

Preschool

Preschool teachers and parents of preschoolers have three program options at Elkus Ranch.



1. **Preschool Days:** Every spring and fall we set aside 2 or 3 days just for preschoolers and their teachers, parents or caregivers. (Check our calendar for the next dates.) Formal classrooms, playgroups, and individual parent/child groups are all welcome to attend. The program is self-guided and allows the children to direct their experience at the ranch. In the garden our staff will facilitate a variety of activities depending on the weather and time of year. Possibilities may include making bouquets, watering the plants, digging for worms or tasting vegetables.



A seed planting station is available in the green house and children are welcome to explore the sensory garden and enabling garden to see what is growing. The chicken coop is a favorite stop and our hens are always happy to have a snack brought over from the garden. The goats, donkeys and sheep look forward to a good brushing and a wooly craft is set up in the lower barn. The upper barn provides a great spot for a group picture, a visit



with the horses, and a chance to climb on the straw bales. In the spring the upper barn houses our new lambs and their moms. The rabbits are also available for petting and we have a variety of other livestock to view including a llama, cows, Icelandic, Babydoll, and California Red sheep, and occasionally, pigs. Preschool days are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and there is a fee of \$5 per person. Advanced reservations are required so we can anticipate the need for parking.

2. **Ranch Tour:** Our staff will provide a guided tour of the ranch that includes visits to the garden, greenhouse, chicken coop, livestock, and barns to groups of parents and children. Program fees are \$5 per person. The tour emphasizes hands on learning as well as vocabulary/language development. The program takes 1 ½



hours and many groups choose to stay an additional half hour to eat lunch. There is no charge for infants accompanying a parent but program fees do apply to younger siblings that will participate in the program. A minimum of 20 people or \$100 is required. Advanced reservations are needed and spring and fall dates fill quickly.