**Dandelion and Snail Preschool**

The Twinfield Union Preschool curriculum is based in a deep understanding of children’s developmental needs. The foundation of our curriculum begins with meeting the social and emotional needs of the students in our class ranging in age from 3-5 with a balance of outdoor experiences in the natural world. Throughout the year teachers carefully observe each class to find where their interests lie. As topics of interest emerge, teachers take notice and begin to build a unit of study revolving around this topic while incorporating math, science, literacy and the arts while immersing ourselves in the outdoors. Children learn best when they are connected to nature and have the open space to explore and be themselves without the boundaries of walls. As we delve into each topic studied we are able to work on problem solving and investigation, all while learning about ourselves, one another, and what it means to be a part of a group. While working together on projects and through play, teachers are always observing, waiting to take advantage of social learning moments where natural social dilemmas are worked out through problem solving, conversation and learning to view a situation from another’s perspective. Helping children work towards gaining independence and confidence with their self-help skills is an important part of the learning that takes place in preschool. These important skills set the stage for academic success in the years following preschool. At Twinfield Union Preschool we believe that children learn best through exploration and investigation. The outdoors provides the perfect environment to do just this. The ever-changing seasons create endless opportunities for science experiments, gross motor play and for the natural curiosity of a young child to be discovered. For these reasons we keep outdoor play in natural environments the main focus of our curriculum.