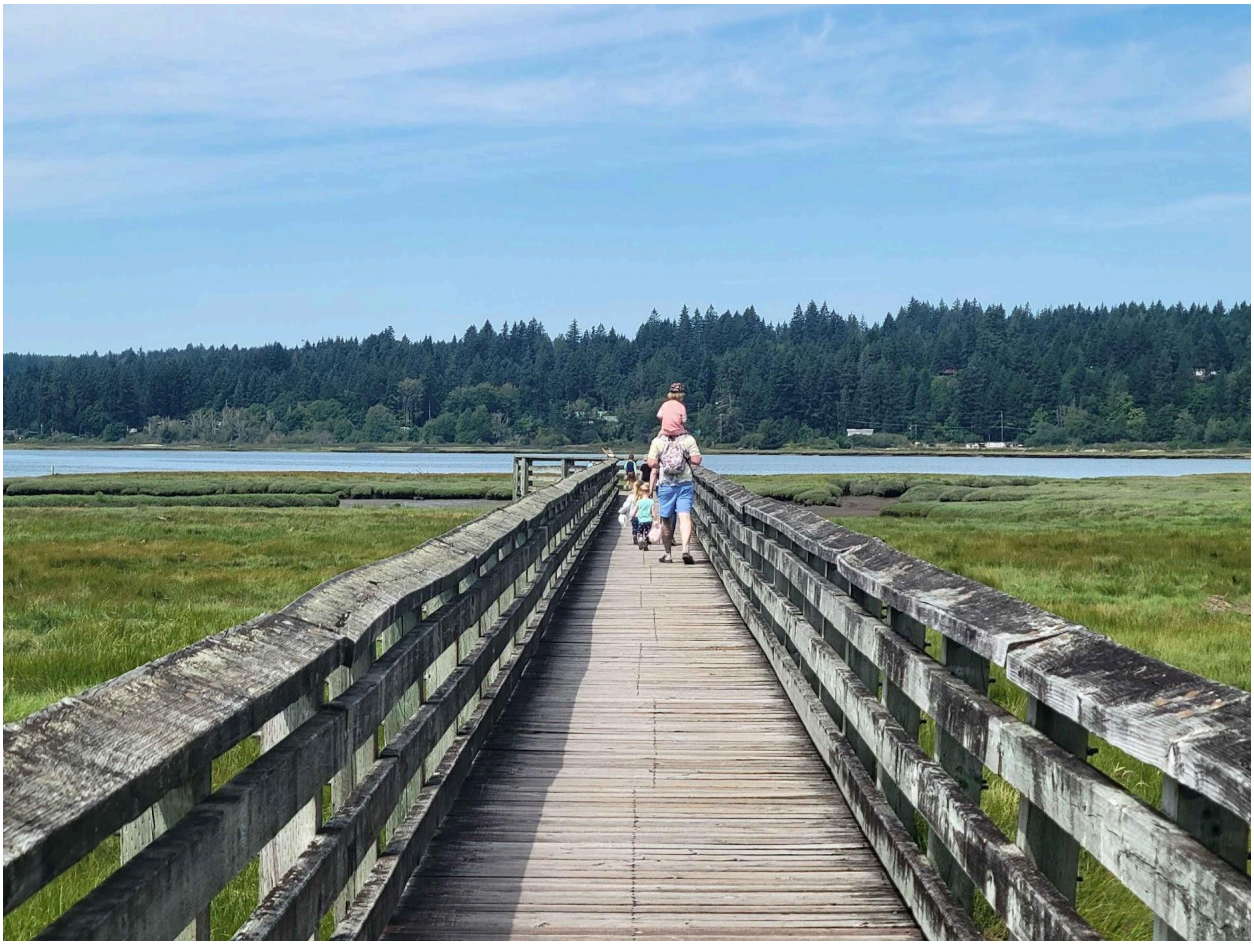
Barnacles & Bees

2026-2027 Family Handbook



“The kids can’t bounce off the walls if we take the walls away”
- Erin Kenney from *The Cedarsong Way*

Welcome

We hope this Handbook will provide you with the information you need to feel prepared and connected to our community. It provides useful information to help you become familiar with Barnacles & Bees programs and policies. It is important that you read through the handbook to understand all about us and be familiar with our policies and procedures so that this will be a smooth year for all. You will be required to sign an acknowledgement of reading this handbook prior to your child's first day of program.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to reach out at any time. We look forward to getting to know you and your child during another year of nature immersion.

Thank you for being a part of our Community!

Mission Statement

Barnacles & Bees believes in the value and uniqueness of each child and family we serve. Our program experience is designed to promote each child's own individual social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. As caregivers and educators, our mission is to provide a safe and developmentally appropriate nature-based learning environment, which fosters a child's natural instinct to explore, discover, and create.

Philosophy/Pedagogy

At Barnacles & Bees, we believe that children are natural explorers, filled with curiosity and a desire to connect with the world around them. To foster this innate wonder we:

- **Engage with natural environments** that inspire exploration, experimentation, and discovery in order to cultivate a lifelong love for learning and a sense of stewardship for the planet.
- **Implement play-based, child-led emergent curriculum** that nurtures confidence, resilience, and creativity.
- **Encourage curiosity and critical thinking** through open-ended questions, collaborative problem-solving, and reflection that honors each child's observations, ideas, and inquiries.
- **Nurture a sense of belonging** to nature and community through shared experiences that strengthen relationships, problem-solving, and care for themselves, community, and the Earth.
- **Support the whole child**—socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically—by celebrating and supporting their individual abilities and interests.

This philosophy is rooted in developmentally appropriate practices which promote the benefits of nature-based early childhood experiences for children's whole development.

How to Reach Us

Business Mailing Address: 258 4th Street, Bremerton, WA 98337

Contacting Barnacles & Bees

The main number for Barnacles & Bees is **(206) 866-5147**.

The main email address for Barnacles & Bees is **hello@barnaclesandbees.com**.

For the fastest response:

- **Email** us at hello@barnaclesandbees.com or send a **Brightwheel message** — these are the best ways to reach us.
- If you need an **immediate** response, please **text** the main number above rather than calling.

We'll always do our best to get back to you as quickly as possible.

