

REGISTRATION

If I have a 3 and a 5 year old can I register them in the same class?

Yes. We leave the decision up to you as to which class you would prefer to register your children in, the 3-4 year old class or 4-5 year old class.

My child is four, which class should I register them in?

Please select an age-appropriate class for your child based on the age they will be on the first day of class. We leave the decision to you whether your child would be best-suited to be with older or younger children. Once you have selected a particular class day and time, you will stay with that group for the full session.

If I register for multiple sessions, do I stay in that class the entire year?

Yes. Participants stay in the same class for the full year even if they have a birthday during the year.

What is the difference between the two age-level classes?

Both classes will be studying the same topic for the week. The biggest difference between the two age groups is how the children participate in class. For example, the four and five year old classes tend to ask more questions, so we get into more discussions with the older classes. Generally speaking, the four and five year old classes have a longer attention span, so we may plan a different story (that may vary in length or content) for the two age groups.

Can younger siblings come to class with us?

We view Seedlings as a special time to explore and discover with your preschooler and ask that you only bring registered siblings (3-5 years old) with you to class. This ensures that we have enough materials and space and provides a unique and age-appropriate learning environment for all participants.

What if the class I want is full?

Many of our classes fill early! Once a particular class has filled, we will update the listing on the website as a wait list only. If you register for a class that is full, we will add you to the waitlist and notify you. If a spot opens up, we will notify you by phone and process your registration at that time.

Cancellation policy

Refunds are available for cancellations made at least 10 business days prior to the event. Cancellations made less than 10 business days will incur a 25% cancellation fee. Programs may be canceled due to insufficient enrollment. A full refund will be made in the event the Desert Botanical Garden cancels a program. Refunds will not be issued for missed class sessions or after program start date. A waiver of liability is required for all children's programs.

Membership

All Desert Botanical Garden members receive 20% off registration rates for their children and grandchildren. If you are not already a member, visit dbg.org and click on the *Support the Garden* tab to join online or call 480-481-8117 to take advantage of this great discount!

LOGISTICS

Where is Seedlings held?

Class will be in the Wells Fargo classroom in the Weisz Learning Center. There will be signs posted from Admissions directing you to our classroom.

Can I bring a snack for my child?

We provide basic snacks that will not include any typical allergy-causing foods like peanuts. If your child has a dietary restriction, please bring a snack for them with you. We ask that snacks only be eaten during our class snack time and not on the trail during our nature walk.

Do we need to bring anything to class each week?

We will go outside on a nature walk every day, so please bring appropriate attire/supplies; this may include a sun hat, water bottle, appropriate walking shoes (on dirt paths sometimes) and a jacket depending upon the weather. Please note that we do not hold back on getting dirty, so wear clothes that are okay to get dirty!

Sickness Guidelines

We ask that you keep your child at home if 1) the illness will stop him/her from taking part in activities 2) the child needs more care than can be provided by his/her caregiver 3) the child might be contagious and could make other Seedlings sick. However, please keep in mind that the common cold is generally contagious before any symptoms occur and making a sick child stay home may not really prevent other children from getting sick.*

PROGRAM

Do you cover the same material in each session – fall, winter, spring?

No. Each session is different and the themes tend to reflect what is happening seasonally in the desert. Year to year the material changes as well. So, if your child entered the program at age three, he would never repeat any material during his three years in Seedlings.

What is my role as the adult attending class with my preschooler?

To learn and explore alongside your preschooler! You may be surprised what you will learn about our Sonoran backyard when you get to take on this role. Adults re-discover concepts about nature with the child, which helps to encourage questions and observations. Sometimes children have concerns that need to be addressed during times such as story or our nature walk; we ask that if your preschooler becomes disruptive to others to please step outside, in the hall or away from the group. When they're ready to continue their learning journey, return to the group.

Here are some other ways we invite you to interact with your seedling during class:

- Sit in circle with them
- Sing songs together
- During our nature walk, actively participate in making discoveries together
- Ask questions about what you see
- Make predictions together
- Assist with their arts (if they need it)
- Sit with them during story time.

It is a fun time for all of us to learn and play together!

*Policies based on Arizona State Guidelines from American Academy of Pediatrics