



Schlitz Audubon Cold Weather Plan for 2020-2021 Programming

As temperatures get colder, we have thought through how we will manage potentially hazardous outdoor temperatures with indoor classroom use, particularly while COVID-19 numbers in WI remain high.

Our approach takes into account guidelines about indoor and outdoor safety established by our Preschool licensing agent, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, along with the North Shore Health Department. We also considered input from teachers, families, and outdoor early childhood programs in cold weather climates.

Adults and children will continue to wear facemasks this winter. We will do our best to create distance whenever we move indoors. We request that adults continue to avoid gathering in groups inside the building - our public spaces, including the Great Hall, may be needed as teaching spaces in winter.

Will classes be going inside when the weather gets cold?

- Yes, we will. We will come indoors if we believe this is the safest option for our classes.

When and who make the decision to come inside?

- We will not risk hypothermia or frostbite in order to remain outdoors. Teachers reserve the right to make this decision, always prioritizing immediate safety.
- Once temperatures are in the teens, there is a strong likelihood that we will be coming indoors to warm up. How long we *remain* indoors depends on the outside temperature. It may be as little as 15 minutes, or it could be over an hour.
- Teachers will refer to the NOAA Wind Chill Chart (*shown at end of document*). If temperatures are so cold that we are approaching frostbite warnings, the class will come inside for at least part of the time to warm up.

What happens when the wind chill is so cold that we are in the "30 Minutes to Frostbite" range?

- **Class may be entirely indoors.**
- While class will be indoors, **drop-off and pick-up will continue to take place outside.** Children will be outside for the first 5-15 minutes and the last 5-15 minutes of class. Please bundle your children for the extreme cold.

What if I don't feel comfortable bringing my child to class on extreme cold days?

- Please notify us as soon as possible that you are not sending your child to class, by emailing registration@schlitzaudubon.org.
- **Field Days:** We will offer families the option to transfer their child's enrollment to an upcoming Field Days session.
- **Homeschool:** We will offer families the option to transfer that month's enrollment to an upcoming Field Days session.
- The option to transfer sessions is being offered because we know that, due to the pandemic, some families would prefer not to have their children indoors for extended periods of time on below-zero days. This option will be available only on below-zero days.

Will there be days when programs are cancelled due to cold?

- If the Fox Point-Bayside school district or the North Shore municipality closes schools and businesses due to cold, ice, or other weather events, our Nature Preschool will close and all school-aged programming will be cancelled. **We will notify you via email as soon as we get the information.**

Are there ways parents and teachers can help children stay warm while outside?

- Parents can make sure that children are dressed for success by ensuring that their child is wearing a warm coat, mittens, scarf, hat, snowpants, and insulated boots.
- Hand warmers and foot warmers go a long way in helping children stay warm. If you don't like the idea of using disposable hand-and-foot warmers, you can fill a small sock with rice, heat it in the microwave for about a minute, and place that in your child's pockets.
- Classes may gather around an outdoor campfire. Fire safety will be taught to all students gathered around the fires. Fires will be monitored at all times by experienced teachers and volunteers.

Our mission is to maintain the health and safety of the children and teachers during the coldest days of the year while COVID-19 remains a strong concern.



Wind Chill Chart