Program Director - Jamaal Ali	**Email: jamaal@barnaclesandbees.com**
Administrative Director - Leslie Green	**Email: leslie@barnaclesandbees.com**
Community Director - Robin Cockrel	**Email: robin@barnaclesandbees.com**
Board of Directors	Email: bee@barnaclesandbees.com
Matt Brest, President	Email: President@barnaclesandbees.com
TBD , Secretary	Email:secretary@barnaclesandbees.com
Anna Rogers, Treasurer	Email: Treasurer@barnaclesandbees.com

Family Handbook Contents

Section 1:Organization & Program Information

1.1 Program Year Calendar	Page 5-6
1.2 Program Offerings & Locations	Page 7
1.3 Confidentiality	Page 8
1.4 Enrollment	Page 9
1.5 Tuition/Discounts/Financial Assistance	Page 10
1.6 Tuition Payment Schedule	Page 11
1.7 Late Payment	Page 11
1.8 Late Pick-up Fee	Page 12
1.9 Withdrawal Policy	Page 12
1.10 Non-Discrimination Policy	Page 13

Section 2: A Day at Nature Immersion Program

2.1 Arrival & Departure	Page 14
2.2 Authorized Pick-ups	Page 15
2.3 Attendance	Page 15
2.4 What to Bring	Page 15
2.5 Items from Home	Page 16
2.6 Visiting Animals & Pets	Page 16
2.7 Celebrations	Page 16
2.8 Communication	Page 17
2.9 Teaching Philosophy/Pedagogy	Page 18
2.10 Guiding Practices	Page 19
2.11 Field Trips	Page 20
2.12 Behavior Policy	Page 21

Section 3: Health & Safety Practices and Policies

3.1 Health & Wellness	Page 23
3.2 Allergy Action Plan	Page 24
3.3 Weather Related Closures	Page 25
3.4 Emergency Procedures by location	Page 26
3.5 Child Safety	Page 27
3.6 Program Safety	Page 29

Section 1: Organization & Program Information

1.1 Program Year Calendar

Important Dates:

DATE	EVENT
August 2026	Family Survey & Family Meetings
Sept 1, 2026	September Tuition Due *Monthly tuition is due the first of every month Sept 2026 through May or June 2027 **If you have paid your July 2026 deposit, your last payment is due May 2027
Aug 31, 2026	1st Day of programs @ Bremerton & Belfair
Sept 14 & 18, 2026	1st Day of Session 1 Taking Root T/F
June 16, 2027	Last Day of program @ Belfair & Bremerton
June 23, 2027	Last Day of program Inclement Weather (3 Make up days)

Barnacles & Bees Observed Holidays:

Date	Holiday
Sept 7, 2026	Labor Day (Monday), NO Program
Oct 12, 2026	Indigenous People Day (Monday), NO Program
Nov 11, 2026	Veterans Day (Tuesday), NO Program
Nov 26 & 27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break, NO Program
Dec 21, 2026 - Jan 1, 2027	Winter Break, NO Program
Jan 18, 2027	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday) NO Program
Feb 15, 2027	Presidents Day (Monday), NO Program
Apr 5 - 19, 2027	Spring Break, NO Program

May 31, 2027	Memorial Day (Monday), NO Program
June 18, 21, 23, 2027	MAKE UP DAYS (Inclement Weather)

1.2 Program Offerings & Locations

Program Location	Age	Teaching Staff	Schedule
Bremerton	Early Childhood Ages 3-6	Leslie Green Christina Chapman	9:30 am - 12:30 pm Mon/Wed/Fri
	Early Childhood Ages 3-6	Lisa Wong Kylie Stoneburner	9:30 am - 12:30 pm Tue/Thur
	Grade School Ages 7-12	Destiny Miller Lynda Murray	9:45 am - 12:45 pm Mon/Wed/Fri
Taking Root	1-½ yrs - 5yrs	Robin Cockrel	10:00 am - 12:00pm Mondays
Taking Root	1-½ yrs - 5yrs	Quasar Starscream	10:00 am - 12:00 pm Fridays
Belfair	Early Childhood Ages 3-6	Briana Adams Megan Flaherty	9:30 am - 12:30 pm Mon/Wed/Fri

Bremerton Location Address: The Forest at K.U.U.F.
4418 Perry Ave NE, Bremerton, WA 98310

Belfair Location Addresses: Belfair State Park
3151 NE SR 300, Belfair, WA 98528

Deer Hallow
3530 S Mission Rd W, Bremerton, WA 98312

1.3 Confidentiality

Confidentiality is a top priority for Barnacles & Bees. Personal information of families and staff will not be shared for any reason without prior written consent of the individual. When discussing a child's activities and friends in the classroom, only first names will be used. In situations regarding behavior problems and/or Incident/Accident Reports, names of children involved will never be given to families. Brightwheel is an app used to communicate between parents and staff. Please know that staff can read general messages sent via Brightwheel. Only the Administrative Team (Leslie, Jamaal, and Robin) can read Admin messages sent via Brightwheel. Please keep Brightwheel communication information to things you are okay with all staff reading.

1.4 Enrollment

We utilize Brightwheel for Enrollment and Registration processes. Every family is required to first enroll stating their interest and pay a $50 enrollment fee. Once the enrollment form and fee have been received we will process your program request and forward a Registration form to be completed. Following the Registration form being completed a non-refundable deposit of one month tuition (which will be applied as your last month's payment) is required to hold your child's spot in your desired program.

If the enrollment fee and non-refundable Registration deposit are not received by the date specified when you enroll your spot will no longer be held and we will offer it to the next application received.

Enrollment & Registration Checklist:
1. Enrollment Form: completed & signed $50 Enrollment Fee paid (non-refundable)
2. Registration Form: completed & signed Non-Refundable Deposit of 1 month Tuition (This will be used as your last month's tuition payment) Signed Handbook Agreement Signed SunScreen & Insect Repellent Agreement
** Scholarship Application submitted (Limited need-based scholarships available)
3. First Month Tuition due the 1st of September or the first day of the month starting program (or prior to first day of starting program) $50 Materials Fee (due with September Tuition or prior to first day of starting program) (non-refundable)

2026-27 Program Year Scholarship Rubric:

	Household Size	Tuition Discount

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	%
TOTAL Gross Income	$29,850	$33,600	$37,300	$40,300	$43,300	$47,340	$52,720	**40%**
	$36,480	$41,050	$45,583	$49,250	$52,900	$56,310	$61,497	**35%**
	$43,110	$48,500	$53,866	$58,200	$62,500	$65,280	$70,274	**30%**
	$49,750	$55,950	$62,150	$67,150	$72,100	$74,250	$81,050	**25%**
	$59,700	$67,140	$74,580	$80,580	$86,520	$89,083	$94,833	**20%**
	$69,650	$78,345	$87,015	$94,015	$100,960	$106,217	$113,067	**15%**
	$79,600	$89,550	$99,450	$107,450	$115,400	$123,350	$131,300	**10%**

Example: If your **Total Income** for a **Household Size of 4** is $63,000, your discount percentage is **25%**.

1.5 Tuition & Discounts

Upon signing the completed Registration Form, you are entering into a financial contract with Barnacles & Bees, agreeing to the tuition and fees outlined for the days your child will be attending our program. This contract includes adherence to our enrollment, tuition, supply fee, late payment, late pickup, and withdrawal policies, along with any associated fees.

