



A Typical Day at Thorne Nature Preschool in Lafayette and How to Say Goodbye

Starting an adventure without parents can be scary. To ensure that children approach this transition with confidence and trust, we want to be sure that your child knows what the day will be like and options for when to say goodbye. Here is the schedule we follow most days:

8:50-9:00	Arrival, Parents Help Their Child Use Bathroom
9:00-9:15	Sign-in, Welcome and Free-Play
9:15-9:30	Walk to Outdoor Learning Area or Gather on Site
9:30-9:45	Opening Circle
9:45-10:00	Snack and Story on the Blanket
10:00-11:45	Child-led Nature Play and Exploration with Curriculum Offerings and Mentoring from Teachers
11:45-12:15	Lunch on the Blanket
12:15-1:00	Child-led Nature Play
1:00-1:15	Clean Up/Pack up; Closing Circle
1:15-1:30	Walk to Lafayette Nature Center (LNC)
1:30 pm	Parent Pick-up at the LNC for half day students
1:30-2:30	Rest time at the LNC
2:30-3:30	Free Play and Projects at the LNC
3:30 pm	Parent Pick-up at the LNC for full day students

Though it may be tempting to sneak away while your child is distracted, we recommend that you always say goodbye to build trust. How will your child know you will return? Because you told them you would and then left definitively.

After your child is geared up for the day, has their sunscreen applied, and has used the bathroom you could try different options for how to say goodbye: a fist bump, high five, handshake, hug, dance move, or any variations of these could be a fun routine to create with your child. Your child could push you out of the gate of the play area. Sometimes atypical goodbyes, such as a gentle push out the gate, can be a fun way for a child to indicate to the parent that they are ready to start their school day on their own.

We will have plenty of adults available to help if children are feeling upset after the goodbye. Our experience is that once children become engaged with school activities and classmates, they move through these emotions quickly.

Options for When to Say Goodbye:

1. After helping your child use the bathroom/during the Welcoming and Greeting time.
2. As the group transitions to Opening Circle