

**Cobb Meadow School**  
PO Box 352  
Dublin, NH 03444  
(603) 563-7755

Dear Interested Parents:

Thank you for your inquiry. Attached is an explanation of the particulars of the school, its history and the philosophy behind our Waldorf-inspired program. We are pleased to be a part of this unique schooling experience and look forward to sharing its wonder and magic with you and your child. Please read on for the details, and contact me with any questions or to arrange a visit.

Sincerely,

Anne Branzell-Spiegler  
Head Teacher

Enclosures:  
Introduction to Cobb Meadow School  
The Kindergarten Day  
Rate Schedule  
Application

## INTRODUCTION TO COBB MEADOW SCHOOL

Cobb Meadow is a Waldorf-inspired school that provides a deeply nourishing and satisfying early school experience for the young child. Our program engages the young child through free play, stories and songs, all within a predictable daily rhythm that reflects changes in the seasons. Our children develop within a creative environment that emphasizes a connection to and reverence for nature. We have a beautiful school and a large garden and play yard.

Cobb Meadow is located in the home of Jim and Libby Haddock, two miles from the intersection of Routes 101 and 137 on Cobb Meadow Road in Dublin, NH. School hours are 8:30am to 12:15pm Monday through Thursday with an option to stay for lunch until 1:45pm Mondays through Thursday s and 12:45pm on Fridays. Children ages 3 ½ to 6 attend three, four or five days. We have two teachers and typically fifteen children attending each day. Our head teacher, Anne Branzell-Spiegler, is a certified Waldorf teacher trained at Antioch New England Graduate School.

### **The Kindergarten Day:**

Attached is *The Kindergarten Day*, by Rena Osmer, a wonderful description of a Waldorf Kindergarten like Cobb Meadow. Our daily schedule is outlined below. The time spent on each element varies, depending on the activities chosen by the teachers and the season.

- 8:30 Free play (including painting, beeswax, finger-knitting, and other options)
- 9:15 Clean-up
- 9:30 Circle (seasonal songs, dances, verses and finger plays)
- 9:45 Rest (a quiet moment before shared snack)
- 10: 00 Snack (nutritious and prepared at school, served family-style at tables)
- 10:30 Outside time (active and industrious!)
- 11:30 Story (rest and gather before dismissal)
- 12:15 Dismissal (for children not staying for lunch)
- 12:45 Lunch Dismissal

### **Festivals:**

Each year we celebrate seasonal festivals with our children and their families. Festivals include a harvest festival, a lantern festival, an advent spiral walk, and a May Day celebration. The children do seasonal verses, stories, songs and crafts in preparation for each festival. Festivals are an important part of the children's experience at Cobb Meadow.

**Classroom Environment and Grounds:**

The Cobb Meadow classrooms are orderly, beautiful places for children to play. Wooden toys and hand-made dolls abound, as do play stands, silks and books. There is a nature table that is changed frequently to reflect the season, and to harbor treasures the children find in the garden. The class has bright and cheerful spaces, as well as dim and cozy spaces near the hearth. Simple toys and other materials are placed on low shelves so that the children are able to help themselves and each other in their imaginative play.

Outside, the garden, the play yard and the nearby woods provide many opportunities for imaginative play. A large stump and sand pile, life-sized Lincoln-logs, and two sets of swings are well-used by the children. Real, child-sized tools are provided for gardening, digging and raking. Outdoor time is vital to children, so the groups bundle up and go out to play in all weather. The teachers also take walks with the children, and work is always available for the industrious kindergartener, including raking, digging, shoveling and gardening.

**Parent Community:**

Our parent community is diverse, but shares a commitment to a protective and nurturing environment for their young child. We have an active parent community, which contributes time, energy and creativity to festivals, workdays and special classroom projects. Parents may also support the school community financially through contributions to the scholarship fund and the wish list. We hold social and informational parent evenings three times a year, as well as an occasional book study or other educational opportunity. Parents are kept informed about their children through availability of the teachers at pick-up time and two parent-teacher conferences each year.