Important Note: The Registration Form should be carefully reviewed and checked for any errors before submission. The payment invoice you receive after submitting the enrollment form will specify the number of days your child will participate in the program and the corresponding tuition fee. This agreement is binding and can only be modified with the approval and signatures of both the parents/guardians and the Administrative Director.

Fees Overview

1. **Yearly Enrollment Fee:** A non-refundable registration fee of $50.00 is due upon receipt of the registration form. This fee secures your child's enrollment in the program for the upcoming year.
2. **Yearly Supply Fee:** A $50.00 non-refundable annual supply fee is to be paid by parents in September. This fee covers the cost of materials and supplies used throughout the year.
3. **Monthly Tuition Rate:** For the 2025-2026 Program year is $145 per day attending.
    a. 2-day Tuition = $290.00 per month
    b. 3-day Tuition = $435.00 per month
    c. 4-day Tuition = $580.00 per month
    d. 5-day Tuition = $725.00 per month
4. **Non-Refundable Tuition Deposit:** A non-refundable deposit equal to one month's tuition is due by July 1 or upon receipt of the Registration Form, whichever comes first. This deposit serves as your last month's tuition paid in advance and is required to hold your child's spot in the program. If the deposit is not paid by the specified due date, your child's spot may be made available to other children.

By electronically signing the Registration Form, you acknowledge and agree to all terms and conditions related to tuition and fees as outlined by Barnacles & Bees. Please ensure that you fully understand these terms before committing to register your child. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Admin Team for clarification.

Discounts

Barnacles & Bees is honored to offer the following program tuition discounts. Only one discount allowed per family. This means if you have multiple children in the program and pay annually you will only receive a discount for one of these (Example: Multiple Child Discount or Annual Payment Discount).

Multiple Child Discount

Families with two or more children enrolled at Barnacles & Bees are eligible for a 5% discount to be applied to each child's monthly tuition fee.

Annual Payment Discount

Families who pay the entire program year's worth of tuition in advance will receive a 5% discount. The total tuition amount must be paid prior to the start of the program year, on the first tuition payment of the year, September 1st, or prior to the first day of starting the program.

Need-based Scholarships

Barnacles & Bees is proud to offer the following financial assistance discount for program tuition. Only one discount or financial assistance support allowed per family. This means if you have multiple children in the program and apply for a Need-based Scholarship you will only receive a discount for one of these (Example: Multiple Child Discount or Need-based Scholarship).

Need-based Scholarships

There is a limited amount of funds available for need-based scholarships. These are partial scholarships based on total household income. They are also awarded based on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please be sure to indicate your interest/need on the enrollment form. We will provide you with a separate application that will be reviewed and approved. An established scholarship rubric and detailed policy will be sent to you when you are notified of the scholarship application being added to your Brightwheel account for completion. This is an honor system application. If it is found that you have falsified your application in any way your scholarship will be canceled immediately.

1.6 Tuition Payment Schedule

Tuition is due monthly and is calculated annually and split into 10 equal monthly payments. **We cannot prorate monthly tuition rates for any reason.** Monthly tuition is based on the full school year program and is not affected or adjusted by absences due to illness, family vacations, weather closures, or other days off. Tuition is paid using Brightwheel. We require you to set up payment information in Brightwheel. It is requested that you authorize Automatic Payments to avoid late payments which will incur a late fee.

Tuition is due on the 1st of every month. Tuition payments are made September through May with June being covered by the beginning of the year deposit. An invoice will be sent via Brightwheel on the 20th or 21st of the month before tuition is due. If you do not receive an invoice you are responsible for contacting the office and requesting one.

1.7 Late Payments

Tuition is considered late after the 7th of the month without prior notice and approval, at which point a late fee of $25 will be added to your account. If tuition remains unpaid an additional 7 days after the late fee is assessed, your child will not be able to attend until the account is brought up to date. Late or delinquent payments can result in a withdrawal from the program and deposits are non-refundable. All invoicing and payments are handled through Brightwheel.

A payment plan should be discussed with the Admin Team if a family is having trouble making tuition payments on the 1st of each month.

Insufficient Funds

All payments rejected due to insufficient funds will be charged a $10 penalty. Missed payments and late fees must be paid within 1 day of receipt of the fee invoice. Repeated incidents could result in withdrawal of the child from the program.

1.8 Late Pick-Up Fee

Please be on time to pick up your child. We understand that exceptional circumstances beyond your control arise. However, if late pick-up becomes a pattern (3 strikes), parents will be notified that the next late pick up will result in a fee. Late is considered 7 minutes after the end of class time with no communication prior to the end of class time. After the second and third strike, the Admin Team will notify the family of the possibility of a late pick-up fee charge. After the third strike the family will receive an invoice for the amount of the late pick-up fee. The fee will be added to your account in Brightwheel and will be due within one week of the invoice date.

Barnacles & Bees programs end at 12:30-45 pm, Monday through Friday. Parents will be charged a late pick-up fee of $1 for every minute (after 10 minutes) a child is present after their contracted pick-up time (this will pay for the teachers' time when they have to stay past their scheduled out time). Teachers will notify the Admin Team of late fees for processing.

If an authorized adult does not arrive to pick up their child from the program after 5 minutes, staff members will first try to contact the primary adults via Brightwheel message. If there is no response after 10 minutes, staff members will next try to contact the primary adults using all phone numbers provided on the Emergency Contact and Medical Consent form. If primary adults are unable to be reached, staff members will try to contact all emergency contacts and authorized pickup persons listed in their account. If staff members still have not been able to contact a primary adult or emergency contact persons, the Admin Team will be notified and they will then notify the Department of Human Services and/or the local Police Department.

1.9 Withdrawal

Enrollment Fee, Materials Fee, and Tuition Deposit are NON-REFUNDABLE. You are responsible for giving written notice 30 days prior to your child's last day in the program.

1. Complete the Withdrawal Form found in the Paperwork section of Brightwheel.
2. Send a message in Brightwheel to your child's teaching team. This will also be received/seen by the Admin Team.
3. If notice is received by the 15th of the month prior to your child's last month your deposit will be used for the last month's tuition payment and you will not receive an invoice for the last month of attendance.
    a. If you do not provide 30 days notice prior to your child's last day or after the 15th of the prior month, your deposit will be forfeited and you will be responsible for the final month's tuition payment.

1.10 Non-Discrimination Policy

Barnacles & Bees will not discriminate on the basis of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, color, physical or developmental ability or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel. Barnacles & Bees recruits and admits students of any sex, gender identity, religion, race, color, physical or developmental ability or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities. In addition, the school will not discriminate on the basis of sex, gender identity, religion, race, color, physical or developmental ability or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship/loans/fee waivers (if offered), educational programs and/or athletics/extracurricular activities.

