



TIMBERDOODLES

Create • Perform • Explore

[Information Packet](#)

**34 School Street
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Timberdoodles

We believe children are naturally creative, curious, and eager to learn. Our goal is to help prepare them for the world ahead by providing a safe, nurturing environment that encourages creativity, supports individual learning styles, and helps children develop their unique ideas and talents.

We take a process-focused approach to learning, recognizing that meaningful growth happens through exploration, discovery, and hands-on experiences. By integrating the arts with academic learning, we create a unique and well-rounded foundation that supports the development of confident, engaged, and joyful learners. Most importantly, we believe learning should always be fun.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Timberdoodles is an area's only Arts enrichment program for children ages 3–5 that nurtures creativity, curiosity, and a love of learning. Our program runs Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00am -12:00pm. We provide children with opportunities to learn through hands-on experiences, exploration, and active engagement in the learning process.

Using Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS) as a guide, we create developmentally appropriate activities that support the building blocks of early childhood development. Small group experiences allow our teachers to work closely with each child, supporting individual growth while encouraging healthy communication, collaboration, and social development.

Children participate in hands-on activities that foster foundational academic skills such as reading, writing, letter recognition, counting, and early science discovery, while integrating the arts into everyday learning. Through creativity, movement, dramatic play, music, and visual arts, children are encouraged to express themselves, build confidence, and engage with the world around them.

Our goal is to create a nurturing and safe environment where children can explore, imagine, and develop a lifelong love of learning during these important formative years.

PROCESS VERSUS PRODUCT FOCUSED APPROACH

Timberdoodles uses a process-focused approach to learning, where children learn best by actively participating, exploring, and creating through hands-on experiences. Rather than focusing on a perfect end product, we value the learning that happens during the process itself. Simply put, children learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process — not simply being spoken to or directed.

Children at **Timberdoodles** are encouraged to make choices, explore materials freely, and express their own ideas in meaningful ways. There is no right or wrong way to create, allowing each child's individuality and creativity to shine.

In contrast to product-focused activities that often produce "cookie-cutter" results, our approach emphasizes curiosity, confidence, problem-solving, and joyful learning. We believe children develop best in an environment where they are free to explore, imagine, and learn at their own pace — because every child is unique.

ENROLLMENT/TUITION

Enrollment: To enroll your child in our program, we will need pages 4 & 5 completed and return with a \$50 non-refundable registration fee to secure the spot.

Tuition: Monthly Payment = \$379

*Tuition is calculated \$97.19/week for 39 weeks Sept 1, 2026 through June 10, 2027. For our accounting purposes, unless other arrangements are made, tuition payments are to be paid **monthly**, equally divided over 10 months: first payment Sept 1, last payment June 1st.*

OPERATING HOURS

Timberdoodles

Program hours: 9:00am -12:00pm

Program Dates: Tues/Wed/Thur; First Day of School: Sept 1, 2026; Last Day of School June 10, 2027

Our program follows the Gorham School year calendar. However, we reserve the right to adjust our calendar which, at times, may not align with the Gorham Schools. We do our best to outline all dates at the beginning of the school year and follow up with our monthly calendars.

Closed: When Gorham Schools have conferences/in-service/vacation/snow days.

Delayed Opening: If Gorham Schools are delayed:

-One hour delay, we will open at 10:00am

- Two hour delay, we will close for the day

-*Vacation Weeks:* We are closed the holiday break between Christmas and New Years; February and April vacation week

SCHEDULE

A schedule helps the day to flow more smoothly and allows the children to anticipate upcoming events. We follow our written schedule to the best of our ability, however adjustments may be needed for 'teachable moments'. The following is a sample schedule for our regular and extended day preschool program.

Timberdoodles (sample schedule)

9:00am: Children arrive/Free Play/Outside Time

9:15am: Opening/Calendar/Circle Time

9:30am: Interactive Movement

10:00am: Snack/Story

10:30am: Specials (Art/Music/Ecology)

11:00am: Story/Literacy time

11:30am: Outside Time/Gross Motor Activities/Closing Circle

12:00pm: Session Ends

ELIGIBILITY

This is a multi-age program for children 3-5 years old. Your child must be:

- 3 years old on or before October 15th
 - Able to drink out of a cup independently
 - Toilet trained (*we understand that accidents happen, but your child should be able to use the toilet independently*)
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CLASS SIZE

Timberdoodles Class size is limited to 12 children to ensure meaningful engagement and a more personalized experience. Smaller group sizes allow staff to better guide, support, and connect with each child in a thoughtful, child-centered environment.