**Brief History:**

Cobb Meadow was created in 1992 by Libby Haddock, an experienced Waldorf educator. Libby operated Cobb Meadow for five years, until she moved back to teach at Monadnock Waldorf School's Kindergarten in Keene. During Libby's years at Cobb Meadow, the school's furniture was custom-built, the garden was redesigned in the form of an angel, and many hand-made toys were made and acquired. In 1998, following a one-year hiatus, the school was reopened by a group of interested parents and is now governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Libby remains on the Board, which is populated by parents of current and former Cobb Meadow children. Through the generosity of the parent community, our sunroom was expanded in 2000 to allow for more space for free play and two separate circle groups.

**Waldorf Education:**

Waldorf Education is based on the work of Austrian scientist and educator Rudolph Steiner. This education reflects a deep understanding of child development and the needs of children as they move through childhood. The first school opened in Stuttgart, Germany in 1919 with 175 pupils. The first kindergarten was established in 1926 by Elizabeth von Grunelius based on the belief that education of the child in pre-school years makes a life-long impression on the human being's destiny. More specifically, a healthy environment is one worthy of imitation by the young child, where children are sheltered and guided through exposure to practical life activities. Waldorf education is the fastest growing independent school movement with over 600 schools worldwide.

The Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) is the governing body of Waldorf schools, and the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) is its counterpart for Waldorf-inspired kindergartens. We use the phrase "Waldorf-inspired," because we work fully out of the Waldorf educational philosophy, but do not intend to expand into an elementary school. Cobb Meadow has met the requirements to become a full member of WECAN, demonstrating a commitment to maintaining a strong Waldorf kindergarten program.

**The Larger Waldorf Community:**

Cobb Meadow is a part of a larger community of Waldorf Schools in the Monadnock region. There are two elementary schools, a high school, a Waldorf teacher-training program and an early childhood center all within 35 minutes of Cobb Meadow. A school bus takes children from Peterborough and Dublin to Monadnock Waldorf School in Keene. Cobb Meadow families have the option of continuing with Waldorf education, and about one-fifth do so. Other families choose public or private schools in the area.

Thank you for your interest in Cobb Meadow. Please contact us for more information or to arrange a visit!

## **THE KINDERGARTEN DAY**

by Rena Osmer

Reprinted with permission from the Pine Hill School

The Kindergarten is a busy, joyful place. For those of you who have never had the opportunity to visit us, I offer the following description of a day in the life of the Kindergarten.

Free play is the first order of business after jackets and boots are shed. There are so many things to do! Most can hardly wait to get started. In the kitchen area is a family, perhaps, cooking and playing house. Nearby three other children may be moving tables and chairs to make a fort, or is it a spaceship they are creating? In another corner a persistent “princess” is using paper, scissors, and glue to make herself a crown. Near the season garden, a puppet show is being enacted upon a stage of colored cloth. Wandering through it all are hungry “kittens” who mew from one location to the next until they are tended by mothers, pirates, spacemen, and princesses, each in turn.

The Kindergarten teacher is there in the center of it all. Like the mother of a big household, she is cooking, baking, washing, ironing, mending, sawing, sanding, polishing--and caring for the children. Some of those children are inspired by her activity and want to “do it too,” so there may also be a crowd gathered to work. Vegetables are chopped, paint cloths are washed or new toys are crafted with the saw at the workbench. An atmosphere of purposeful, happy occupation pervades the room. It is peaceful, it is industrious, and probably someone is singing.

Then, the teacher completes her work of the day. The saw is returned back to the cupboard; the sawdust is swept from the floor; the table is set for snack time: clean-up time has arrived! Moving men, maids, or mothers now tuck the dolls into beds, fold the cloths, and move all the heavy furniture back to its rightful place. In the end the room looks the same as it did when the children arrived two hours ago (well, almost).

