



**Roots Forest School
Parent Handbook
2022-2023 School Year**

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2022-2023 Program Offerings

All classes take place in Ponderosa State Park beginning September 2022 and ending May 2023

Tuition assistance is available for all classes, you can find the application in the appendix.

Parent Toddler Class

For toddlers aged 18 months – 3 years and a caregiver
(younger siblings welcome)

Saplings

Tuesday ***or*** Friday

10:45-12:00

\$50/month or \$450 annually

Preschool 2 Days Per Week

3 & 4 year olds

Douglas Firs

Tuesday and Thursday

9:00am-12:00pm

or

Aspens

Monday and Wednesday

9:00am-12:00pm

\$280/month or \$2,520 annually

Preschool 3 Days Per Week

4 & 5 year olds

Larches

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

1:00pm-4:00pm

or

Ponderosa Pines

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

9:00am-12:00pm

\$350/month or \$3,150 annually

This schedule is subject to change based on enrollment numbers.

Tuition Information

**Preschool classes have a registration fee of \$100, and the Parent Toddler class a registration fee of \$50. The registration fee is due upon enrollment to hold your child's place for fall. There is only one registration fee per family.

**Sibling Rate: The oldest child pays full price and younger siblings receive a 5% discount.



Mission

Through nature-based early childhood education, Roots Forest School fosters curiosity, community, and imagination to inspire stewardship and empower life-long learners.

About Us

Roots Forest School was founded in Ponderosa State Park in 2015. What started as a small parent-toddler program has grown to a full preschool serving 70 students a year from Valley and Adams counties. In 2019 we obtained federal 501(c)3 non-profit status, allowing us to receive local, federal and state grants along with private donations. This helps us ensure equal access to this unique learning opportunity for children from families across all income levels.

Why Forest School?

Much of the day at forest school is play and inquiry based, student-led, and outdoors. Research shows that this approach encourages the development of skills and traits that will contribute to a student's success in future academic and personal endeavors.

In an outdoor environment, children will:

- Develop a sense of wonder, a motivating factor for lifelong learning.
- Develop independence by having more space to roam.
- Develop judgement and an ability to assess risk.
- Be stimulated by constantly changing surroundings.
- Spend the day running, jumping, balancing, climbing, and exploring.

Play allows children to:

- Use their creativity while developing dexterity, as well as physical and emotional strength.
- Develop executive function, which is the ability to control and direct emotion and behavior, an indicator of success in school.
- Create a world where they can conquer their fears.
- Enhance their confidence and develop resilience for future challenges.
- Learn how to work in groups, negotiate, and resolve conflict.

Equity and Inclusion at Roots

At Roots we are committed to creating a safe, supportive learning community where all children feel welcome and are celebrated. During these early years, children are constructing their own identity and attitudes toward others. We aim to foster confidence and positive social identities in each child as they gain understanding of the ways in which we are all similar and different. It is also our goal to model and encourage anti-bias behaviors that lead to a more inclusive and caring community.

As a school, we recognize the value in having a diverse community of learners and families as well as staff, administrators, and board members. Roots does not discriminate in its admission of students nor in its hiring of staff. We recognize that we will always have more work to do – both internally and in the classroom – to meet the above commitments; we are eager to engage in this work and welcome your feedback.

Curriculum

Overview

We use an emergent curriculum, grounded in our place and community. This means that student interests guide our learning topics, with teachers providing hands-on opportunities and engaging lessons to extend the learning. Students at Roots have the opportunity to learn about our local environment by being immersed in it. Our studies follow the flow of the seasons as we learn about local ecology, seasonal changes, and the importance of taking care of our place. On a given day we might be studying different types of seeds and how they are dispersed or what wild animals are doing to prepare for winter.

Mathematics and Science

Students are introduced to a variety of scientific and navigation tools including magnifying glasses, microscopes, thermometers, compasses, and maps. Scientific exploration is inquiry-based with students posing questions and teachers acting as facilitators. Students explore and experiment to find answers. Mathematical skills are built into our day as we count objects and identify patterns in our environment, explore shapes, measure snowfall, sing songs and play games revolving around a range of mathematical skills from number sense to geometry.

