

**Job Title:** Nature-Based Classroom Teacher (Grades 1-4)

**Job Type:** Part-time, 3 days/week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) 8:30 am - 3pm, plus compensated planning, communication, and preparation time

**Location:** Camp Allyn, 1414 Lake Allyn Road, Batavia, Ohio 45103

**Start Date:** August 25, 2025 (school start date September 3rd, 2025)

### **School Overview**

The Happy Explorers School was formed when the Cincinnati Nature Center disbanded its K-2 program and all enrolled families wanted to continue with a nature-based curriculum and collaborative environment. With our Head Teacher retiring at the end of the 2025-26 school year, we are seeking a teacher to work with her in the coming year and ideally take over as Head Teacher in 2026-27. The candidate will have the opportunity to build on existing curriculum in core subjects (reading, writing, mathematics, science & nature, social studies, history) and develop and/or shift to a more rigorous curriculum as she sees fit. Our teachers have significant support from parents given the unique setup of our school but maintain autonomy in the curriculum and the classroom.

### **Job Overview**

We are seeking a passionate, dedicated, and self-directed classroom teacher to join our team, working with students in 1st through 4th grades. This part-time position will be based in an outdoor-focused classroom environment that emphasizes hands-on, experiential learning and fosters a deep connection with nature. The ideal candidate will have a Montessori background or similar experience in child-centered, inquiry-based education. The role requires a strong commitment to cultivating a joyful and engaging learning environment for young learners, while also fostering curiosity, independence, and creativity.

### **Responsibilities**

- Classroom instruction
  - Lead nature-based lessons that integrate academic subjects with hands-on learning
  - Develop age-appropriate and engaging curricula for 1st-4th-grade students that encourage curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving and incorporate students' individual interests where feasible
  - Integrate Montessori principles or similar methods to create a learner-driven, self-paced classroom atmosphere
  - Foster collaboration and working relationships among students
  - Cultivate an atmosphere of kindness, respect, and inclusion
  - Encourage independence and self-regulation
- Outdoor education
  - Utilize the outdoor space as an integral part of the learning experience, ensuring safety and providing opportunities for exploration in nature

- Incorporate nature walks, outdoor games, environmental projects, and hands-on activities to deepen students' connection to the natural world
- Teach students about sustainability, wildlife, ecosystems, and environmental stewardship
- Parent communication and collaboration
  - Communicate regularly with parents through weekly recaps that highlight classroom activities, student progress, and direction for at-home learning
  - Be available for parent meetings and ensure constructive, open communication with families regarding student development
  - Collaborate with other teachers and school staff to ensure a well-rounded and holistic educational experience for all students
- Planning and Preparation
  - Develop detailed lesson plans that align with the curriculum and educational goals
  - Prepare materials for outdoor activities, ensuring the necessary resources are available
  - Maintain an organized system for tracking student progress and feedback
- Professional Development & Teamwork
  - Participate in team meetings, professional development opportunities, and school events as required
  - Periodically review curriculum on a macro level to ensure that it is keeping pace with students' needs and make adjustments as needed
  - Contribute ideas to improve the overall nature-based educational program and classroom environment

## **Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree in Education, Child Development, Environmental Studies, or a related field (or equivalent experience). Montessori experience or training is ideal, but not required.
- Experience working with primary-grade students, preferably in an outdoor or experiential learning environment
- Strong communication, organizational, and collaborative skills
- Ability to create an engaging, safe, and inclusive classroom for diverse learners
- Passion for nature, sustainability, and fostering a love of the outdoors in children
- Current BCI and FBI checks required