SECTION 2: A Day in Nature

2.1 Arrival and Departure

Arrival or Drop-off

Parents are required to accompany their child to the designated drop off location. Parents are REQUIRED to check their child(ren) in with the Program Educator at the designated drop-off location, if only briefly. We encourage parents to communicate with their child's teacher about their child's temperament that particular day, how he/she slept the night before, whether he/she has eaten that morning, etc. Most children go through periods of difficulty with separating from their parent(s).
This is common and developmentally appropriate.

Try these tips for a successful drop-off:

- Establish a regular, predictable routine. Whether you have a kiss and a hug and go, or help your child put their things in their designated place, do it the same way every day. What often makes separating stressful for children is the uncertainty. If your child can predict what will happen, the separation won't be as difficult.
- Separate once. If you come back into the classroom again and again, it will increase your child's stress. Remember the moment of separation is the worst part for your child, so doing it more than once makes it more stressful for your child
- Be reliable. Return when promised. Children who are picked up later than expected may have more difficulties separating. Phrase time in terms your child will understand. For example, you will be back after snack time or before nap time.

- If a child is having a particularly difficult time separating, our Educators will offer comfort and connection, helping them regulate and settle into play. However, if after **20–30 minutes** your child is unable to calm with educator support, it is our practice to **call a parent or caregiver to return** — either to help your child through the separation or, if needed, to take them home for the day.

We know every child's journey toward confidence and independence is unique, and we partner closely with families to make this transition as positive and supportive as possible.

Departure or Pick-up

Be sure to Check-out your child with one of the Program Educators so they know your child(ren) are leaving. Once you have reunited with your child and are departing, Barnacles & Bees is no longer responsible for your child.

Barnacles & Bees programs run from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday-Friday. If you will be late picking up your child, please provide us with as much notice as possible. Please note that there is a late fee for arriving after 12:37 pm. If an authorized adult does not arrive to pick up their child from the program, please see the Late Pick-up Policy in Section 1.8.

2.2 Authorized Pick-up

If someone we are not familiar with is to pick up your child, it is essential that you inform your child's teacher in advance of the pick-up. This person must be listed as an authorized person in Brightwheel prior to their arrival. Remind the authorized person that they will be asked to show photo identification such as a driver's license to ensure your child's safety. Even if the individual has picked up before, he or she may still need identification if the teacher in charge has never met them.

2.3 Attendance

Regular attendance is strongly encouraged for the benefit of the child as well as the classroom community as a whole. **If your child will be absent, please message your child's teaching team via Brightwheel.**

If your child will be absent for an extended period of time (more than one program week), the teaching team and Admin Team should be notified in writing of the date the absence begins and the expected date your child will return. Enrollment will be terminated if a child is absent for a period of three weeks or more, and no notice has been received or contact made by the family.

2.4 What to Bring

Please send your child in comfortable, weather appropriate play clothes and shoes. Play is usually active and often messy; comfortable, washable clothes are important if your child is to participate fully in the program. Messy clothes are a good thing!

Necessary Items

- ☐ Weather appropriate clothing - layers, layers, layers
- ☐ Water bottle - cold water or warm tea
- ☐ Backpack - light enough for the child to hike with, but that can hold lunch, water bottle, and coat if needed
- ☐ Hearty Snack - we recommend a high protein snack as they get hungry being active
- ☐ Extra clothes (underwear, socks, pants, shirt)
- ☐ Sunscreen or Insect Repellent if desired
- ☐ EpiPen if needed

****Snack subject to change according to allergies in each classroom.**

Children should be dressed appropriately for the ever changing Pacific Northwest weather. All children occasionally get their clothes wet and have toileting accidents. Whenever this occurs, it is best to change the child into an extra set of clothing provided by the family. Your child's teacher will request that you bring a complete change of clothing, including underwear, to be kept on site and replenished as needed. Please be sure to clearly label all items of clothing in a plastic bag. Let the teacher know whenever your child's clothing or other items cannot be located.

Clothing for the Weather

If a child is cold and uncomfortable it will be all they can focus on. There are a bunch of ideas on how to dress for cold weather, there are also a lot of expensive, well made brands out there that are durable for extensive use in cold weather. We are leaving it to parents to decide how to dress their kids for the cold weather and which brands they choose to go with. Saying that we do have some helpful guidelines and resources for dressing for cold weather.

Amazingly, our bodies produce a natural layer of warmth close to our bodies, so it is key to dress in looser layers to allow a good temperature to generate and circulate. Also the material that those layers are made out of are very important. It is our recommendation to use a wool or silk layer close to the body because it absorbs more moisture than cotton, and when kids slow their movements they will be prone to shivering. The following is a link that shows a general map of what type of layers you might want to make sure are on your child:

https://outdoorschoolshop.com/pages/layering-guide

We have special discounts for gear at a number of different retailers:

Outdoor School Shop 15% off (not sale items) - BARNACLES

Oaki.com 15% Discount code - **Barnacles&Bees15**

Bonfire Staff Designed and Official Merchandise 25% off - BNBHIVE27

2.5 Items from Home

Barnacles & Bees asks that **personal toys and stuffed animals stay at home** to help children stay engaged with nature-based play and to prevent loss or damage.

We understand that some children benefit from having a familiar item during transitions or times of comfort. If your child has a **special comfort item**, please talk with their **Teaching Team** to discuss appropriate accommodations and determine what will best support your child's needs.

2.6 Pets & Visiting Animals

Please make sure you note in Brightwheel any pet allergies. Pets and visiting animals that are brought into the classroom must be carefully considered for their temperament, health risks, and appropriateness for young children. No animal may be brought into Barnacles & Bees programs without first notifying and receiving permission from the Administrative and Program Directors. Once approved, pets and visiting animals must have documentation from a licensed veterinarian or animal shelter to show that the animal(s) is fully immunized and that the animal is suitable for contact with children.

2.7 Celebrations

Birthday Celebrations

Every birthday is a celebration of another year of experiences, adventures, and growth. Montessori schools acknowledge birthdays as another trip around the sun. It is our practice to celebrate in a nature-based way that is safe and inclusive for every child.

1. Each Teaching Team will communicate with families how they celebrate birthdays in their group.
2. We do not allow food items. Please see the list of Non-edible birthday celebration suggestions below.
3. You may request the number of children in program with your child

Non-edible birthday celebration suggestions:

- ★ Nature-based activities during class are welcome, however they must be coordinated with the Teacher/Teaching Team in advance.
- ★ Donate a book to the classroom in honor of your child's birthday
- ★ Have your child bring their favorite book to share
- ★ Donate a birthday gift to KidVantage in Bremerton (www.KidVantageNW.org)
- ★ Provide each student in class with a colorful pencil, sticker, eraser, bookmark or chalk
- ★ Bring a nature-based craft or activity; such as beeswax candle making

Birthday Party Invitations:

Parents are responsible for distributing invitations outside of Barnacles & Bees programs. Coming soon a Family Directory will be your resource to contact families. Educators will no longer be posting invitations through Brightwheel.