Literacy

Literacy is woven into our daily curriculum, beginning at our opening circle. After our daily greeting, students and teachers work together to decode our picture of the day and read the student job chart. Teachers share rich and engaging stories with classes daily at circle times. As we explore Ponderosa State Park, students encounter print on signs, often pausing to identify letters they recognize or to ask teachers for help reading the sign. Students also develop familiarity with the alphabet by learning to spell and write their own names and the names of their classmates, and by naming the things around them. Over the course of the year, students help create a Forest Alphabet book that includes the objects and living things we encounter daily. Through the use of

personal journals, students progress from creating pictures supplemented by their own dictated text to beginning to print letters and words they know.

Music

At Roots, music supports the development of pre-literacy skills such as rhyming, sound awareness, letter identification and symbolic representation. Songs are used for greetings, transitions, storytelling, and movement. Students also have an opportunity each day to choose to work with music materials in the forest classroom.

Social and Emotional Skills

Through all of our outdoor experiences and academic learning, we are practicing compassion for each other and our environment. Teachers at Roots work to foster behaviors that show kindness and benefit the group. To guide behavior, teachers present students with choices so that the child can determine what will best promote their participation.

Students spend valuable time interacting with the other children in their class throughout our day. This time allows the children much needed opportunities to develop skills in collaboration, cooperation, negotiation, problem solving, and conflict resolution.

Daily Routines

We begin our time together outside with an opening circle, honoring each child's presence by greeting them individually. We sing songs and participate in community building activities to strengthen our group bond. Students and teachers preview the day together, sharing ongoing projects and new activities for discovery.

Most days, after our morning circle, students set to work in our forest classroom for 'walkabout.' Walkabout is a time for constructive play, inquiry-based projects and exploration in our outdoor classroom. This might consist of 'cooking' in our forest kitchen, working in our building site, acting out or retelling stories in our theater, exploring seasonal items at the science center, engaging in imaginative play, reading stories in our library, exploring the instruments at our music station, playing on our slackline, engaging with our current art materials, or building with tree or ice blocks. Projects and materials designed to extend students' recent interests and learning are also available during this time.

After a busy morning of 'work', we break for a shared snack. Snack time is a valuable learning time where students gather in one place, recite our snack song, and practice table manners while sharing conversation. We practice listening skills as students take turns sharing exciting moments from the day's class. We will often sing a favorite rhyming or name song as we prepare for snack or play a numeracy game while eating, like the ever popular *Number Line Squeeze*. When students are finished, they help with the snack clean-up process.

Some days we do a special group activity which may include hiking, animal tracking, visiting our group sit spot at the lake, skiing, snowshoeing, cooking over the fire, or engaging in a seasonal art project.

To close our day, we gather in a circle to review our day's learning and adventures together. We read or tell a story based on our current theme and sing a seasonal song. Depending on the day, students might also draw a journal entry, make a group map of an adventure, or add to our school's phenology calendar, which we use to track our observations of the natural world each month. Students and teachers have the opportunity to share a favorite moment, something they learned, or an appreciation to a classmate. We close with our goodbye song as students are greeted by their families.

Parent Toddler Class Routine

We start the morning outside with an opening circle, honoring each child's presence by greeting them individually. After our circle, we explore an area of Ponderosa State Park, following the interests of the toddlers. Different seasons provide for an array of possible activities. We might hike and explore a small portion of Meadow Marsh trail in the fall or explore animal tracks in the winter. After our exploration we enjoy a snack and story together. Our day closes with a short circle time consisting of favorite songs and movement activities. While COVID restrictions are in place this class will take place entirely outdoors.

Enrollment Requirements

Students in drop-off classes must be 3 years of age by September 1st.

Students in drop-off classes must be fully potty trained (no pull-up diapers) by the start of preschool. Unlike traditional indoor programs, your child will frequently be sorting through many layers of clothing on their way to and from the bathroom.

In accordance with Idaho law, all students must have updated immunization records or an Idaho Immunization Waiver on file with our school.

We are outside in all kinds of weather! Your child must be prepared (and want!) to be outside in rain, snow, and sunshine.

Roots families must have a state park pass on their vehicle. These can be purchased for \$10 (annual fee) at the McCall DMV office in the Idaho First Bank Building.

Required Gear

So that we may spend as much of our school day outside as possible, we require all students to have adequate outdoor gear. Below are some items we have found to work well for students in the weather conditions we encounter.

