

## **My World Mandarin Nature School**

### **Frequently asked questions:**

#### **What is the philosophy and schedule like in your class/camp?**

As you can see on our website, our philosophy is child led, free play based and emergent learning, which means teachers support children's exploring, learning and playing, and we do not set schedule or content for them. In addition, we focus on providing emotional coaching to children and skillfully support whatever they may need in their emotional and social skills. Schedule wise, children typically have something to eat within the first or last hour of the class, and they explore and play the rest of time. Examples of the activities include explore and play in shallow water, build bridges from sticks/branches, building houses using same material, jumping, running, climbing, pretend playing, art making, games, to just name a few. They learn to negotiate, support each other and teamwork in the process with teachers' emotional coaching, natural science support etc.

#### **Can we sign up just a week or a few?**

##### **For summer camps:**

For children who are fluent Chinese speakers (speaking Chinese for 95% of the time) we allow them to sign up for minimum three consecutive weeks to benefit from our unique and highly effective emotional coaching philosophy and method. For children who are below this threshold, or children who need heavy emotional coaching, we ask that they sign up for 6 to 10 weeks, depending on their Chinese proficiency or emotional maturity level, whichever applies.

For students whose Chinese barely meets the minimum requirements (understand 80% and speak 20% of the time) or the limited number of non-Chinese speakers we agree to take, signing up for the whole summer is required for us to really help them to rapidly improve and maintain their Mandarin.

##### **For school year programs:**

Students are required to sign up for one semester (fall, winter/ spring) at a time. Exceptions such as new students are made on a case-by-case bases.

### **How do you handle napping?**

Napping in the woods has happened before where children fell asleep on a bench or grass. However, children typically fall asleep in the car back to home or our house for after care. They either continued to nap (we recommend you provide a pad we can put in a quiet room for your child) or wake up and continued to play.

### **Pick up /Drop off**

At our private park in Bellevue near Spirit Ridge Elementary, or a few parks we visit.

### **Adult/Child ratio:**

Due to the mixed age (3-10) nature of our programs, the ratio changes between 1:5 to 1:10 based on children's age.

### **Gear:**

Waterproof (not water resistant) coat, pants and boots are required for rainy season, even on non-rainy days since the ground will be wet. On heavier rainy days, double up rain gear is a proven way for your child to stay dry, with light waterproof gear inside, and thick waterproof gear (such as fishing gear) outside.

Light waterproof rain gear:

<https://www.rei.com/product/165655/patagonia-torrentshell-jacket-boys>

<https://www.rei.com/product/154767/rei-co-op-rainwall-rain-pants-toddlers>

Heavy water proof rain gear:

<https://grundens.com/shop/collections/collections-kids-fishing-apparel/zenith-293-hooded-parkas/>

<https://grundens.com/shop/collections/collections-kids-fishing-apparel/zenith-294-bib-pant/>

Insulated rain boots:

<https://www.rei.com/product/156183/bogs-classic-big-nw-garden-insulated-boots-kids>

Summertime gear will be long sleeves, long pants that are made of light, breathable material. Walkable shoes that are either quick to dry or easy to take off.

Secondhand stores are some of the best places to get gear and good for the environment! Our favorites are Small Thread for Kids, Value Village and Good Will.

**What to bring:**

Please pack a backpack with water, snacks and a lunch for your child. Our favorite backpack is this one that has a thermo compartment! But any backpack you don't mind getting dirty will do. Please bring a set of clothes for change.

<https://www.rei.com/product/168501/rei-co-op-tarn-12-pack-kids>

Obersee Kid's All-in-One Pre-School Backpacks with Integrated Cooler, Footbal...

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0050P2QOS/ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_tw\\_dp\\_U\\_x\\_UOpqEbJHGTBK1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0050P2QOS/ref=cm_sw_r_tw_dp_U_x_UOpqEbJHGTBK1)