

Prospective Student Information



The Florida Environmental Education Center "Zoo School"



Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo Mission: To Connect People with the Living Earth

To schedule a tour of the Zoo School contact:
Jennifer Bacon McLachlan, Director of Education at (813)935-8552 ext. 209

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHILD CARE LICENSING INFORMATION

License Number: CTA 430588

License Issued: 07/01/2011

License Expires: 06/30/2012

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo Preschool is licensed by the State of Florida, Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing, and operates Monday through Friday, 7am-6pm. The license is posted at the entrance of the Zoo School. The laws and rules are available at the school. The school's licensing records, including compliance report forms and evaluation forms from the health, building, and fire departments, are available upon request.

Introduction to the Zoo School

Dear Prospective Zoo School Family,

Thank you so much for taking the time to inquire about our Early Childhood Education and Pre-school programs at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo. Below, you will find important information about our facility and unique approach to early education.

After going through this packet, we encourage you to schedule a Zoo School tour to get a personalized opportunity to experience what we have to offer our young environmental stewards. Please remember, program registration is on a first come, first serve basis. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Director of Education, Jennifer Bacon Mclachlan at (813) 935-8552 ext. 209 or Jennifer.bacon@LowryParkZoo.com

Thank you again for your time,

Jennifer Bacon Mclachlan
Director of Education

MISSION OF THE FLORIDA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER AT TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO (ZOO SCHOOL)

To provide a safe, clean, pleasant and caring environment in which each student may develop his or her physical, social, emotional, and intellectual potential at his or her own pace while fostering a respect for wildlife and wild places through unique Zoo interactions.

ZOO SCHOOL'S EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is an accredited zoo through the ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS (AZA). The Zoo School's philosophy and approach to education follows their Vision statement.

AZA VISION AND VALUES

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums envisions a world where all people respect, value and conserve animals and nature.

- Conservation of the Living Natural World—We value the living natural world and recognize the role of our animals as ambassadors. We value the integration of environmentally responsible practices into all aspects of our business.
- Conservation Education for Members and the Public—We value our roles as trusted messengers for the natural world and seek to accelerate positive conservation action through individual and collaborative educational efforts of AZA member institutions.
- Animal Care and Welfare—AZA cares deeply about animal care and welfare, within and beyond its member Zoos and aquariums, and is guided by Accreditation Standards, the Code of Professional Ethics, the Animal Acquisition/Disposition Policy, and science-based animal care standards.

ZOO SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Through the common love for the environment, animals, and children, the Zoo School staff provides students twelve months to Pre-K 4 year olds a unique year-round experience to foster young environmental advocates as the only school in the country run by an accredited Zoo. The Zoo School strives to create hands-on-learning opportunities for children based on creative environmental curriculum developed by individual teachers using the resources of Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo and colleagues. The Zoo School staff is encouraged to utilize and gain knowledge about various animals, as well as, incorporate classroom animal encounters and enrichments to enhance the children's natural interest in the world around them. By respecting and understanding each other's differences, the Zoo School staff provides support for one another professionally in a teamwork environment, while embracing positive communication with the Education staff, the children, and the families served.

Nowhere on Earth can one learn A is for Alligator in quite the same way. Only here can our young ones ride a camel, frolic at water play and be given the in-depth ability to educate their parents on the environment and animals of the world.

~ Former Zoo School Parent

OUTDOOR PLAY/ZOO HIKES

Students are outside on a regular basis, so children are asked to dress accordingly. Zoo Hikes are class excursion into the Zoo for any number of purposes, which provide opportunities to practice, demonstrate, introduce, and explore concepts and skills from **every** content area. Often the destination of a Zoo hike is an animal exhibit, however, depending on the day's purpose, it may be a food stand, ride, or behind-the-scenes area.

ENRICHMENTS AND FEEDINGS

Frequently, classes have the chance to aid the animal staff by preparing and/or delivering an "enrichment" or special snack or toy to our Zoo animals. For example, classes may clip some "browse" or branches from our hibiscus in our garden to feed to the giraffes or prepare fruit to add to the Aldabra tortoise diet.

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Zoo Schools provides a model program where children connect with animals and learn the importance of conservation. Observing and caring for animals instills a sense of responsibility and respect for life. Animal Ambassadors from the Zooventures Department visit classrooms and provide up-close and personalized animal encounters. Examples include: a Prehensile-tailed porcupine, an angora rabbit, and an Eastern Screech Owl. With this connection to animals also comes the emphasis of proper hygiene and hand washing. All children who handle animals are instructed to wash their hands immediately after handling them.

All of the animals in the classrooms are the property of Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo's Animal Collection. Each classroom takes care of the animals' daily needs, while the on-site veterinary staff monitors each animal's health.

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND SNACKS

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo DOES NOT provide lunch or snack for the students.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Pre-K runs on a 12 month academic year cycle (August - August).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Pre-School: A student whose birthday is on or before October 1 of the current school year shall be eligible to enter the next age level of our program. The biggest request for moving up usually happens in the 24-36 Month room, please be aware they will not be able to move to the 3 Year Old room until the new school year.

CLASS SIZE AND STAFF/CHILD RATIOS*

ECE (12-24 months) 11 students to 2 teachers
ECE (24-36 months) 12 students to 2 teachers
Pre-K (3 year olds) 12 students to 1 teacher
Pre-K (4 year olds) 19 students to 2 teachers, 12 students to 1 teacher
and 15 students to 1 teacher. Due to various classroom sizes we have several ratios for this age group.

**Ratios are at or under licensing requirements.*



What this institution has given our sons is priceless and immeasurable. We are forever grateful.

~Former Zoo School Parents

HOURS OF OPERATION

Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Pre-K begins at 8:00am and ends at 2:30pm

Extended Care hours are 7am-8am; 2:30-6:00pm. Extended Care can be purchased for an additional cost.

MONTHLY TUITION PRICES

	5 Day Class (M-F)	3 Day Class (M, W, F)	2 Day Class (T, Th)
Pre-K (Ages 4 to 5)	\$499 Monthly	\$331 Monthly	\$247 Monthly
Early Childhood Education (Ages 1 to 3)	\$581 Monthly	\$361 Monthly	\$253 Monthly
Optional: Extended Care (7:00am to 8:00am; 3:00pm to 6:00pm)	\$200 Monthly	\$120 Monthly	\$80 Monthly

DISCOUNT OFFERED TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

- **Sibling Discount**—A sibling discount is offered to those with more than one student attending a Zoo School program. Families pay the highest regular price tuition for the first student, and each student after that will receive a **5%** discount.
- **Membership Discount**—Families of students currently enrolled in Zoo School will receive a **10%** discount off the price of an annual Zoo Pass. To receive your discount you must email the Director, Jennifer McLachlan, at Jennifer.Bacon@LowryParkZoo.com to request a special “Zoo Parent” membership form.

RESERVING SLOTS FOR CHILDCARE

Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo offers a free waiting list for families that are interested in enrolling into our program. We will refer waiting list and will contact families once we have space that fits the needs of your waiting list request.

When space comes available we will schedule a tour and if our facility meets the needs of your family we will provide you with a Registration Packet.

Our waiting list link is: http://www.lowryparkzoo.com/_education/early_education.html

