

Rain

Clothing & Gear for CNC Nature School

At Cincinnati Nature Preschool, we are firm believers that “there is no bad weather, only bad clothing (choices)!” Any child can happily enjoy the outdoors for many hours, even in cold or rainy weather, if equipped with the right clothing to keep them warm and dry. It is important to outfit your child with the right layers to set them up for success. What follows is our recommended clothing choices for cold/rainy/snowy weather.

NOTES:

- If these brands are out of your price range, check out secondhand shops or resale sites online—they do not need to be brand new to keep your child warm!
- Muddy Buddy all in one rain suit is a wonderful option that can be used all year long! You can find it [here](#). This is also a one-stop outdoor shop as well as REI.
- One full outfit is plenty—we don’t mind if they come to school wearing the same thing every day! Do not feel the need to buy multiples of these items unless you want to.
- Cotton absorbs sweat/moisture and when wet, does not insulate! During the colder months, cotton clothing will not do as good job keeping them warm and dry while they are busy exploring and playing outside.
- **Please label your child’s clothing!** This makes it much easier for us to return your clothing to you when it gets lost. You can purchase [custom name labels](#) or just write your child’s name in their clothes.



LAYER ONE: BASE LAYER

Your child should have ***synthetic (polyester, polypropylene) or wool long underwear*** to go under their clothes and ***wool socks*** to keep their feet warm. **Do NOT buy cotton for winter socks or long underwear, as cotton does not insulate well.**

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

[LL Bean Synthetic Long Underwear Set](#)

[Ella's Wool Long Underwear Set](#)

[Helly Hansen Merino Wool Long Underwear Set](#)

[Muddy Puddles Synthetic Long Underwear Top](#)

[Muddy Puddles Synthetic Long Underwear Bottom](#)

[Columbia Synthetic Long Underwear Top](#)

[Columbia Synthetic Long Underwear Bottom](#)

Smartwool Socks

LL Bean Kids Socks

LL Bean Toddler Socks



LAYER TWO: FLEECE LAYER

Your child should have a pair of warm *fleece pants* and a *fleece pullover or zip-up jacket*. These layers can be worn alone or under the raingear during the fall, or underneath their insulation layers in the winter! A cotton or cotton/poly blend sweatshirt is not as warm.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Columbia Fleece Jacket](#)

[LL Bean Fleece Jacket](#)

[Patagonia Fleece Jacket](#)

[LL Bean Fleece Top & Pant Set](#)

[Didriksons Fleece Set](#)

[Reima Fleece Set](#)

[REI Fleece Pants](#)

[REI Fleece Jacket](#)

[LL Bean Fleece Pants](#)

[LL Bean Fleece Pants](#) (another pair!)



LAYER THREE: INSULATION LAYER

Your child should have a *down or synthetic puffy jacket* (or ski coat) and a pair of *snow pants* OR a *one-piece snow suit* for days when it is especially cold or snowy (*Note: we're big fans of the one-piece snow suits! They are much simpler than dealing with all the zippers and straps of a jacket and pants. Thrift stores have lots!*). Snow gear can be worn on its own or under a Muddy Buddy when it's snowing or muddy and chilly.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Primary Puffy Jacket](#) (a lightweight puffy like this is good for transitional weather!)

[LL Bean Puffy Jacket](#)

[LL Bean 3-in-1 Toddler Parka](#)

[Columbia Ski Coat](#)

[Patagonia One Piece Snow Suit](#)

[LL Bean One Piece Snow Suit](#)

[Reima One Piece Snow Suit](#)

[Reima One Piece Snow Suit \(via Outdoor School Shop\)](#)

[Lands End Snow Suit](#)

[Lands End Snow Pants](#)

[Arctix \(Amazon\) Snow Pants](#)

[LL Bean Snow Pants](#)



LAYER FOUR: HEAD, HANDS, & FEET

Your child should have a *fleece or wool hat*, a *fleece neck warmer*, a pair of thin *fleece, wool, or synthetic gloves*, a pair of *waterproof mittens*, and a good pair of *snow/cold weather boots*. Your child's waterproof mittens should have a cuff large enough to go OVER their jacket.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Skida Fleece Hat](#)

[Didriksons Trapper Hat \(covers ears!\)](#)

[Skida Neck Warmer](#)

[Turtlefur Neck Warmer](#)

[Columbia Balaclava](#)

[MCTi Mittens](#) (large cuff to fit over jacket)

[Snow Stopper Mittens](#) (large, stretchy cuff to fit over jacket)

[Stonz Mittens](#)

[Gordini Mittens](#) (large cuff and handwarmer pocket)

DO NOT BUY mittens with a very small cuff, or a small zipper cuff (*Head from Costco, The North Face are the two main brands we see of this style!*)! They are very hard to get back on once your child has taken them off to eat/go to the bathroom/etc, and the cuff isn't large enough to keep snow out.

[LL Bean Northwoods Boots](#)

[Oaki Snow Boots](#)

[Stonz Fleece Lined Winter Boots](#)

[Bogs Neo-Classic Boots](#)

[Kamik Snowbuster Boots](#)

[Kamik Kids Boots](#)

A NOTE ON COLD HANDS

For kids whose hands get very chilly in the winter, we recommend a two-part hand covering system! Use a thin, knit pair of gloves or mittens as the base layer. Then, on top of the thin gloves/mittens, put a large, insulated, waterproof pair of mittens with a cuff large enough to go over their jacket. This method allows for a few things: 1) for their hands to be covered always, even when they take their big mittens off to draw/write/eat a snack, etc, and 2) for a handwarmer to be safely slipped into the big mittens without having a handwarmer on bare skin (not recommended).



RAIN GEAR

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Any waterproof gear will work. As always check out thrift shops. Muddy Buddy are great and can be found [here](#). It's the best price point and can be used over layers in winter. You can always find rain gear at REI.