- Bogs boots for snow and rain
- Rain pants and raincoat or rain suit: Recommended – Oakiwear, REI, LL Bean
- Wool socks: Recommended – REI, Smartwool, Fox River

- Mittens: Recommended – Jan & Jul, Outdoor Research, Gordini, Head
- Long underwear (non cotton): Recommended – REI, Cabelas, Patagonia
- Snow pants and coat or snowsuit: Recommended – REI, Oakiwear, Columbia, Obermeyer
- Warm hat for winter
- Hat or sunglasses for sunny days
- Child size backpack: Recommended – a pack with a chest clip
- Water bottle: Recommended – anything leakproof

We understand that outfitting young children for our climate can be expensive! Through donations and grants we have acquired a large supply of outdoor gear that will be available for check out in September. The McCall Sports Exchange is also an excellent resource for high-quality, gently used gear, along with numerous consignment shops in the Boise area. [Oakiwear](#) offers Roots families a 25% discount, which is shared with our school community at the beginning of each school year.

Backpacks

Students should bring a backpack and water bottle to class each day. In the backpack please keep a bag labeled with your child's name that contains a spare set of clothing (shirt, pants, socks, underwear). During the winter months an extra set of mittens or gloves is appreciated.

Forest School Activities

Forest schools differ from traditional school settings in the sense that students get to spend the majority, if not all, of their class time outside. Another factor that distinguishes a forest school from other school settings is the nature based activities in which your child will participate. Please be sure you are comfortable with your child participating in the activities below.

- Playing in the woods under adult supervision
- Building forts and shelters
- Crawling through brush, walking on logs, climbing on boulders
- Touching plants and insects in the forest
- Playing with sticks, rocks, and found nature items
- Taking hikes through the forest
- Cooking over the fire with adult assistance
- Using the bathroom in the forest
- Building snow caves

Tuition

We have two tuition payment options:

- 1) Pay the full year's tuition via cash or check by September 1st, 2022.
- 2) Sign up for monthly auto-pay from your checking account, to be withdrawn on the 7th of each month from September through May.

To accommodate monthly payments, we take the annual tuition fee and divide it by 9 months of school. Because of this, the tuition will remain the same each month even though all months do not have the same number of school days.

Refunds or Credits

We cannot give refunds or credits for inclement weather closings, holiday breaks, family vacations, or illnesses. If you feel you have a unique situation, please speak with us.

Withdrawal Policy

If you need to withdraw your child from our program, please let us know at least one month prior to your child's departure. This gives us time to fill your child's space for the following month. If you paid the full year's tuition up front, you will be refunded for the months following your child's departure.

Additional Expenses

Parents should anticipate occasional small expenses throughout the year including field trips and special projects.

Tuition Assistance

Financial Assistance is available for all classes on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for assistance should be submitted with registration paperwork. This can be filled out online, or the hard copy in the appendix can be emailed to info@rootsforestschool.com.

Illness Policy

Please keep your child at home if within the last 24 hours they have had diarrhea, vomiting, or a fever of 100 degrees or more.

See the appendix for our full COVID-19 response plan. This is a working document that is updated as needed throughout this ever-changing pandemic.

Snack

We ask all families in our drop off preschool classes to contribute about every other month to our stock of dried goods. This allows us to have a variety of snacks to choose from each day depending on whether we will be enjoying our snack while out hiking or eating at the snack table in our forest classroom. Parents will also be asked to send a fresh snack once each quarter (3 times per year).

Birthdays

We love celebrating these exciting milestones at Roots! We typically celebrate birthdays at snack time with our special birthday song and by taking a photo of the birthday child wearing our birthday crown. We do our best to align your family's 'fresh snack' week with your child's birthday so that you can send in a special snack on that day if you like. If you'd like to be present for your child's in-school birthday celebration, you may coordinate with their teachers in advance.

Parent Volunteers

We welcome parent volunteers to join us for class, field trips, and special events. If you or a family member would like to volunteer please coordinate with your child's teacher at least 24 hours prior to class.

Winter Snow Removal

Our wall tent classroom provides a cozy and inviting environment when we need an indoor space to hold class. However, during the winter we need to keep the tent roof and surrounding area cleared of snow. We ask each family to sign up for one week of snow removal each school year. Working families that cannot participate during the school week are asked to sign up for a weekend or holiday shift.