2.8 Communication

Brightwheel

Brightwheel is an app to help parents stay connected with their child and teacher during school hours. This is where you can communicate directly with your child's teachers throughout the day. It can also be used to pay your bill with Barnacles & Bees. Talk to the Admin Team to get set up.

Brightwheel Messaging

All parents and caregivers have direct messaging capabilities through Brightwheel. Have a question or need to communicate something to the teachers or staff? Simply send a message through the app and expect to receive a response in a timely manner, given the nature and importance of the message. All teaching staff assigned to your child's classroom can view and respond to the messages. If you have a question or concern that does not involve the teaching team, please send a message via the Admin - Parent feature in Brightwheel or email hello@barnaclesandbees.com.

Brightwheel Photos

Teachers and class mentors use their cameras to document class explorations and the individual uniqueness of the students.

Where Photos Are Shared:

- **Brightwheel** - Photos posted to your child's individual feed
- **Social Media** - Images used on social media will typically be of hands, backs of heads and will not be of identifying features unless specifically allowed by parents. Even then we are aware of the high levels of ai and work to keep images discreet for everyone's privacy.

Parent/Caregiver Photo Sharing:

Parents and caregivers who attend program activities are welcome to contribute photos! You may upload your photos to Brightwheel. When sharing photos, please be respectful of all families' photo preferences.

Photo Permissions:

Please refer to the enrollment form to specify your preferences about pictures being taken in the program and how they are shared. All families are able to opt out. Your preferences apply to both staff and parent/caregiver photography.

Brightwheel Newsletter

The Brightwheel Newsletter is a monthly letter to parents/caregivers. Barnacles & Bees will analyze our class time and describe how our play is meeting various learning objectives. For example, climbing may improve gross motor skills and problem solving. This is also where we can disseminate news about our programs, special events, or other important pieces of general information.

Family Survey

Each family is asked to complete a Family Survey at the beginning of each program year. This survey helps educators get to know your child's interests, learning style, strengths, and needs so they can better support your child during the program.

Cultural Competence

Barnacles & Bees is committed to respecting each child's and family's culture and diverse needs. We recognize that culture influences every aspect of a child's development and is reflected in childrearing beliefs and practices. We believe it is important to support and preserve the child's home language usage, faith and beliefs, and cultural traditions. We recognize that children can and will acquire the use of English even when their home language is used and respected.

Barnacles & Bees carries out this philosophy of cultural competence in the following ways:

- Families are treated with respect and sensitivity from our first meeting.
- Families' financial limitations are respected when planning for activities that could potentially result in additional costs, and clear understanding of payment expectations from the time of enrollment.
- We attempt to learn accurate information about each family, their culture, faith and beliefs, and cultural traditions (we encourage each family, if they feel comfortable, to share this information with the teaching teams during Family Meetings).

- Families are encouraged to be actively involved in what their child is doing in our program through family “homework” and volunteer opportunities such as chaperoning field trips.
- Families are asked to inform us of the best way for them to receive communication (i.e. verbal, written, text, email, etc.)
- Families where English is their second language are encouraged and assisted in becoming knowledgeable about the cognitive value for children of knowing more than one language and providing them with strategies to support, maintain, and preserve their home language. Barnacles & Bees will continue to acquire training annually to further our knowledge of culture, language, and diversity.

2.9 Teaching Philosophy/Pedagogy

At Barnacles & Bees, our teaching philosophy is rooted in the belief that children are naturally curious and capable learners. Our approach emphasizes the role of educators as mentors, facilitators, and trusted guides. We aim to foster an environment where children feel empowered to take leadership roles, work cooperatively, and direct the course of their own play and learning.

Role of the Nature Immersion Educator

1. **Mentors and Facilitators:**
   Educators at Barnacles & Bees serve as mentors, guiding children in their exploration and learning. Rather than providing answers, teachers inspire conversation and brainstorming. They encourage children to ask questions, engage in dialogue, and explore the world around them with curiosity and enthusiasm. The goal is not to find the "right" answers but to explore possibilities and ideas.
2. **Empowerment and Connection:**
   We believe in empowering children to take ownership of themself. Educators support children in building connections within the group and working cooperatively with their peers. Children are given the freedom to direct the course of their own play, fostering independence and confidence in their abilities.
3. **Holistic Educational Space:**
   Our educational environment is not focused on traditional learning but encompasses a broad spectrum of experiences. The space we create is designed to encourage detailed observation, reflection, and appreciation of the world around us. This includes not only flora and fauna but also the relationships between plants, creatures, and each other. Every detail, observation, and mini-celebration is an opportunity for connection and growth.

At Barnacles & Bees, we believe that learning is a dynamic, interactive process that thrives in a supportive and nurturing environment. Our teaching philosophy is designed to cultivate a love of exploring, a sense of curiosity and wonder, and a deep connection to the natural world.

Ratio of Adult:Child

Our programs are run 100% outdoors. Following state guidelines for “Outdoor Learning” we have determined to keep a low ratio of 1 adult to 5 children. Based on Washington State guidelines:

(6) A center early learning program must do the following to mix groups of children between thirty-six months old through kindergarten with a maximum group size of twenty children:
(a) Have at least two staff present with the group, consisting of one lead teacher and one other staff member qualified under this chapter; and

(b) Keep a staff-to-child ratio of 1:10 (WAC, Center mixed age group capacity, ratio, and group size, referenced July 3,2026).

https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=110-300-0357

2.10 Guiding Practices

Barnacles & Bees is deeply inspired by the principles laid out in the *Coyote Mentoring Manual* by Jon Young. This resource forms the cornerstone of our program, providing a wealth of routines, games, and activities that enhance sensory and spatial awareness. These elements are integral to our approach and are woven throughout our programs, allowing children to engage deeply with the natural world.

Core Practices

Our core practices include a variety of activities designed to immerse children in nature and foster a deep connection with the outdoors. These include:

- **Animal Senses:** Encouraging children to embody and explore the behaviors and traits of different animals.
- **Boundaries:** Teaching children to document their observations and experiences, developing both navigational skills and reflective practices.
- **Wandering:** Allowing unstructured exploration to promote curiosity and discovery.
- **Exploration:** Cultivating an understanding of the local flora and fauna as a means to deepen awareness of the environment.
- **Observation Time:** Encouraging quiet observation in nature, fostering mindfulness and a deeper connection to the surroundings.
- **Bushcrafting and Tracking:** Introducing basic bushcraft skills and the art of tracking animals, plants, and environmental changes.
- **Questioning and Thanksgiving:** Promoting a culture of inquiry and gratitude, encouraging children to ask questions and express appreciation for the natural world.

ASK Practice:

In an effort to support our children's understanding of being safe within our outdoor environment, we created a simple acronym that guides our community practices:
A- Adult. Am I where an adult can see me?
S- Safe. Is what I'm doing safe for myself and others?
K- Kind. Is what I am doing kind?

Grade School Program

In our grade school program designed for children ages 7 to 12 (1st through 7th Grade), we integrate elements of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) and field study into our program with a focus on bushcraft and skill building. These components are built on our guiding practices allowing for a holistic exploration experience that combines hands-on learning in a child-led environment. This approach not only deepens children's connection to nature but also enhances their understanding of the natural world.

Child Observations

Educators along with the Admin Team regularly discuss their observations of the children's successes and growth and monitor their progress through the program year. If you feel there is ever a lack of updates and information, please reach out to your child's education team or the Admin Team. We are focused on the process of guiding children in their individual interests, celebrating the nuanced shifts of your child's growth in the following ways:

- ★ Observations
- ★ Photos
- ★ Brightwheel messaging
- ★ Informal check-in at pick-up and drop-off

Volunteer Opportunities

Parental and caregiver involvement contributes to our program's success. One of our core values is Community and we want to build one that is meaningful for our kids to see and be a part of. There are several ways in which you can volunteer your time - in the classroom, during events, helping with our annual fundraising campaigns, and more. If you are interested in joining our learning community please reach out to hello@barnaclesandbees.com.

2.11 Field Trips

Barnacles & Bees offers a variety of experiences both at and away from some of our program locations. Parents will be notified at least one week in advance of all field trips. In Belfair there will be regular visits to the Salmon Center and the Wetlands. Adult-child ratios are maintained at all times.

A "Parent/Guardian Permissions" form must be completed at the beginning of the program year for this off-site type of field trip.

2.12 Behavior Policy

At Barnacles & Bees we allow children to discuss and negotiate amongst themselves and will intervene as appropriate. Through positive redirection, mentors may offer support to those who are less practiced in expressing their needs and having empathy for others while building a safe community.

Intentional bullying, and conversations that are discriminatory (even unintentionally) will be documented and attended to, to the best of our ability. Parents are encouraged to connect with the teaching team if anything concerning is talked about at home so that communication between the program and home is strong and unified. Kid conversations can happen out of earshot of staff, and then only when they are home, children find a place to share their feelings openly. Please, follow up with the teaching team to get more information or find a solution. We rely on our families to be open and direct with us.

DISCLAIMER: Barnacles & Bees reserves the right to dismiss any child who jeopardizes the safety of the program over a period of time - with special attention to incidents after the first month when safety rules have been established and reinforced with the children repeatedly. While our hope is to provide support and

resources, we can not compromise the quality of our program and the safety of all children to provide specific one-on-one support to any one individual exclusively throughout the program.

Following are unacceptable behaviors, but not limited to:

Biting	Hitting (with hands or other objects)	Kicking
Tackling	Stomping	Punching
Spitting	Shouting	Swinging objects
Pulling	Pinching	Throwing at People
Teasing	Pushing	Exposing oneself to others

Behavior Policy Steps

In the event where a behavior persists after the first month of establishing safety rules that is not appropriate for a positive and safe community, the educators and the program administration will utilize the following process to support and guide the child's behavior with the intention of working collaboratively with the parents/caregivers:

1. First incident of a behavior
    a. The Educator document using ABC form for every incident or observation
    b. INFORMAL CONVERSATION with parent at pick-up/drop-off
    c. The conversation is documented
    d. Share document with Admin
    e. Admin will message with parent/caregiver a follow-up

2. After the Third documented incident that is consistently happening
    a. The Educator document using ABC form for every incident or observation
    b. Share document with Admin
    c. Meeting scheduled with Educators, Admin, and parent/caregiver
    d. A plan to support the child is discussed and documented to be shared with the parent/caregiver
        i. What do you find at home that supports the child?
        ii. What are some things we can do in program to support?
        iii. Outline a timeframe for re-evaluation and next step

3. Plan Follow-up
    a. Meeting scheduled with Educator, Admin, parent/caregiver
    b. Review if support changes discussed have been successful or not.
    c. If support changes have been successful, no further action at this time.
    d. If support changes have NOT been successful, ie continued behavior incidents:
        i. Based on the safety of the community/program as a whole we are not able to support the child's needs.
        ii. They will be withdrawn from the program.

Section 3: Health & Safety

3.1 Health & Wellness

As an outdoor program, we recognize that children will have sniffles and coughs and that transmission outside is lower. However, if these symptoms are accompanied with a change in behavior and/or your child is not able to manage the symptoms by covering their coughs and wiping their noses, we ask you to keep them home until the symptoms improve. An illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities (as determined by the staff) and an illness results in a greater need for care than the staff can reasonably provide without compromising the health or safety of other children in the classroom.

A should be kept home or a child will be sent home as soon as possible if any of the following is experienced:

- Fever of 101 (under the arm) or greater, until 24 hours symptom-free without fever-reducing medication
- Signs/symptoms of severe illness, including: lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, inexplicable irritability or persistent crying, difficulty breathing, and/or wheezing
- Diarrhea (not associated with diet changes or medications) (Two instances) until diarrhea stops for 24 hours or the continued diarrhea is deemed not be infectious by a licensed health care professional.
- Blood in stools not explainable by dietary change, medication, or hard stools
- Vomiting (One instance) the child can return after vomiting has been resolved for 24 hours or until a health care provider determines the cause for vomiting is not contagious and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- Head lice or nits
- Persistent abdominal pain (continues more than 2 hours) or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs/symptoms of illness
- Mouth sores with drooling, unless a health care provider determines the sores are not contagious
- Rash until a physician determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis) until after treatment has been initiated for 24 hours
- Scabies, until after treatment has been completed
- Tuberculosis, until a health care provider states that the child is on appropriate therapy and can attend child care
- Impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated
- Strep throat, until 24 hours after initial antibiotic treatment and cessation of fever
- Chickenpox, until all sores have dried and crusted (usually 6 days)
- Hand Foot and Mouth sores have dried and crusted and no fever
- Pertussis, until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed
- Mumps, until 9 days after onset of symptoms
- Hepatitis A virus, until 1 week after onset of illness
- Measles, until 4 days after onset of rash
- Rubella, until 6 days after onset of rash
- Unspecified respiratory tract illness accompanied by another illness which requires exclusion

Barnacles & Bees reserves the right to make the final determination of exclusion due to illness. Any exceptions to our illness policy will require a written note from a licensed healthcare professional stating that the child is not contagious.

Notice of Exposure & Reporting Disease

If your child or anyone in your household becomes ill with a communicable disease, please notify the Admin Team by Brightwheel message immediately.

Hand Washing

Frequent hand washing with soap and warm, running water is the most effective way to reduce and prevent the spread of illnesses commonly found in childcares such as the flu, diarrhea, and pink eye. Parents are encouraged to assist their child in the hand washing process upon arrival.

Other times your child (and staff members) will be expected to wash their hands, but not limited to:

- Upon arriving at the center or when changing classrooms
- After each use of the toilet
- Before and after meal times
- After handling bodily fluids (mucus, blood vomit)
- Before and after using communal play supplies
- After handling pets and other animals
- After cleaning or handling garbage

Medications

If your child requires medication (i.e. inhaler or EPIpen) during the program Barnacles & Bees staff will not administer any medication without a signed Medication Authorization Form. Forms can be obtained from the Admin Team.

Barnacles & Bees will not administer Tylenol for Fever.

Medications are carried in a First Aid designated bag by an educator in the child's class. The Medication Authorization Form must remain with the medication at all times. Unused medications must be immediately returned to the family and will not be stored.

3.2 Allergy Action Plan

All allergies must be documented in Brightwheel. It is the job of the staff to educate themselves on the health conditions of children in their care. If your child has a food allergy, please complete a Food Allergy Action Plan form. This form will be carried in a First Aid designated bag by an assigned staff member. If medication for an allergic reaction is provided, please have your physician sign the Food Allergy Action Plan as well.

All staff working with children with allergies must review the Allergy Action Plan to ensure understanding of emergency procedures should the child have an allergic reaction. All allergic reactions must be documented with a Health Incident Form.

3.3 Weather Related Closings

The Admin Team will monitor the weather and local news stations to determine when it is appropriate to close early or cancel programs. In the event that Barnacles & Bees closes early or cancels care for the following day, parents will be contacted and informed of the situation via Brightwheel. Children should be picked up in a reasonable amount of time to ensure all parents, children, and staff can travel safely home. Extreme weather make-up days may be added at the end of the year if more than 4 days are missed.

Weather Closure/Cancelation & Change of Plans on Site

When to cancel - Bremerton Programs

For ice and snow, we take our cues from the Bremerton School District and/or site staff for program cancellation. If the weather is deemed a danger to drivers, we will not ask parents to drive in risky conditions. Additionally, we may need to cancel due to high winds. Parents will be notified as soon as a decision is made via a message on the Brightwheel app if the program will not be running as usual.

When to cancel - Belfair Programs

We will take cues from the North Mason School District and/or site staff for program cancellation. If the weather is deemed a danger to drivers, we will not ask parents to drive in risky conditions. Additionally, we may need to cancel due to high winds. Parents will be notified as soon as a decision is made via a message on the Brightwheel app if the program will not be running as usual. Extreme weather make-up days may be added at the end of the year if more than 3 days are missed.

Change of Plans On Site - Bremerton Programs at K.U.U.F.

On days where bad weather occurs during class, we will take shelter under the covered outdoor space or inside the building. Parents will be notified through the Brightwheel app of the early pick up and any location

Change of Plans On Site - Belfair State Park

On days where bad weather occurs during class, we will take shelter under the picnic shelter in our learning space. If the shelter is unavailable the enclosed shelter by the playground in the day-use area will be used while waiting for the arrival of parents at the Belfair State Park location. Parents will be notified through the Brightwheel app of the early pick up and any location changes.

Change of Plans On Site - Belfair at Deer Hallow

On days where bad weather occurs during class, we will take shelter in the barn while waiting for the arrival of parents at the Belfair State Park location. Parents will be notified through the Brightwheel app of the early pick up and any location changes.

Weather Guidelines

Air Quality

We use airnow.gov to monitor the air quality at Barnacles & Bees sites. Anything 101 or higher program is canceled as it's unsafe for sensitive groups, and kids are considered part of this group. Here's a great graphic of who is included in "Sensitive Groups" and symptoms to be on the lookout for when interacting with others.

High Winds
We follow NOAA wind advisories and cancel programs when sustained winds of 25 mph and/or 25 mph gusts are predicted for a majority of the class time window. If wind picks up during the program we may end early; please watch for Brightwheel messages on gusty days.

Wind-Chill
If the wind-chill is at or above 32 degrees, experts generally agree that it is okay for kids to be playing outside. Below 32 degrees, kids can still enjoy outdoor time, but it is recommended that they take quick breaks to return inside and warm up every twenty to thirty minutes. Because we don't have adequate space to allow for warming up, the program is canceled if the temperature with wind-chills is predicted to be below 32 degrees during the class time window. We use the National Weather Service tool by NOAA for wind-chill forecasts.

3.4 Emergency Procedures

Parents will be called as soon as safely possible following an emergency situation. For the safety of children, parents, and staff, we ask that parents do not attempt to pick up their child during an emergency situation.

Fire

Bremerton Program at K.U.U.F.
In the event of a fire the children and educators will immediately go to the designated spot in the lower parking lot per the K.U.U.F. Emergency Plan. Once all children are accounted for, staff will notify families through Brightwheel.

Belfair State Park
In the event of a fire the children and educators will immediately go to the designated spot in the parking lot near the park entrance. Once all children are accounted for, staff will notify families through Brightwheel.

Belfair at the Deer Hallow
In the event of a fire the children and educators will immediately go to the road field. Once all children are accounted for, staff will notify families through Brightwheel.

Tsunami or Tornado

In case of a tsunami or tornado, each classroom has a designated area to seek shelter until the emergency is over.

Bomb, or other Emergency Situations

In case of a bomb or the emergency situation, each classroom has a designated area to seek shelter until the emergency is over.

Missing or Abducted Child

Maintaining visual contact with children is our staff's highest priority and one of our core safety measures (A - Am I where an adult can see me?) Our staff has been trained to communicate with one another and to the students about staying safe during their time outside.

In the event of a missing child, one of the teaching team staff will search for the child in the immediate area, while another staff member calls site staff such as the Park Ranger/Groundskeeper to help with the search.

- If the child cannot be located in a reasonable amount of time, the Program Director will notify the Police Department and the child's parents.
- In the event of an abducted child, the staff member with the child must immediately contact the Program Director and the Police Department, and the child's parents.

3.5 Child Safety

First Aid/CPR/EpiPen Training

Barnacles & Bees staff must hold and maintain a current CPR/First Aid training card on their person. The location of the nearest AED varies by location. In the event it is needed all children will be gathered by an adult in a shelter so that an adult can run to get it. When a child requires life saving medication to be on hand, a medical notice from the doctor is required on site.

Child Protection Policy

This document is available upon request. At its core, this policy aims to provide the safe practice of child care for both the adults and children in our program. As such, we do not allow children and adults to be one on one in our program in the bathroom or anywhere else.

Mandatory Child Abuse Reporters

As childcare professionals who interact with children on a daily basis, each staff member of Barnacles & Bess is a mandatory child abuse and neglect reporter and must contact the Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Family Services whenever abuse or neglect is suspected.

Sunscreen & Insect Repellent

Families have the option to supply sunscreen and insect repellent for their child/ren. A permission slip must be on file before sunscreen or insect repellent can be applied to a child. Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen or insect repellent to their child before arriving for the day.

Documentation of Accidents/Incidents

During program, if a child/children have been physically hurt as a result of a conflict or accident, our staff prioritizes the child with the more pressing injury while providing a safe space for the other party to calm down until an adult is available to connect and understand the situation.

Staff members shall document accidents and incidents that occur at Barnacles & Bees using an Incident report. Parents can expect a written follow up from the teaching team to outline the incident/accident or conflict/conversation that has taken place. The parent is required to respond to the message from the admin team in acknowledgement of receipt of the information.

Documents of Health Incidents

Each time a parent is contacted regarding an ill child or symptoms of illness, a Health Check will be completed in Brightwheel. All parents will be notified of any communicable illnesses present via a message in Brightwheel.

Documents of Special Health Care Needs

An Emergency Care Plan will be on file for any child with special health care needs (seizures, etc). A copy of the Emergency Care Plan must be kept in the class emergency binder. All staff working in the classroom must familiarize themselves with this plan, should an emergency arise. If necessary, staff will receive training regarding a child's specific health care needs.

Emergency Medical/Dental Procedure

It is important that parents complete and update, as needed, an Emergency Contact and Parental Consent Form. This form contains contact information for both the parents as well as the individuals authorized to pick up the child in the event of illness or emergency. In addition, the form allows Barnacles & Bees staff members to seek emergency medical or dental care from authorized care providers in the event of serious injury. It is the responsibility of the parent to complete this form and to make corrections to this information when necessary.

- If a child becomes ill or injured after arriving at the center, the teaching team will attempt to contact the parent(s) at all available telephone numbers. If a parent cannot be reached, the individuals listed as emergency contacts/authorized pick up persons on the Emergency Contact & Parental Consent form will be called.
- Children who are ill or seriously injured will be separated from the class with a staff member until a parent arrives.
- If the child requires immediate medical attention: The staff member who witnessed the emergency situation will remain with the injured child and instruct someone else to call 911. If no one is available, first ensure the child is stable and if possible, bring the child with you to call 911.
- A staff member who witnessed the emergency situation will accompany the child to the hospital, bringing the child's Emergency Contact & Parental Consent Form.
- The Admin Team will contact the parent(s).

Tobacco Use

Cigarettes/ Vapes and smokeless tobacco products are prohibited on premises, including parking lots and outdoor play areas.

Access Policy

Any person who is not an owner, staff member, substitute, or subcontracted staff or volunteer who has had a record check and approval to be involved with programs shall not have unrestricted access to children for whom that person is not the parent, guardian or custodian, nor be counted in the staff to child ratio. Unrestricted access means that a person has contact with a child alone or is directly responsible for child care.

Persons who do not have unrestricted access will be under the direct supervision and monitoring of a paid staff member at all times and will not be allowed to assume any child care responsibilities. Barnacles & Bees staff will approach anyone who is in the shelter area to ask what their purpose is.

Affidavit Policy

At times families may be dealing with difficult situations at home. When legal matters are present in the home, families may need to collect affidavits for their legal team. Due to the nature of the relationship between caregiver and child, families may choose to ask a Barnacles & Bees staff member to provide such a statement. Our program's priority is providing the best possible care when children are away from home and our focus will remain on the child, making sure all their needs are met during what could be a difficult time at home.

Barnacles & Bees staff members will not provide written statements or affidavits of a professional nature to families.

3.6 Program Safety

Daily Prior to Program Start

To ensure the safety of all program participants, staff will be responsible for walking the perimeters and interior of the learning environment in order to check for any trash or objects that may incur a safety risk. This includes but may not be limited to the bathrooms, shelters, commonly used walking paths, and drop-off/pick-up areas. On days where the group will be hiking outside of the defined classroom area, additional protocol will be in place to ensure children's safety: (1) prior to leaving the classroom area the expectations around trash and non-natural items found on the ground will be reviewed (2) a staff member will remain as the lead of the group. It will be their responsibility to visually scan the area as they walk, looking for any potentially harmful items. In the event that a harmful object is found, that item will be disposed of in the appropriate manner and State Park officials will be notified, if deemed necessary. We follow the principle of "leave no trace", ensuring that we are leaving areas as clean as we found them.

During Program Practices

Our outdoor program space has no walls, therefore we practice the following to provide a safe environment.

- ★ Boundaries: We defined the space via a visual boundary of sticks, windsocks, or other visual identifiers. When on wanders and hikes, this same principle will be applied to wherever we stop. Before play begins, we want to get the kids in the habit of defining the boundaries of the space.
- ★ Ratio: For safety and in alignment with best practices for outdoor programs we maintain a maximum ratio of 1 staff member to 5 children.
- ★ Bathroom Policy: For the safety of all children, Barnacles & Bees follows a "two or more" bathroom policy. An educator or approved parent volunteer always accompanies children to the bathroom in groups of two or more. If only one child needs to go, a "bathroom buddy" is selected to join, ensuring no child is ever alone with an adult. During bathroom visits, educators/parent volunteers stay close enough to offer support while still respecting each child's privacy and independence.
- ★ Sticks: Children love to play with sticks. Although sticks can be dangerous with sharp ends, we conscientiously provide guidance and heed to the following rules: "Big stick, big space." Sticks have to be carried point down, are not thrown or pointed at others, are not to be put in the mouth, and are not for running.
- ★ Climbing: Children are not allowed to climb beyond twice their height, and to only climb when an adult is in close proximity. No children will be allowed to stand or climb below them.
- ★ Plants: While there are plants that are good to eat, including mushrooms, misidentifying them can be terribly dangerous and for this reason we will not be sampling the local edible plants and fungus in class.
- ★ Fire: Barnacles & Bees incorporates this activity into our current program with strict safety measures in place: a vessel of water near at hand, a clear boundary around the fire to stay outside of, and an understanding that the space around the fire demands slow and careful steps.
- ★ Trash: While it is our intention to support children's growth as stewards of the earth, we have established that it is best practice that staff only pick up trash and any other items that are not natural to the environment and in turn may pose a safety risk.

★ Walkie Talkies: At sites where the space is very expansive, staff are equipped with walkie talkies to communicate with each other for safety purposes.

★ Water Safety: We intentionally spend time exploring water, and for good reason: the kids LOVE it. Children are allowed to wade into the water up to their ankles. They are required to keep their belly facing the water. No running on the beach. An adult has to be present on the beach with them. During colder months we ask children to limit their play in the water, including no wading.

Once a child has been checked-out for the day Barnacles & Bees is no longer responsible for the well-being of your child.