

# THE NEST FOREST SCHOOL

## SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

### PROGRAM DETAILS

#### **How do I put my child(ren) on the wait list?**

Please join the waitlist by pre-registering through ACTIVE. If your child is selected by lottery for an open spot, you will be notified. You will then have 48 to confirm the registration. **Note:** Registration is not complete until payment is received.

#### **What are the program details?**

The Nest Forest School program for 3-5 years olds is based out of 509 Alexander Street, and runs in the forest along the clay cliffs and in Teegatha 'Oh Zheh Park. The program runs Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Holidays will follow the Whitehorse public school calendar.

#### **Will a family member be required to volunteer time with the program?**

At this time, we are not able to easily welcome family volunteers. We value intergenerational learning, and hope to create space for this in the near future!

#### **Will there be space within the program for special guests (e.g. visiting Elders, Knowledge Holders or others)?**

Yes, when it's safe to do so, Elders and other visiting specialists will play an important role in our programming, and will be joining us at Forest School to spend time with the children.

#### **Will the program provide snacks for my child?**

No, there will not be a meal program. Children will be expected to arrive with their own snacks and drinks.

#### **Is this program focused on outdoor learning and time spent on the land in all seasons?**

Yes, we intend to spend as much time exploring and playing outdoors as possible - we aim to be outside in all weather conditions!

#### **Will this program provide my child with social, emotional, ecological and intellectual development opportunities?**

Yes, children will gain skills in a range of interpersonal, development and educational areas (see chart in Curriculum and Learning Outcomes).

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## **What is your cold weather policy?**

We are guided by the weather as much as we are by the needs of the children we serve. We aim to be outside in all weather conditions, and will make decisions based on the needs of the group.

While we do not have a hard temperature cut-off, we do take extra precautions in cold (and hot) conditions. Please ensure your child is always prepared and ready to be outside when they come to The Nest. As you know, weather can change quickly during the day. Information on this can be found on our Info & Gear List page [www.riverstoridges.org/info-and-gear-list](http://www.riverstoridges.org/info-and-gear-list).

## **Can my child attend if they have an inclusion worker?**

Yes, provided the inclusion worker is qualified and meets our criteria, and their presence will enable your child to fully participate in all the activities (indoor and outdoor). If your child will need the support of an inclusion worker to attend our program, please contact us at [info@riverstoridges.org](mailto:info@riverstoridges.org).

## **Will you offer after-school, Summer, holiday programs?**

We do not currently offer after-school, summer or holiday programs for this age group.

## **What if I'm late to pick up my child?**

If a parent/guardian is late to pick up their child, a late fee charge of \$25 may be recorded and invoiced. After 30 minutes, an additional \$25 may be charged. Parents/guardians will be required to pay for any accumulated late fees, or services/service may be suspended for their child.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience and encourage parents/guardians to try and make special arrangements if they know they will be unable to pick up their child on time.

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## REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

### **How can I enrol and register my child in The Nest?**

Visit the website for the most up-to-date information on pre-registration for The Nest Forest School. Payment plans and the Strong Roots Bursary Fund are available to support families.

### **My child is turning 3 or will turn 6 within the upcoming session. Are they allowed to register?**

Your child must be 3 years of age or older 3 months in advance of starting program. Children turning 6 should be 5 years of age for at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the program from the time that they start at The Nest.

### **What happens if I registered one child and they have a sibling in the same age range?**

We will keep family groups of siblings together. If one is registered, we will do our best to ensure each eligible sibling will also be offered a spot.

### **What happens if I need to cancel my child's registration...**

...less than 48 hours after registering them?

- You will receive a full refund (less \$5.95 processing fee)

...more than a month in advance of program starting?

- You will receive a full refund (less \$100 non-refundable deposit + \$5.95 processing fee).

...less than a month in advance of program starting **or** after the program has started?

- We require a minimum of one (1) months' notice if you plan to withdraw your child from The Nest program. Even if your child does not attend in the last month, payment is still required. For example: You let our team know on December 15th that your child will not be attending in January. January fees are still collected, and a reimbursement will be given for February - June (if applicable).

**Note:** ACTIVE Software may offer their own cancellation coverage. This is totally separate from our organization and its policies. We are not liable for any issues that arise from purchasing cancellation coverage through ACTIVE.

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## **What if I need financial assistance?**

Payment plans will be made available to all families at the time of registration.

If you have already reached out for support from Jordan's Principle or other funding sources, financial support through the Strong Roots Bursary Fund may be available for families in need. Please visit [www.riverstoridges.org/bursary-fund](http://www.riverstoridges.org/bursary-fund) for more details on applying to this fund.

## **Who receives a bursary? How do you decide?**

Decisions are made by the The Nest Forest School team. Bursaries are limited and reserved for those most in need of financial assistance. If you have already reached out for support from other funding sources, (e.g. Jordan's Principle), please visit [www.riverstoridges.org/bursary-fund](http://www.riverstoridges.org/bursary-fund) for more details on applying to this fund.

**If you have additional questions, please contact us at [info@riverstoridges.org](mailto:info@riverstoridges.org)**