Extreme Weather Policies

At Roots we spend the majority, if not all, of our class time outdoors. Students should come prepared for learning outdoors in the sun, rain, and snow. In the case of extreme weather, we do have an indoor facility. The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority and we make our decisions to go indoors based on our students' needs.

We may remain open in inclement weather even if the local school district is closed. We expect that families will use their own judgement in deciding whether or not to transport their child to class.

We reserve the right to cancel class if Ponderosa Park or local authorities deem conditions unsafe.

Forest School Experiences

We believe in using a place-based approach to education. Our local environment and community provide a plethora of hands-on learning experiences. Some of our favorite experiences include:

- An annual fall field trip to a farm, orchard, or garden where we may harvest fruit or vegetables, learn about animals such as chicken or deer, make nature art, press our own apple cider, etc.
- Hiking the Lily Marsh Trail and acting out the Three Billy Goats Gruff on the Lily Marsh Bridge.
- Composting snack scraps into our school worm bin, learning about vermi-composting and worms.
- Catching snowflakes for viewing under a microscope as we learn about snowflakes and how they are formed.
- Exploring the surface and ice of frozen Payette Lake.
- Sled dog demonstration and rides for students.
- A snow sculpture unit that includes interviewing snow sculptors and viewing sculptures at Winter Carnival, then building our own sculptures in class.
- Studying the water cycle. Visiting multiple locations on the Payette Lake shoreline to view the snow run-off and play in the newly formed streams. Building boats out of natural materials, attempting to dam the streams and reroute them.
- Studying local birds
 - Building and hanging a bird box in the park.
 - Cleaning out bird boxes in the park in anticipation of the return of birds in the spring.
 - Studying bird feathers/wings and then creating child-sized versions for acting out our own migrations.
- Studying seeds, including collecting seeds in the park, learning about how seeds travel, eating seed snacks, grinding corn and wheat into flour for baking, and planting our own seeds.
- Learning campfire safety and cooking over a fire.
- Hiking to Payette Lake each month, making observations of how the lake scene changes through the seasons.
- Family events such as 'Stories Around The Fire' and 'Spring Forest Tea.'

Important Class Dates 2022-2023

September 6th-9th: Staff Training and Prep

September 12th-16th: First week all classes

October 31st: Staff Training-No Classes

November 21st-25th: Thanksgiving Break-No Classes

December 19th- January 2nd: Winter Break-No Classes

January 16th: Human Rights Day-No Classes

February 20st: Presidents' Day-No Classes

March 17th- 24th: Spring Break-No Classes

May 22nd - 26th: Last Week of All Classes

Appendix

View some of our curriculum resources here:

Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature With Young Children

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/growing-wild>

Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood

<https://www.plt.org/curriculum/environmental-education-for-early-childhood/>

Recommended Reading:

[Early Literacy in the Outdoor Classroom](#)

<http://naturalstart.org/feature-stories/reading-landscape-early-literacy-outdoor-classroom>

[The Importance of Play](#)

http://www.child-encyclopedia.com/sites/default/files/docs/suggestions/let-the-children-play_jane-hewes.pdf

[Inquiry-Based Learning](#)

<https://hopestreetgroup.org/2016/02/19/inquiry-based-learning-in-pre-school-builds-foundat-ion-for-success-in-primary-and-secondary-grades/>

[Benefits of Connecting Children with Nature](#), The Natural Learning Initiative, 2012

https://naturalstart.org/sites/default/files/benefits_of_connecting_children_with_nature_infosheet.pdf

Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

<http://richardlouv.com/books/last-child/>

Outdoor Gear:

<https://oakiwear.com/>

<https://www.rei.com/>

Contact Information:

Roots Forest School

208-315-0925

PO Box 2003, McCall, ID 83638

info@rootsforestschool.com

www.rootsforestschool.com

**The participant agreement below must be signed by parents at
Back to School Orientation in September of 2022.**



**ROOTS FOREST SCHOOL 2022-2023
PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT
LIABILITY RELEASE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK**

This form must be signed in its entirety with no deletions or alterations. We want to ensure each participant understands the risks inherent in playing outdoors in a group setting. THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY. PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING. DO NOT SIGN THE RELEASE IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR AGREE WITH ITS TERMS.

I wish for my child to participate in Roots Forest School, which I understand to be an outdoor education experience. I understand that by participating in this program, my child will be using public parks and forests, where hazards may exist and I am aware of and appreciate the risks that may result. I fully acknowledge and understand that there are significant risks associated with the activities associated with outdoor school. Activities are further described below. I am also aware that accidents can occur and that my child may be seriously injured or die as a result. I agree to accept all risks of injury or death.

In consideration for my child being allowed to participate in Roots Forest School, I agree to assume all risks and to release and hold harmless Roots Forest School, its officers, directors, shareholders, agents, employees, and all sponsors, beneficiaries, affiliated organizations, officials, clubs, communities and friends of Roots Forest School of and from any and every claim, demand, action or right of action, of whatever kind or nature, either in law or equity, arising from or by reason of any bodily injury or personal injuries or death to participant minor child(ren), myself, or third parties, any property damage, and expenses thereof.

I intend by this waiver and release to release, in advance, and to waive my rights and discharge all of the persons and entities mentioned above, from any and all claims for damages, health, personal injury or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me as a result of my child's participation in the Roots Forest School program, even though that liability may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities being released, from dangerous or defective property or equipment owned, maintained or controlled by them or because of their possible liability without fault. I understand and agree that this waiver and release is binding on my heirs, assigns and legal representatives.

I further acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that any minors under my guardianship may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in Roots and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in Roots may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself, children under my guardianship, and others including, but not limited to: Roots or Roots' agents, third parties, and other participants in Roots. In consideration of being able to participate in Roots, I do for myself and any minors under my guardianship, and all respective heirs and assigns, voluntarily assume the risk of participating in Roots, and hereby agree and release, discharge, indemnify, hold harmless, and promise not to sue Roots, their officers, officials, agents and or employees, and owners and lessors of premises used for Roots of and from any

and every claim, demand, action or right of action, of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity arising from or by reason of any bodily injury or personal injuries known or unknown, death or property damage resulting or to result from my participation or any minors under my guardianship participation in Roots or other actions or activities in connection therewith, whether by negligence or not, including but not limited to the following: cancellation or termination of Roots, exposure to COVID-19, contraction of COVID-19, and any and all health consequences and damages related to COVID-19 including personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death.

I have carefully read this waiver and release and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a release of liability and a contract between me and the persons and entities mentioned above and all of the respective officers, directors, agents and representatives and I sign it of my own free will.

I understand that, as a participant in Roots Forest School, by way of example, and not limitation, my child

may do activities such as:

- Play in the woods under adult supervision
- Build forts and shelters
- Crawl through brush, walk on logs, climb on boulders
- Touch plants and insects in the forest
- Play with sticks, rocks, and found nature items
- Take hikes through the forest
- Play in water puddles, mud, rain, and snow
- Be barefoot on the beach and dip feet in the water
- Go to the bathroom in the woods
- Snowshoe and hike through the forest
- Be outside in all kinds of weather

In case of a medical emergency, I give permission for my child to be treated at St. Luke's McCall. I give Roots Forest School, its agents, and employees permission to provide emergency medical treatment to my child(ren) which by way of example, but not limitation, may include: administering an Epinephrine Auto-Injector (EpiPen), providing CPR, and any necessary first aid measures.

Outdoor Clothing: Students will be outside every class day. Parents are responsible for providing their child with appropriate clothing for the weather. In winter this means students will wear high quality winter boots (Bogs, Sorels, etc.), winter socks, long underwear, snowsuit, hat, and mittens. If you need assistance acquiring high quality gear we have outdoor gear available for checkout.

By checking this box, I grant Roots Forest School and its subsidiary programs the right to take photographs of my child in connection with its various educational, play, and conservation activities. I authorize Roots Forest School, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically for such purposes as publicity, illustration, education, advertising, social media, and Web content.

By checking this box, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the 2022-2023 Roots COVID-19 Response Plan.

This is a legal document. Read it carefully before signing below. Keep a copy of this form for your records.

I am the parent or legal guardian of the below-name participant child(ren). I understand that my signature below confirms my agreement that all of the provisions of this release agreement are applicable to and binding on the said minor child(ren) and any adult participants.

Participant name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____



**Roots Forest School Inc.
Tuition Assistance Application
2022–2023 School Year**

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Yearly Taxable Income: _____

Number of Family Members in Household: _____

Class(es) we would like to enroll children in:

- Saplings: \$50/month – Tuesday 10:45–12:00
- Saplings: \$50/month -- Friday 10:45–12:00
- Aspens: \$280/month – Monday & Wednesday 9:00–12:00
- Douglas Firs: \$280/month – Tuesday & Thursday 9:00–12:00
- Ponderosa Pines: \$350/month – Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00–12:00
- Larches: \$350/month – Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 1:00–4:00

Amount we are able to pay each month \$_____.

Please feel free to provide any additional information below for us to consider along with your application.

I certify that the above information is correct.

Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Online version of this form available by emailing info@rootsforestscool.com You may also fill out this form by calling 208.315.0925

Roots Forest School doesn't discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, or national or ethnic background in administration of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, and other school administered programs.



Roots Forest School
COVID-19 Response Plan
Updated 9/8/2022

We have created this plan with the goal of ensuring the health and safety of all students, families, and staff while providing children the opportunity to continue to explore, socialize, and learn in an engaging outdoor setting.

We have generated these guidelines in accordance with CDC recommendations and with the input of local medical professionals. We believe this set of guidelines will allow us to keep our school open and our children, staff and families healthy. We will continue to review and update these guidelines throughout the school year as conditions change and more information becomes available.

General Guidelines

- **If your child tests positive for COVID-19: Families are asked to keep their child home and notify Roots.**
 - Children may return to school after 5 days have passed since the onset of symptoms if they do not have a fever and their symptoms are improving. We ask that these children wear a mask at school until 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms.
- **If your child has contact with someone with COVID-19:** they may continue to attend school as long as the child is not exhibiting symptoms and has not tested positive. We recommend that children with such exposures wear masks while at Roots.
- Teachers and students may be required to wear face coverings for indoor class time during periods of High community transmission according to the [CDC](#).

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Parents/Guardians will keep their child home if the child, or anyone else in the household, has a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater on a class day. A no touch thermometer will be available at Roots if needed.
- Parents/Guardians shall keep their child home if the child exhibits any symptoms such as persistent cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, or fatigue. Students must be able to control nasal mucus without excessive use of tissues or wiping of their nose. If these symptoms begin at school the parent will be called to pick up their child immediately.
- Parents/Guardians will be required to adhere to these health and risk management policies and sign the Roots liability of risk waiver.

Staff Responsibilities

- Teachers will stay home if they have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater or any symptoms such as persistent cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, or fatigue. Teachers will be sent home if they exhibit any of these symptoms at work.
- Teachers will continue regular cleaning routines that include sanitizing tables and frequently touched surfaces, vacuuming, etc.
- Teachers will carry hand sanitizer on them at all times.

- We will spend as much time as possible outdoors, but in the case of inclement weather we will utilize the Roots Wall Tent or Park Activity Center.
- Staff will be required to adhere to these health and risk management policies for the safety and well-being of the Roots community.

Additional Information

- We have the benefit of holding class predominantly outdoors, in a setting that has a host of health benefits for both children and adults. Forest school offers children a space to learn, get physical exercise, release tension and stress, and interact socially with peers in a lower risk setting.
- ***We respect each family's viewpoint on the current health crisis and understand that those with immune compromised systems have differing needs. If you are uncomfortable with your child coming into close contact with other children or Roots teachers, we ask that you wait to enroll your child in a Roots class until the health situation changes. Please notify us immediately if this is the case.***
- We are unable to provide refunds for individual families if a child misses school days due to the effects of COVID-19 (i.e. your child has COVID-like symptoms or your child has to quarantine). We understand that having a child at home unexpectedly can place financial stress on families. To offset this, we will be offering financial assistance to families on an as needed basis throughout this health crisis, as funds are available. There will be a simple application form for interested families.
- In the event that Roots Forest School has to close for an extended period of time we will provide families information regarding tuition refunds at that time.

While we are using recommendations from national medical associations to guide our efforts to prevent COVID-19 in our school and protect all Roots families and staff, it is important to remember that COVID-19 can be difficult to identify in children.

Children with active COVID-19 viral shedding (in the infectious phase) can present with only mild cold symptoms, symptoms seemingly nonspecific to illness (altered taste or smell), or no symptoms at all. For this reason, we request all families utilize heightened

awareness of activities and individuals presenting higher risk of potential coronavirus exposure.

Please delay your child's/children's return to school if exposure risks increase or mild symptoms develop following such times.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.