Programs for Children and Families

Explore the Marion Andrus Learning Center
A growing body of research shows that regular outdoor playtime contributes to the healthy development and wellbeing of young children in a surprising number of ways. The Arboretum’s Marion Andrus Learning Center offers a wealth of hands-on learning opportunities throughout the seasons. From exploring the “Please Touch Me Greenhouse” during the long dark winter months, to romping in the Green Play Yard – making forts and mud pies – there are activities for children of all ages.

Weekend Family Fun
Celebrate the changing seasons with new drop-in activities each month including such fun and engaging topics as: Cozy up to a Cactus; Sprouts Alive!; Squish of Spring; Hungry Caterpillars; Soggy Bog Plants and more!

Pea Pods for Preschoolers
Did you ever sprawl in the grass to watch the ants march through? Catch butterflies on garden flowers? Make leaf and stick forts? Dig in the mud just to feel it in your fingers? This program is designed for children ages 3-5 and provides a unique opportunity for adults and their little one to be enchanted by the plant world. Weekly seasonal themes delight the young learner through planting, art, sensory and science discovery, music, story time, snack, outdoor/greenhouse adventures.

Guided Adventures for Groups
Guided Adventures are perfect for daycare, scout, summer school or neighborhood groups that are looking for extra hands-on structured fun during an Arboretum visit. The Guided Adventures are one hour long and are designed for groups of 12-50 children ages 3-12.

Annual Support Needed for Programs for Children and Families: $75,000