

Green Recess, Farming, and Eco-Casita



Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade have Green Recess once a week in our “Big Yard.” Green Recess can be called “outdoor choice time,” a time when students can explore the “mud kitchen,” build shelters with natural materials and fabrics, experiment with water, bubbles, and washing supplies, draw with chalk and work with compost. The Eco-Casita, our outdoor classroom, is a contained space within our yard in which lessons can take place and materials can be accessed.

The Green Studio



A **materials space** available for classes and projects across grade levels, the **Green Studio** is maintained by our Sustainability Coordinator and our Science Coordinator. Living creatures and classroom terraria spend time here. The walls are filled with accessible collections of natural materials available for building, project-assembling, and idea conceptualization. Wooden work tables are available in the open space for project work. Sometimes, messy science lessons happen in the Green Studio.

Lunch Recess Structure



We know that early childhood play and fifth grade play looks, sounds, and feels very different, so we’ve built a schedule that allows all children access and space for their own developmentally appropriate play and social eating time.

Kindergarten, first and second graders begin the lunch and recess period with outdoor play time. Kindergarteners and First Graders take turns in our “Big Yard” and our “Small Yard,” while second graders call the “Ball Field” their home for the year. They have their lunch for the second half of the lunch and recess period in the cafeteria.

Third, fourth, and fifth graders eat their lunches first, and then share the “Big Yard,” “Small Yard,” and “Ball Field” each day through a rotating schedule so that each grade experiences each space at least once a week. On Fridays, they have “choice” of the spaces, allowing them to play with siblings and friends in other grades.