



CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTERS NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS

Building brighter futures by providing educational opportunities for the children in our community.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO
MR. AND MRS. WALTER OEHRLEIN
WHOSE SUPPORT HAS MADE THE
NATURAL PLAYGROUND AT OUR
CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER IN
WALLED LAKE POSSIBLE.



BENEFITS OF NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS

Once children are exposed to more nature, amazing things happen:

- “Spending time outdoors every day in a natural environment has a positive impact on children’s development.” - National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- They strengthen small and large muscles, develop fine and gross motor skills.
- “When children engage in less structured outdoor play in natural environments, they typically sustain moderately energetic activity over a longer period of time - the type of activity that is particularly important for health and fitness.” - NAEYC.
- Children engage in constructive play with natural materials, such as digging in sand, and imaginative play in natural spaces, such as pretending to garden.
- Natural environment provides opportunities for scientific creativity, discovery, STEM education and problem-solving. “Some playgrounds lack nature and with it, firsthand opportunities for children to explore, discover and build scientific vocabulary.” - NAEYC
- Children learn and appreciate our natural environment, encouraging preservation.



Highlights of the natural playgrounds at our Children's Learning Centers in Pontiac and Walled Lake

- Wooden stumps, stepping stones and balance beams to encourage flexibility, climbing, balancing, core strength, pretend play and exploration.
- Vegetable and/or flower gardens for children to help water, weed and tend.
- Clipboards and magnifying glasses for discovering and observing natural elements including plants and insects.

Oakland Family Services Children's Learning Centers are located in these convenient locations:

114 Orchard Lake Road
Pontiac, MI 48341

1885 North Pontiac Trail
Walled Lake, MI 48390

Call 248.858.7766 and press 7
for more information.

TTY/TTD USERS |  1.800.649.3777

www.oaklandfamilyservices.org

info@ofsfamily.org



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PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



FAMILY SERVICE ALLIANCE

FOR SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN