

Health & Safety Plan

Updated 2/28/24

Park & Facility Safety

Avery Park is a public park that we share with the community. We are unable to control the actions of others who use the park. We do many things to ensure the safety of all participants:

- Children are instructed never to pick up any non-nature objects that we did not bring with us and to alert a teacher if they find anything that might be dangerous.
- Children are told the boundaries for each outdoor space that we are using. Children are instructed that they must be in sight of a teacher at all times and to ask permission before leaving a designated area.
- Before moving to different locations and throughout the entire time outside, educators conduct head counts and roll calls.
- We require all children to wear closed-toe shoes at all times in Avery Park.

Injury prevention/Risk:

At NaturePlay we know that allowing children to engage in some [risky play](#) helps them learn how to assess and manage risk in the future. Children climb, wade in the river (when conditions are safe), balance on fallen trees, and play with sticks. Children are closely supervised during all of these activities. Staff will never place children in a spot they cannot get to themselves.

Children are encouraged to climb only as far as they feel comfortable. We spot children when they are climbing and check in with them about how they are feeling. Balancing risk and safety, we will always:

- Remain close to the children who are engaging in risky activities.
- Seek to understand what needs the activity meets for the child/children involved.
- Assess the situation and if we find it to be dangerous, we will offer alternatives.
- When an activity is deemed dangerous, we will devise a rule to keep children safe and inform all staff of the rule so that all can enforce it.

Plants: Children will be taught to identify and avoid dangerous plants (such as poison oak)

Animals: We have caged animals inside the NaturePlay building. The Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care permits us to have these animals on site: [“A certified child care center may allow an animal, other than a cat or dog, such as a poisonous animal, reptile, amphibian, monkey, hook-beaked bird, chicken, duck, hermit crab, rodent or ferret on the premises only if:](#)

[\(a\) The animal is housed in and remains in a cage, tank, or other measure which precludes any direct contact by children”](#)

Water: During the months when the river levels are low, we will take periodic trips to the river. Children are allowed to wade, but the water must remain below their knees.

Walking/hiking: Children are taught to always remain in sight of an adult.

Weather exposure: We are outside every day no matter the weather. We may have an early pick-up if temperatures are predicted to exceed 95 degrees during Caterpillar Camp.

We will always carry a list of all parent and emergency contacts and a first aid kit. You will be contacted immediately in the case of a severe injury or health concern that may require medical care.

Emergency Preparedness Plan:

In the event of any evacuation, instructors will have rosters with the names of all children as well as parent/guardian emergency contacts with them.

Fire

In case of a fire inside NaturePlay, anyone in the building must exit and wait at the dino bones for further instruction. There are four exits on the first floor of Avery House. The emergency exit will be the south entrance. Educators will do a head count and ensure all children in the CEC'S care are accounted for. Children can be picked up at the dino bones. Fire extinguishers are located in the windowsill of the stove inside the preschool - near the staff entrance. Fire drills will occur monthly so that children are aware of the policy.

Floods

In case of a flood at NaturePlay everyone must exit the building and get to higher ground. The Lyon's shelter is unlikely to flood and allows children to be easily picked up. There are four exits on the first floor of Avery House. The emergency exit will be the south entrance. Educators will do a head count and ensure all children in the CEC'S care are accounted for.

Earthquake

In case of an earthquake, everyone should take shelter under the nearest table, away from windows or objects that could easily fall. Children should hold on to table legs to keep their balance. Everyone must stay under the tables until the shaking from the earthquake stops. Educators will then check the classroom for any broken or fallen objects to ensure it is safe for children. Earthquakes may cause power outages or other grid damage, so educators should be prepared for parents to take a longer time to arrive, and be prepared to administer first aid and give water to children if needed.

Severe Weather

Severe storms at Avery House may cause fallen trees, mudslides, and power outages. In the case of a severe storm, children shall remain inside the facility, away from the windows, and parents should be called to pick up their children early. In the case of a power outage, educators will use flashlights from their cell phones or flashlights.

Medical emergencies

In the case of a child's medical emergency, the child shall be separated from the rest of the children to ensure privacy and safety, as well as maintain hygiene until they can be picked up. Their emergency contact (listed on the roster and in Ultracamp) will be called immediately.

CPR/First Aid: All educational staff are CPR and first aid trained while employed with the CEC.

Staff will have access to a well-maintained first aid kit when leading a group of children. Staff will provide basic first aid to enrolled students, staff members, parents, and volunteers when necessary.

Given the nature of the CEC's outdoor educational programs: Bumps, bruises, and scrapes or "small injuries" may occur. Injuries beyond this scope will be reported on an incident report and a copy will be provided to the enrolled child's parent/guardian.

Epi-pen: If a child has an epi-pen to treat their allergies parents/guardians must declare this at registration. Staff do not carry epi-pens.

Lost Child

If a child strays from the group, staff will search for the missing child near the area where the child was last seen, while another educational staff member ensures that all other enrolled children stay in a central, easily supervised location. If the child is not recovered after 15 minutes, authorities will be contacted by calling 9-1-1 and the missing child's parent/guardian will be contacted immediately.

Violence/Threats of Violence:

In the case of violence at NaturePlay, educators will get all children to a safe location. If it is not safe to be in the building and it can be done safely, all children will be relocated to the parks building at 1310 SW Avery Park Dr (Across from Boat Park). If it is not safe for children and staff to leave Avery House, everyone will go upstairs to a space where the door can be secured. 911 will be called immediately. Incident reports will be filled out once it is safe to do so.

