



Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
 Education Department
 2009 Fall
 Zoo Tots & Kiddy Paws Programs

All Early Learning Programs Meet In DISCOVERY CENTER at Play Park

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has educational and engaging programs for various ages. Hands-on, creative, and entertaining activities introduce young children to the wonders of the Animal Kingdom! All programs include up-close animal encounters, stories, crafts and activities. Children and their accompanying adult meet different animals in different programs each week. Class size is limited to the first 12 children to register. Fee: Members \$10/child, Non-members \$13/child (fee includes one adult per registered child).

Zoo Tots Preschoolers 3 to 5 year olds plus one adult (parent/guardian) <i>45-minute programs</i>			Kiddy Paws Toddlers 9 – 35 months old plus one adult (parent/guardian) <i>45-minute programs</i>		
September	Comparisons	Time	September	Learning	Time
15 or 17	Big, Bigger, Biggest	10 am	15 or 17	Family Time	11 am
22 or 24	Fast and Slow	10 am	22 or 24	Bath Time	11 am
29 or 10/1	Day and Night	10 am	29 or 10/1	Meal Time	11 am
October	Adaptations		October	Expanding	
6 or 8	Feet	10 am	6 or 8	Potty Time	11 am
13 or 15	Tails	10 am	13 or 15	Bed Time	11 am
20 or 22	Colors	10 am	20 or 22	Play Time	11 am
27 or 29	Sounds	10 am	27 or 29	Dress Up Time	11 am
November	Where They Live		November	Exploring	
3 or 5	Deserts	10 am	3 or 5	In The House	11 am
10 or 12	Jungles	10 am	10 or 12	In The Yard	11 am
17 or 19	Grasslands	10 am	17 or 19	On The Go	11 am

Zoo Tots – Introduction to the Animal Kingdom

Preschoolers and their caregivers meet different animal ambassadors each week in a safe and nurturing environment. Emphasis is placed on positive and engaging interactions with these animal ambassadors as well as activities, stories and crafts that revolve around a central theme. Each week's program builds on knowledge from the previous week, so you and your child will not want to miss a class.

Kiddy Paws – Infant Signing Class

Kiddy Paws is an interactive program that uses signing to facilitate early communication in non-speakers and those just learning to speak. Each week participants will meet different animal ambassadors and learn different signs to help build a vocabulary. Two-way communication fosters trust and mutual understanding and deepens the bond between you and your baby. Signing with your baby provides limitless opportunities for exploring and learning about your baby's new world together!

Infants taught sign language: 1) can communicate wants and needs to their caregivers, 2) have an earlier ability to expressively communicate with caregivers or siblings, 3) may learn to speak earlier, and 4) could have above-average ability later in life to learn a new language. Parents who sign with their baby may experience: 1) lower frustration levels because your baby can communicate with you, 2) deeper bonding with your baby because they have greater insight into their baby's mind, 3) a higher level of trust from your baby because he or she knows that you understand what he or she is trying to tell you, and 4) a more satisfying relationship with your child.

Registration for all programs will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Complete a separate registration form for each child. We do not take registrations over the telephone. Class size is limited to the first 12 children who apply.

Waiting Lists: Due to the overwhelming popularity of our **Zoo Tots & Kiddy Paws** Programs, we do keep waiting lists when classes fill. If an opening becomes available, we will contact you by telephone and e-mail. Please make sure the registration form includes daytime, evening and cell phone contact numbers and your e-mail address.

Deadline for registration is 5 p.m. the Thursday before the week of scheduled classes. Many of our classes are extremely popular. When classes are full you will be notified immediately that your registration was not received in time to secure a spot for your child.

Payment: Full payment must accompany your registration form. We accept checks, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover cards. Checks are made payable to the Jacksonville Zoo.

Mail the registration form to:

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens
Education Department
370 Zoo Parkway
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Hand Deliver the registration form to the PepsiCo Foundation Education Campus at the south end of the zoo's main parking lot Monday – Sunday 9 am – 5 pm.

FAX the registration form to 904-757-2444 24-hours a day. Do not forget to complete all the requested credit card information and sign the registration form. If you have more than one child wanting to attend the same program, please fax all registrations together.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are the classes held?

All **Zoo Tots & Kiddy Paws** programs are held at the Discovery Center in Play Park, the children's zoo located near the Wildlife Carousel. **Classes begin promptly at 10 and 11 a.m., so please allow enough time to walk to the Discovery Center from the Zoo's Main Gate.** In your confirmation materials, you will receive a map showing you the location of the Discovery Center.

I am new to the program. How do you screen your staff?

All staff educators are screened for excellence in children's programming. All have had previous experience with children and have cleared nationwide, state and FBI Level 2 background checks as prescribed by the State of Florida's Jessica Lunsford Act.

I have younger and/or older children. May I bring them along?

We have been teaching these age groups for several years. The programs are designed with their developmental needs in mind. It is not recommended that older or younger children accompany siblings. If other children are going to participate in the class, they must be properly registered. If you have a baby, you are welcome to bring him or her along as long as he or she will not be disruptive during the program. We have received complaints from other parents when infants disrupt the experience for their children and strongly advise that restless and distressed babies not accompany older siblings to the class.

Do I have to pay to enter the Zoo?

If you are not a member, you will have to pay Zoo admission to participate in the class. Members receive FREE admission every time they visit the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and discounts on all programs offered through the Education Department.

Do I have to register for both Tuesday and Thursday?

The same class is offered twice each week – Tuesdays & Thursdays. We understand that busy parents need flexible scheduling. You may register once a week or once a month or for every day (it will be the same experience each week, but for 9 - 35 month olds repetition helps them learn). It is entirely up to you.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICIES: Cancellations received 10 business days or more prior to your scheduled class will receive a full refund less a 10% administrative fee. Cancellations made 9 to 5 business days prior to the first day of a class will receive a 75% refund of fees. Cancellations received less than 5 business days before the event forfeit all fees paid. The Education Department reserves the right to cancel or combine classes when they do not meet the minimum requirement of 6 students to provide the program. Exceptions to the cancellation and refund policies will be made on a case by case basis and at the sole discretion of the Director of Education.