

wildrock

When kids are given the freedom to play in nature, researchers have observed that they choose the same play motifs regardless of where they live in the world. It seems there is a universal need for seven forms of nature play, all of which can be enjoyed at Wildrock!



ADVENTURE



Walks are for adults! Kids need adventure! Stalking, balancing, scampering, and climbing through the natural world gives kids the physical challenge they need for their developing mind and body.

- Climb onto the Wildrock Overlook
- Scramble over rocks in Heartrock Grove
- Explore the length of the stream flowing through the playscape



MAPS & PATHS



Kids love finding shortcuts, figuring out what's around the next bend, and following a map to a secret place.

- Traverse Little Flat Mountain Trail from the Wildwood Nook
- Scramble up the rock outcropping across the playscape stream
- Bird watch at the Bird Sanctuary (maps available from the Wildrock Host)



FANTASY & IMAGINATION



Kids live in the imagination. They need places that inspire storytelling, play acting, dreaming, and elaborating on imaginary worlds.

- Create in the Fairy House zone on the playscape
- Imagine wee folk at the Gnome Laundry and Cozy Cottage
- Perform plays on Creation Stage



SMALL WORLDS



Children need miniature worlds to help grasp and process the complexity of the larger world. Tiny world play helps build emotional resilience.

- Play in the Doll House and Wee Folk Village in the Barn
- Create in the Sensory Table and Den Building Area in the Barn
- Find toys in the raised Garden Beds off the barn porch



ANIMAL ALLIES



Animals play a vital role in children's emotional development for fostering empathy and emotional attachments. Children easily identify with animals and become them in their play.

- Visit the Animal Rescue station to assist animals in need of veterinary care
- Put on an animal costume and act out a story on Creation Stage
- Climb on the Giant Bear and visit the little bear cubs on the playscape



SPECIAL PLACES



Children need to create their own private place. Forts and hideaways become a home away from home, a connection to the landscape, and step toward independence.

- Build a fort on the Playscape
- Den building in the Bird Sanctuary
- Nook areas along the Discovery Loop Trail



HUNTING & GATHERING



Children have a strong need to search for hidden treasure and to seek out new discoveries.

- Forage along the Discovery Loop Trail
- Collect ingredients at the Mud Kitchen
- Display rock treasures at the Rock Shop