Addressing the Needs of All Children:

Children with special needs and chronic medical conditions will have the opportunity to visit NaturePlay before enrolling in preschool. Their guardian and the preschool director will discuss additional care needed for the child including but not limited to: extra staffing, staff trainings, and procedure development.

The NaturePlay preschool registration form and camp registration forms ask for medical information including medications, bee sting reactions, allergies, and physician information so that instructors can be as prepared as possible to care for children.

There is a medication lock box at NaturePlay if any medication needs to be stored for a child.

Important Emergency Phone Numbers

Emergency Line 911

Poison Control 800-222-1222

Corvallis Fire Department 541-766-6961

City of Corvallis, Public Works Dept. 541-766-6916

Child Wellbeing & Expectations

NaturePlay preschool is a safe space where students can make mistakes as they learn to navigate social interactions, resolve conflicts, identify emotions, and facilitate understanding. Educators use clear, positive language to help students understand what we would like them to do rather than what not to do.

We support children as they learn to enter into play with others, solve problems and express themselves in appropriate ways. We do everything we can to teach children the skills needed to regulate feelings and behaviors. We help children find the words to use when they are frustrated, provide quiet places for them to be alone, and teach calming strategies to use when upset.

It is not unusual for young children to have trouble using words to solve problems when they are frustrated. Children have to learn skills to manage their feelings and behaviors in an appropriate way. As children learn these important skills, mistakes happen. Unfortunately, in preschool sometimes children hit, kick, push, and, although it is rare, bite when they feel frustrated or overwhelmed. Our first task is prevention: setting up an environment that gives children a sense of security, teaching problem-solving and calming strategies when children are in a calm state, and creating a caring community of learners who feel connected to one another.

When hurtful behaviors happen, we help the children involved get into a calm state and discuss what happened and a better way the situation could be handled in the future. When a specific behavior reoccurs over and over, we develop a plan of action - looking for triggers, intervening before the behavior happens, and giving the words to help solve the problem. We may also use visual strategies and social stories to teach social/emotional skills. We will inform parents/guardians of the plan, ask for feedback, and provide information about how they can help at home.

If, over a period of time, improvements are not seen, we will request a meeting with parents/guardians to look at other options. We do not wish to exclude children who are struggling to learn social/emotional skills, but if we determine that we do not have the resources to help this child and keep the rest of the children safe, we will have to ask parents/guardians to find another program to better meet their child's needs.

Wellness Policy

Educators recognize that caretakers need to work and we do try to accommodate as much as possible. However, for the health and well-being of the children in our care and our staff, we feel it is vital to maintain a strict wellness policy. We ask for parents to assist by keeping sick children at home.

When a child may not attend school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- **Fever:** Children will be sent home if their temperature is 100.4 or higher and must stay away from our facility for 10 days, unless a COVID-19 test occurs and has a negative result or a medical professional advises that they are safe to return. In this case, the student may return to school after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

- **Diarrhea:** Children will be sent home if they have three or more loose bowel movements in one day and must stay home for observation. Before returning to school, children must be free from diarrhea for 24 hours with at least one regular bowel movement. If your student has one or more loose bowel movements on their first day back they will be sent home for further observation.
- **Vomiting:** Children will be sent home if they vomit and must stay home the next day for observation. Before returning to school, children must be symptom-free with no vomiting for at least 24 hours.
- **Thick green or yellow nasal discharge:** Children will be sent home if they have colored discharge from their nose. This is often indicative of an infection and they must stay home for observation.
- **Severe cough**
- **Unusual yellow color to skin or eyes**
- **Skin or eye lesions or rashes that are severe, weeping, or pus-filled**
- **Stiff neck and headache with one or more of the symptoms listed above**
- **Difficult breathing or abnormal wheezing**
- **Complaints of severe pain.**

Potty Training Policy

We consider your student to be potty trained when they are:

- able to tell an educator when they need to use the bathroom.
- aware of the need to use the toilet without reminders from the educators (although, educators will remind students throughout the day as outlined in our daily class schedule, for example, before or after meals, and before going on outside adventures, etc.)
- able to go to the bathroom (either urinating or a bowel movement) on their own. This includes being able to remove clothing, sitting on the toilet, wiping themselves, putting clothing back on, flushing the toilet, and washing and drying their hands.
 - * We are available to assist students with tricky clothing, setting up the bathroom in a way that works, and “teacher checks” if your student wants one after a bowel movement.
- Will not be in diapers or pull-ups at all. They must be in regular underwear.

We recognize that accidents happen. That is why we ask you to keep a change of clothing at school.

Medication Administration

Any medications (prescription, over-the-counter, sunscreen, epi-pens, etc) are rarely administered at school and must be locked away for child safety. Exceptions involve special or serious problems where it is deemed necessary by the physician that the medication be given during school hours. We ask that caretakers work with their child's physician to schedule medication that can be administered at home, outside school hours whenever possible.

If medication is to be administered at school, all of the following conditions must be met

1. A signed request from a licensed physician/dentist specifying the condition for which the medication is to be given, the name, dosage, route, side effects, and specific instructions for emergency treatment must be on file at school. School staff is not authorized to determine when an “as needed” medication is to be given. Specific instructions are required.
2. A signed request from the parent/guardian must be on file at school.
3. Medication must be in your student’s original, labeled pharmacy container written in English.
4. All liquid medication must be accompanied by an appropriate measuring device.
5. A separate form is required for each medication.

Mandated Reporting of Suspected Abuse/Neglect

As mandatory reporters, CEC employees and volunteers will be alert to the physical and emotional state of all children participating in programs and are legally required to report injuries or suspected abuse/neglect to DHS.