provide it to staff with your student's name clearly labelled.

Emergencies

In the event of an accident or sudden onset of sickness, we will immediately seek proper care for a child, and alert emergency services if deemed appropriate. Our staff will reference any individual emergency instructions from the student's file, call guardians listed on the emergency contact, in addition to notifying our health care consultant.

It is the responsibility for families to keep updated emergency contacts and emergency plans.

Injuries

All of our staff are CPR and First Aid certified. In the event of a minor injury, first aid will be applied and parents will be informed during pick up. If the injury is significant, but does not require emergency services, guardians will be called and notified.

Safety and Supervision

Nest will follow the ratio of 1 staff to 10 students, at all times. Learners will be supervised and in the line of sight when indoors and outdoors. Headcounts will be performed at the start and end of all daily transitions.

Emergency Plans

Nest will follow our emergency preparedness plan, which is annually reviewed and updated. Since we are located on a District 51 campus, we will follow all lock down, fire evacuations, and emergency plans in partnership.

Mandated Reporters

All Nest staff are mandated reporters, and have completed training through Child Protective Services. If staff has any reason to suspect physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, child neglect or exploitation against a student, they will call the Mesa County Child Protection Hotline at 970-242-1211.

Nest staff will not inform families when a complaint has been reported.