



# Tips & Tricks

*Advice and Resources From Our Pioneer Families*

## **Q: What advice would you give to new Tiny Trees Families?**

*"Embrace the mud and plenty of laundry. It's all so much worth it."*

*"Layers. Lots of layers and a wet bag to put soggy clothes in."*

*"Just know that your kids are a lot more resilient than you think they are! And you will take home WAY less germs/colds than you ever did in a 'normal' school."*

*"There will be tough days. Part of the unique experience is to educate kids in how to deal with discomfort in the elements and how to pack/dress to be prepared and avoid that discomfort. The sunny days are priceless!"*

*"Flexibility and a sense of humor."*

*"Do everything you can to make your morning easier...make lunch and set out clothes the night before and still leave yourself extra time in the morning."*

## **Q: What clothing items/gear were most efficient for the rain and cold weather? Where are the best places to find them?**

- Thermal tops/bottoms: Costco (Kirkland brand)
- Fleece tops/bottoms: Local thrift stores/Old Navy
- Down jacket (under rain suit): Costco/[R.E.I](#)/thrift
- Snow pants (under rainsuit): Thrift/Costco
- Wool socks: SmartWool/Amazon/LL Bean/Costco
- Shell mittens (completely waterproof, wear over other thermal gloves): [Polarn O. Pyret](#)/[Abeko gloves](#)
- Waterproof mittens/ gloves: Outdoor Research [Adrenaline](#)/Costco [HEAD Ski Mittens](#)
- Thermal gloves: Outdoor Research [Flurry](#), Costco
- Thin gloves: Amazon, Costco [Head Tech Gloves](#)
- Hand/foot warmers: Buy disposable hand/foot warmers at Costco. Warm and insert into gloves and boots at drop off, leave extra in backpack)
- Child-sized back pack: Imagine that your preschooler can carry this around the park with their layers inside. For scale, check out [R.E.I Tarn 12 pack](#) or Osprey brand!
- Lunchbox: Lunchbots/bento boxes, plus a thermos for soup/warm meals/drinks.

## **Q: What additional items or tips would provide support to new parents?**

- Boot dryer rather than extra pair of boots: Cabela's
- Tote/dry bag in car for muddy, wet clothes: Lowe's, Amazon
- Extra pairs (3) of waterproof and thin gloves.
- Thin pair of gloves in lunchbox for eating in the cold.
- Thermal clothing can be worn consecutively if it remains dry. Only 1-2 pairs needed.

Tiny Trees Preschool provides all children with a Grundens rain suit and winter boots to use throughout the year. Gear will be delivered later in the fall, as the weather turns colder.

**Q: Outdoor gear can be expensive. Where do you find the best deals?**

- Thrift and second hand stores: We're fans of [LifeLong Thrift on Cap Hill](#), The [Good Will outlet store](#) (for the serious bargain hunters) or one of Goodwill's many locations.
- Consignment stores: [Chrysanthemum Consignment](#) in Columbia City is a favorite or check out [Red Tricycle's recommendations](#) to find a store near you.
- [Buy Nothing!](#) Join your local Buy Nothing Facebook group to help families looking to pass on their used gear.
- Costco! Kirkland brand thermals and fleeces and HEAD brand mittens are often on sale.

If you like to search online for deals:

- [Oakiwear](#) (take 15% off most items with the discount code "outdoorschool")
- [REI Outlet](#)
- [REI](#)
- [Campmor](#)
- [Sierra Trading Post](#)
- [Columbia](#) (check out the Columbia Outlet in Marysville)



## Essential Winter Layers

When the temperatures reach below 45 degrees, keeping your preschooler extra warm and dry is essential. Here is what your preschooler should wear on a cold, wet day at outdoor preschool.

Remember: NO cotton, NO jeans, and pack lots of extras!



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