



... where children explore,
discover & achieve

Primary 2009 Summer Program

(Ages 3-6)



Week 1, June 15-19: The Wonder of Water

Children will experiment with water, create waves, explore density and floating, build a model of the water cycle, see liquid transformed into a solid as we make Jell-O, and awaken to the wonder of water.

Week 2, June 22-26: Let's Grow a Garden

Teams of preschoolers will "adopt a neighborhood" in the garden and commit to caring for it as we discover the parts of a seed, create soil layers, and meet Mr. Grasshead. A Native American from the Crow Nation will show how to care for gardens and teach about companion planting.

Week 3, June 29-July 3: America the Beautiful

Flag-making, U.S. map-making, and patriotic singing will fill this festive week, culminating in a hot dog roast and holiday parade on July 3rd. A Native American from the Crow Nation will teach the Crow flag song, show us a map of the reservations in Montana and show Native American tribal flags.

Week 4, July 6-10: Move to the Music

We will dance an Irish jig, choreograph steps to one of our favorite songs, and paint musical shapes in this acutely acoustic week. A Native American from the Crow Nation will share traditional music and dance.

Week 5, July 13-17: Fun with Feathered Friends

We will build nests, examine feathers, measure the wind, collect our chicken's eggs and make egg salad sandwiches during this week of focusing on our flying, feathered, friends. A Native American from the Crow Nation will show how native dances emulate the movement of birds and prairie chickens.

Week 6, July 20-24: From Sheep to Scarf

Children will learn about the shearing process and how yarn is made. We will put our hands to work, learning to sew and knit with a variety of fabrics and yarns. A Native American from the Crow Nation will show how threads, sinews, and hides are used to make clothing.

Week 7, July 27-31: The Journey of Lewis and Clark

This week we will learn the story of Lewis and Clark's journey. The children will create their own journal, have a dramatic play of our own canoe journeys, and bake traditional hardtack bread to nourish us on our journey. A friend from the Crow Nation will teach how the Native Americans helped Lewis and Clark.

Week 8, Aug 3-7: Tents and Tipis

It's adventure time! The children will help set up a tent and learn what to pack in a backpack for hiking. We will talk about camping safety, prepare a variety of dried fruit for nutritious snacks and hike to our creek to explore. A Native American from the Crow Nation will show how to select a good campsite and set up a tipi.

Week 9, Aug 10-14: Explore Animals of Yellowstone

Children will learn about the most common animals in the park and how to identify them by their tracks and scat. We will make field guides and animal themed snacks. A Native American from the Crow Nation will tell us how bison are used in Native American culture.

Daily Activities Include

- **Montessori lessons in the mornings**
- **Stories and teachings about the week's theme**
- **Art and craft projects**
- **Music and creative expression**
- **Visiting our barnyard animals**
- **Outdoor play, hikes and gardening**

*"This school is so much fun, I never want to leave!"
— Quote from a 3 year old last summer*



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Elementary 2009 Summer Program

(Grades 1-6)



"My children have come every summer for the past three years. I can always count on the balance of structure and free time, indoor learning and outdoor fun, and a safe and beautiful setting."

- Mother of 2 Boys

Week 1: June 15-19, Gifts from the Barnyard

How can we use the eggs from our chickens, the wool from our sheep, and the milk from our goats? We will cook frittatas with the chicken's eggs, turn wool into yarn, and make yogurt and soap from the goat's milk.

Week 2: June 22-26, Get Ready for Camping

Learn the skills needed to enjoy the outdoors this summer: orienteering, hiking safety and basic first aid, tying knots, and identifying animal tracks. A Native American from the Crow Nation will teach how to orient ourselves to the land and environment. The week will culminate with a hot dog roast around the campfire by our creek.

Week 3: June 29-July 3, Budding Botanist

We will learn the parts of the plant and venture out into our woods to collect and identify plants. We will do leaf rubbings and enjoy a snack of "6-Plant Part Salad." A Native American from the Crow Nation will teach how to identify plants and how they traditionally used plants for medicine and food.

Week 4: July 6-10, Water, Water Everywhere

Let's get on our wading boots and explore Middle Creek. With the help of a microscope we will collect specimens and discover what lives in the water. We will make boats to sail and sip lemonade by the creek as we discover the qualities of water. A Native American from the Crow Nation will teach how they view this natural resource.

Week 5: July 13-17, Dream, Design and Build it!

What would your pretend village look like? We will use building materials, pine cones and other natural materials, and fabric and feathers to build a village of forts, castles, and fairy houses. A Native American from the Crow Nation will teach the origins of the tipi. Parents are invited to visit our village at the end of the week.

Week 6: July 20-24, Geometry is Fun!

We will study geometric shapes, hike around our property to find and study shapes in nature and around us—leaves, trees, stones, buildings and more! Together we will make 3-D shapes and build a geometric city. A Native American from the Crow Nation will teach about tipi geometry and the shapes found in nature.

Week 7: July 27-31, How Does it Work?

How does a kaleidoscope work? How does a battery work? Come find out how we make these objects for ourselves. A Native American from the Crow Nation will teach how the Medicine Wheel was the first model for a solar analog computer. The week will culminate baking pizza in a solar oven we make ourselves!

Week 8: Aug 3-7, Picture Perfect

Learn the art and science of taking pictures using a digital camera. We will learn about lighting, shooting and editing photos and put them to creative use. Each child will leave with a project they design and create. A Native American from the Crow Nation will teach the history of photographs in the American Indian culture.

Week 9: Aug 10-14, Let's Get Creative

Let's explore several art forms during this week of creative expression. We will hike in our woods, sit by our creek and find natural things to draw. We will paint a mural, make mosaics, and garden stepping stones. Let's see how art comes from the heart of a happy child enjoying summer sunshine and fun.

Daily Activities Include

- **Group discussion and study of the week's theme**
- **Journaling, art projects and creative expression**
- **Caring for our barnyard animals**
- **Outdoor games and hikes**