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Registration Form

Print clearly, please. Complete all fields. One per child.

***Child's Name:** _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Primary Home Address: _____

***Custodial Parent/Guardian #1:** _____

Phone # (Home) _____ (Cell #) _____

Place of Work: _____ (Work #) _____

E-mail: _____

***Custodial Parent/Guardian #2:** _____

Phone # (Home) _____ (Cell #) _____

Place of Work: _____ (Work #) _____

***Emergency Contact #1, other than parent,** to contact in case of emergency who is authorized to pick up:

1) Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone # (Home) _____ (Cell #) _____ (Work #) _____

***Emergency Contact #2, other than parent,** to contact in case of emergency who is authorized to pick up:

2) Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone # (Home) _____ (Cell #) _____ (Work #) _____

***Known Conditions:** *To ensure that your child has the best experience possible, please list all special needs (including medications, insulin, epi-pens), known medical conditions, physical limitations, risky behavior, dietary, animal or other allergies, etc:*

***Emergency Medical Treatment** - In case of emergency, sudden illness or accident, I hereby give authorization to the Director, or her appointed representative to obtain emergency medical treatment.

***Primary Care Physician:** _____

Name of Practice: _____ Phone: _____

***Dentist:** _____

Name of Practice: _____ Phone: _____

***Preferred Hospital:** _____

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Parent Contract

Child's Name: _____

Field Trip and Off-site Permissions: (please initial)

_____ USM grounds across the street from the Gorham Arts Alliance Center on 34 School Street.

Media Release: (please initial)

_____ I give permission to take pictures and/or video of my child and/or their programs and understand that they may appear in the seesaw app or future promotional materials, the GAA website, or on GAA social media platforms. Participants will not be named in materials without special consent.

I, _____ (parent/guardian) acknowledge that I have read the Gorham Arts Alliance Parent Handbook and will abide by those policies therein.

- I will pay the monthly tuition by the 1st day of the month regardless of holidays, illness, vacations, or other absence.
- I will inform the Director(s) and/or lead teachers if someone other than their parents will pick up my child(ren).
- I will report any change in my or other emergency contact information to the Directors and/or lead teachers.
- I will make arrangements for my child(ren) should weather or other emergencies result in cancellation/early closure of the center.
- I will inform the center in advance if my child(ren) will not be attending or if I cannot pick up/drop off my child(ren) by the scheduled time. If I am late, I will call the centers. I will also pay a late fee (\$5.00 per minute) as outlined on Pg. 8 in the Parent Handbook.
- I will inform the Director at least 60 days in advance before removing my child(ren) from their program.
- I understand that my child cannot attend the program until any relevant documents of medical necessity (i.e. doctor medical action plan for epi-pen, or other medication, allergy plan and/or authorization to dispense medication as outlined on Pg. 13 of Parent handbook has been received and reviewed by the administration.
- I understand that my child cannot attend the program until 24 hrs after symptoms of illness (ie. fever of 100° or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) have subsided. Alternately, I understand that my child will need to be picked up within 30 min. if my child presents symptoms while attending a program.
- Program staff will call EMS if emergency medical care is needed and make every effort to inform parents as quickly as possible.
- I understand the Discipline Procedure and Zero Tolerance Policy (described below) and outlined on pg.15 of the Parent Handbook.

Please read the following Code of Conduct (Please make time to discuss this with your child/ren)

- _____ I will listen to and follow the instructions of my teachers.
- _____ I will stay within sight and sound of my teachers. I will not wander from the group.
- _____ I will participate in all activities with respect for myself and others.
- _____ I will use gentle hands.
- _____ I will use respectful language and make safe choices.

Discipline Procedure as follows:

- 1. Verbal Warning:** The first incident will be documented and parents notified at pick up.
- 2. Loss of participation:** After a second offense, another verbal warning will be given and the student may be removed from activities. Parents will be contacted immediately and may be asked to pick up their child.
- 3. Suspension:** After the third offense, the student will be sent home immediately and given a possible suspension for the remainder of the session or production.

Zero Tolerance: Students may be removed from the program for inappropriate and/or derogatory language, inappropriate physical contact or touching, or disrespect of people or property (See pg. 15 of Parent Handbook of Policies and Procedures).

Release from Liability: The undersigned hereby expressly releases and holds harmless the Gorham Arts Alliance, its agents, owners, and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, and damages arising out of, connected with or resulting from my child's participation in these programs. Further, I understand that there are inherent risks in participating in these programs, and I accept responsibility to provide accident insurance for my child, including ambulance transportation if necessary.

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____

School Year _____ / _____ Directors' Initials _____