



Purpose

Kinderwood has a new home! We are returning to our roots by moving back to the Kashiwa Family home.

Here is what to expect:

Kinderwood is growing - creating more opportunities for children to learn, explore, and thrive!

We remain a montessori-based educational institution, consistent with best practices, our legacy, and community need.



A Responsible Direction

- Preserves the mission of Kinderwood - expands to include further Montessori age ranges.
- Diversifies enrollment across multiple age groups, reducing reliance on a single cohort.
- Keeps families engaged with Kinderwood over a longer timeline.
- Responds to a documented regional shortage of early childhood and enrichment programming - without compromising educational quality.

Daily Schedule Snapshot

- 9am-12pm: 3 year old program
- 1:15-4pm: 4 year old program
- 2:15-4pm: Kinderwood Forest Extension

Keep scrolling for detailed information...



Three Year Olds

- 9am-12pm
- Same Montessori Curriculum
 - Practical Life
 - Sensory Play
 - Outdoor Recreation
 - Hands-On Learning
 - Independence
 - Educating the Whole Child



Four Year Olds

- 9am-4pm Option (no TOW)
- 1:15-4pm → 4 year olds bussed from TOW to Kinderwood (TOW & KW)
- 4 year old Montessori Program
 - Largely unchanged, just slightly condensed.
 - A natural progression from the 3s program and introduction to the mixed-age Forest School program



Kinderwood: Forest Extension

- 2:15pm → Kindergarten through 3rd Graders join the 4 year olds (limited slots available)
- A mixed age Montessori-driven curriculum will be designed and followed.
- Montessori and Forest School pillars will be highlighted.
- There is ample positive research on mixed-age educational programming.



Kinderwood: 4 year old outreach

- The new forest extension program will not meet on Wednesdays to allow for a continuation of the 4 year olds-only outreach program.
- This would continue our mission and maintain one of the unique Montessori-based features of our school.





Our Mission Remains

This expansion maintains Kinderwood's educational mission and explicitly avoids becoming a daycare program.



- Purposeful Learning-Based Curriculum
- School Day Structure (aligned with Montessori and nature-based program models)
- Trained educators remain the heart of the program, not supervision-only staffing.
- Kinderwood remains an educational institution, NOT a childcare service.

Confident, Capable, & Curious

Montessori

- Child-led learning
- Prepared indoor environment
- Hands-on materials
- Independence & focus
- Guide as observer
- Whole-child development
- Respect for individual pace

Forest School

- Child-led exploration
- Nature as the classroom
- Hands-on nature play
- Independence & resilience
- Educator as facilitator
- Whole-child development
- Respect for individual pace

Tinkergarten

- Child-led, play-based learning
- Outdoor classroom
- Guided outdoor activities
- Independence & confidence
- Leader as learning guide
- Whole-child development
- Respect for individual pace



- Homeschool Families
- Educational Programming
- Allows for Teacher Growth
- Meaningful Peer Learning



Listening to Our Teachers

This expansion reflects direct input from our teaching staff, who have identified a growing number of local homeschooling families and a clear demand for structured, high-quality outdoor education. By expanding Forest School and nature-based programming, Kinderwood is responding to community need while honoring the professional insight of our educators and staying true to Montessori principles.



Regional Need

- A large majority of the Mohawk Valley census tracts are classified as childcare deserts
- Dozens of classrooms have closed due to staffing shortages
- Hundreds of childcare slots and funding sources have been lost regionally
- High ratio of children to licensed childcare slots in Herkimer/Hamilton Counties



Who is this for?

- Your child must be 3 or 4 years old (dependent on program) by November 30th.
- Enrollment is first-come-first-serve for our 3 and 4 year old programs.
- Enrollment for the Forest Extension program is limited and priority will be given to siblings of current Kinderwood students and/or graduates of the Kinderwood program. Ages will be Kindergarten through third grade.

Tuition Costs

Flexible program options to fit your family

- **3 year old half-day program:** 5 days a week, 9am-12pm
 - \$850 per semester
- **4 year old full day program:** 5 days a week, 9am-4pm
 - \$1,600 per semester
- **4 year old half-day program:** 5 days a week, 1:15pm-4pm
 - \$1,000 per semester
- **Forest Extension:** 4 days a week, 2:15pm-4pm
 - \$800 per semester
 - This program is NOT scholarship eligible and must be paid in advance in full.

Semester 1: September through December

Semester 2: January through June



Enrollment FAQs

- Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year will open on **May 14th 2026**.
- Visit kinderwood.org and click the registration tab to complete a registration form.
 - You will not be considered fully registered until your first tuition payment is received.
- Scholarships must be applied for and are not guaranteed. These are awarded based on need and our scholarship committee's discretion.



www.kinderwood.org/registration

Registration Night:

**Thursday May 14th at the View
classroom!**

Meet our teachers, mingle with
other students and parents, learn
about our program and
materials.



Open House Celebration:

**TBD in late August at the New
House!**

See the new space, see the
outdoor classroom, get to know
our teachers, learn about the
program and the new setting and
all the exciting updates!

Stay tuned for more information soon!



Questions? Email: kinderwoodltd@gmail.com