

ALL ABOARD!



AECA is offering 2 center tours this year. Proceeds from the tours will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Buses will leave at 8 a.m. sharp. The tours include transportation to and from the conference headquarters, Little Rock Marriott

Thursday, October 12, 2017

8:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.

Little Rock Marriott

You must register to participate in one of the tours and pay an additional fee of \$40 **and seating is limited!** To register, go to <https://form.jotform.com/71915297784976>

Ferndale Nature School is a nature preschool program for children ages 3-5 years old. We provide a developmentally appropriate early childhood curriculum with an emphasis on a child's connection with nature. The program is "child lead" with teachers acting as facilitators for learning. Children enrolled in our program come dressed appropriately for the weather of the day. We spend 60% of our day immersed in the natural environment that surrounds our school. Daily activities include nature walks, democratic group meetings, interacting with farm animals and the onsite garden, observing the changes of the season, creating natural structures, and using natural materials to create works of art. We go where the wind and our kiddos take us, so be prepared to do the same!

The **North Little Rock School District Early Childhood Program** is committed to the exploration and implementation of a Reggio-inspired approach to teaching and learning. This approach focuses on the image of the child, the role of the environment, a child-centered curriculum, collaboration, documentation, professional development, and partnerships with parents and the community. We are also inspired by the work of Alise Shafer-Ivey and the teachers at Evergreen Community School in Santa Monica, California. Evergreen Community School's philosophy is based primarily on social constructivist theory. We believe knowledge is constructed by the learner internally rather than being imported from an external source. Accordingly, our environment is designed to inspire and encourage children to freely manipulate objects and ideas. The classrooms, school garden, animal room, mud kitchen, music station, recycling center and more at Pike View Early Childhood Center offer children opportunities for authentic experiences/tasks in meaningful context rather than abstract instruction out of context. Teachers stimulate and scaffold children's thinking/learning by challenging their theories, offering additional material resources, modeling reflection, and asking children to elaborate their understandings.



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