It’s time to use the bathrooms, wash hands, and board the train for “circle” on the big rug. Then songs are sung, dances are done, hopping, and skipping, galloping, and jumping, all to the theme of the season of the year. Sometimes the group imitates the farmer who knows how oats, peas, beans, and barley grow. Sometimes it changes into gnomes, gathering up seeds to bring to the arms of Mother Earth before the freeze. Sometimes woodcutters emerge with footsteps firm and bold, chopping wood for the winters cold. But eventually this circle adventure, too, comes to a close and a hungry bunch gathers around the table for snack. Delicious, nutritious, warm snack awaits! Organic vegetables or homemade buns that busy hands have helped prepare, are passed around for all. The food is blessed and heartily eaten. Conversation springs up, about new puppies at home, or what was done at Grandma’s, or what might be played outside. Places are cleared; the time is ripe to go outside.

With shoes changed, coats zipped, hats on heads, the children burst through the back door to the wonderful world outside. There are shovels for digging in the sand pile, and rakes for gathering the crispy leaves. There is a great fallen tree for climbing and dangling, and a wealth of acorns, and beechnuts, and pine cones. For an hour or so, the children run and work, laugh and play.

At the close of the day the class returns to its cozy room. The ending is quiet. The bird in the cuckoo clock sings his song, a candle is lit, the children settle down, and the teacher tells a fairy tale. With words, with puppets, or with gesture and movement, the story unfolds. The children listen closely until “happily ever after”. The candle is snuffed, it’s 12:00 and time to go home.

And so you have the story of a typical morning. What may not be apparent within this description are the weekly activities of baking, beeswax, watercolor, and eurhythmy that are woven into the course of the morning depending on whether it is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. What is also not mentioned are the “Outward Bound” field trips we take when weather permits to pick blueberries, or apples, or to visit pond, forest, mountains, and farm. Then there are the seasonal highlights, our festival celebrations, and birthdays, too, for each child.

Finally, there is the real work that is going on behind the scenes. The children are finding their way into the world through physical skills that are stretched and exercised daily, and through language skills that are developed with verse and song, speech, and conversation. They are learning new social and emotional skills with each new encounter with another. Childhood qualities, all too quickly lost in the rapid growth toward adulthood, are treasured here. We encourage the children’s sense of wonder, we work to develop creative imaginations, and we cultivate enthusiasm for moving and doing and taking initiative. At the same time, we work in a family-like group and we learn that everything we do eventually affects the other. Give and take, confidence, trust, and gratitude are all important.

It is a very rich and full life in the Kindergarten, and a busy, joyful place to be.

In sun and moon and star and stone,  
I feel the power of light.  
With beast and bird and flower so gay,  
I greet the brand new day.

**Cobb Meadow School**  
PO Box 352  
Dublin, NH 03444  
(603) 563-7755

**Schedule of Rates for the 2006-2007 School Year:**

Morning Only (8:30-12:00):

3 morning program \$2578  
4 morning program \$3260  
5 morning program \$3805

Extended Day:

Monday to Thursday:  
\$350/day for the year

Friday: \$175/day for the year

Monday to Thursday lunch time is from noon to 1:45pm. (Children bring their own lunches.) Lunch on Friday is from noon to 12:45pm.



Name and relationship of other members of the household:

---

---

Has your child attended any program before?      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

Have you attended any Waldorf parent child groups?      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes to either question, which ones?

Has your child had any major developmental difficulties? Are there any special concerns with vision, hearing, walking, speaking, other? If so, please explain and describe general health of child. Please use additional paper if necessary.

What qualities would you like to see strengthened in your child in the coming year?

How did you hear about our school?

Do you have children enrolled in other schools? If so which one(s)? (Helps us with calendar planning)

(OPTIONAL) In order to comply with state non-profit regulations, please indicate your ethnic background: eg White, Non-Hispanic, Black, Non-Hispanic, Hispanic, Indian/Alaskan-Native, Asian/Pacific Islander,

*Cobb Meadow School admits students without regard to race, gender, religion, creed, or national origin.*

Cobb Meadow School • PO Box 352 Dublin NH 03444 • (603) 563-7755