



Science Pups (4-5 yr olds)

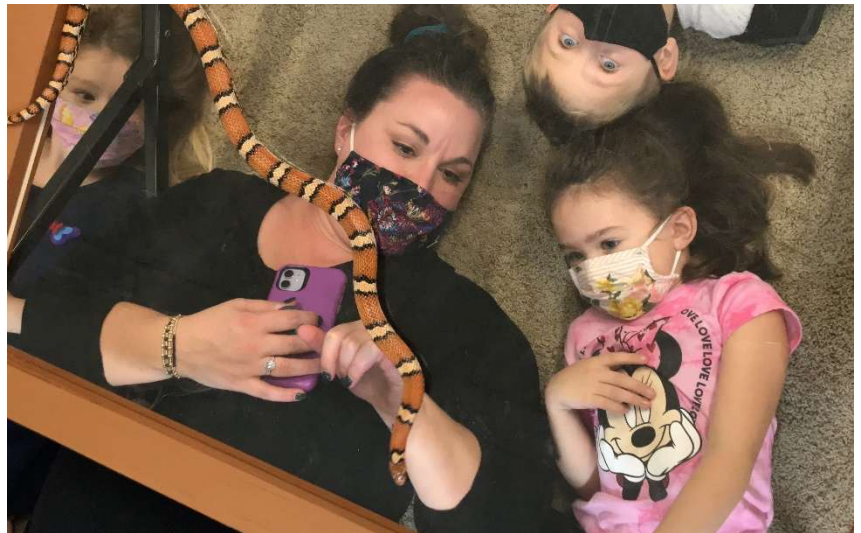
Fall Semester 2026

Bring your little scientist to the zoo to explore science through games, activities, crafts and up-close animal encounters. You'll participate with your child as we inspire curiosity and create connections to animals and science.

Cost: \$89 for semester for 1 child and parent. **1 adult must attend with the student. Older, younger or non-registered siblings may not attend.** If you have an older student, sign up for our weekly homeschool classes.

Zoo membership is required to attend class. Both the student(s) and whoever brings the student(s) to class must either pay admission or have a membership. Visit zooknoxville.org to purchase a membership.

Registration: Online registration for new families starts April 21st! Advance registration is required. Registration is online at zooknoxville.org! *Registration and payment must be received at least two business days before students can start attending class. Register by August 13th to be able to attend the full semester. Registration is still open after the semester starts and a mid-semester discount is available as long as there is space in the class. Most classes fill before the start of the semester.*



Schedule: Classes occur on Tuesdays from 9:45-10:45. Classes occur weekly from Aug 18th-Nov 18th except the weeks of Sept 29th and Oct 6th there will not be classes.

Zoo Knoxville Weekly Preschool Class Schedule Fall 2026

- Aug 18th **Introduction to Homeschool and Intro to Chemistry**
Students will receive a basic overview of chemistry concepts including the basics of matter, atoms, polarity, and begin practicing using the scientific method in a laboratory setting.
- Aug 25th **Chemistry: Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures**
Students will build on their understanding of basic chemistry concepts and dive deeper into the exploration of atoms, and how these are able to create other chemical substances by completing a series of experiments.
- Sept 1st **Chemistry: Water Quality**
Students will learn how chemistry can be used to determine the health of a body of water. Students will learn how to perform different tests and look at the information they gather to help determine how healthy different water sources are. Including Zoo Knoxville's wetland habitat.
- Sept 8th **Chemistry: Aquatic Indicator Species Field Trip**
Students will be using the skills they learned in the last class in an off-site research setting to test the health of water in a nearby water source. Students will also get the chance to catch, observe, identify, and release tiny aquatic species and learn how certain animals can give scientists important clues about the health of aquatic ecosystems.
- Sept 15th **Ecology: Seasonal Changes Part 1: Animals**
Students will learn that many animals go through changes in the fall and winter months and participate in an activity to help local animals, either at the zoo or at home, as these changes take place.
- Sept 22nd **Ecology: Seasonal Changes Part 2: Plants**
Students will learn about the changes plants go through in the fall and winter seasons. Students will participate in a laboratory-based study of different plant parts and have the opportunity to practice collecting some plants for observation.
- Sept 29th FALL BREAK: NO CLASSES
- Oct 6th FALL BREAK: NO CLASSES
- Oct 13th **Botany: Review and Seed Dispersal**
Students will learn how different types of plants are able to produce plant babies by making seeds, spores, and more. Students will also learn about how these seeds move around an ecosystem.
- Oct 20th **Botany: Seed Dormancy and Dissection**
Students will learn about why plants rest and the role rest plays in helping them grow. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a plant dissection.

Oct 27th

Botany: Fall Field Trip to Local Park (must have attended prior week[s])

Students will participate in a botany-based scavenger hunt at an off-site location.

Nov 3rd

Astronomy: Seasonal Changes

Students will learn about how Earth's movement affects our seasons. Students will focus on the changes when looking at constellations and learn some of the stories behind their names.

Nov 10th

Astronomy: Earth, Moon, and Sun

Students will learn about the movements of the earth, moon, and sun in space. Students will spend time learning about the phases of the moon and how the earth, moon, and sun interact to produce a space event called an eclipse.

NOTE: This class involves the use and ingestion of food items. Please contact Amanda Haire in the event of food allergies to coordinate suitable replacements.

Nov 17th

Astronomy: Our Solar System and Galaxies

Students will learn about our galaxy, solar system, and the planets found in them.