



Essential Eligibility Criteria

Ketcha Outdoors takes the health and safety of our community very seriously. This includes the physical and emotional safety of our students and our staff. Preschool is a magical place where children have the opportunity to grow, make connections with others, experience challenges, learn new skills, and gain a sense of community. All children have their own strengths and challenges and grow at their own pace. We are here to help guide students as they develop skills and knowledge.

To help you identify if your child is ready for our Farm and Forest Preschool program, please indicate where your child falls on these scales to help determine if our program is the right fit for your child at this time:

Required Skills to Attend the Farm & Forest Preschool:

Required eligibility criteria:

1. Full potty training.
 - a. Full potty training means that children can take on/off their pants and underwear, get on and off the toilet, wipe themselves, flush the toilet, and thoroughly wash their hands (including turning on/off the faucet) without adult support.
 - b. We require that all students are fully potty trained before starting in our program because the outdoor nature of our program means that we cannot provide 1:1 supervision when students go to the bathroom without comprising the safety of our other students.
2. Can stay with their group and teacher throughout the day and follow verbal teacher directions.
 - a. This is a required skill to participate in our programming because running away from the group and/or not following directions in our outdoor setting is a safety risk.
3. Asks for help when they need it and communicates their basic needs.
 - a. We expect that all students can communicate with teachers when they need to use the bathroom, drink water, eat food, and meet other basic needs. In our outdoor setting, being able to identify these basic needs is vital to maintaining a safely nourished and cared for body, which is why we require students to have mastered this skill prior to enrollment.

Essential Skills to Succeed in the Farm & Forest Preschool:

The following skills are essential for success in our program. However, there may be some skills that your child is still working to master. Please assess your child on the scale below by placing an “X” or check in the most appropriate box for each skill. If your child is not consistently able to do most of these things, please contact Kailina Mills (the Farm & Forest School Director) to discuss whether this program will be a good fit for your child. We understand that at preschool age, children are still developing many of these skills. We want to make sure all students enrolled in our program are successful, which is why we ask that you take the time to reflect on your child’s abilities here.

Skill	My child is not yet in a place to work on this skill or has not yet begun to work on this skill.	My child is actively working on this skill and may sometimes need support with it.	My child has mastered this skill. They have it down and don’t need support with it.
Navigates transitions calmly and can walk from location to location throughout the day			
Independently navigates hills, uneven trails, and rough terrain			
Independently changes in & out of their clothing, including shoes, socks, and winter gear			
Uses established and appropriate coping mechanisms to regulate their body & emotions following events that cause frustration, sadness, anger, or other difficult emotions			
Uses gentle hands when playing with others and using toys/materials			
Demonstrates age-appropriate social and emotional skills in managing personal boundaries and space.			

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Demonstrates age-appropriate social and emotional skills in managing social relationships, communication, and navigating stress & conflict.			

What support can teachers typically provide?

- Teachers are able to help children talk through difficult moments and provide peaceful conflict resolution as needed.
- Teachers can provide age-appropriate support and coaching with basic needs such as changing, toileting, and hand washing.
- Teachers can help children regulate and find coping strategies that work for them.
- Teachers can support students through transitions with visual schedules, reminders, and positive language.

What support can we not safely provide?

- Given the nature of our program, we cannot safely provide extensive behavioral support that requires 1:1 support of a student. Ketcha does not provide 1:1 services, but we can accommodate those services when provided by parents, CDS, or a third party service.
- We are not able to accommodate medical issues requiring treatment beyond the scope of our health center and Camp Nurse as outlined in our Standing Orders prescribed by our Camp Doctor.

If you are unsure about whether your child meets the Essential Eligibility Criteria, then please contact us to discuss their needs/interests and possible accommodations to support them. We would love to learn about your child and how we may be able to provide a healthy and safe preschool experience. Our school may be able to accommodate a child if it does not significantly alter the fundamental nature of the program experience for other children, jeopardize the health and safety of the child or other children/staff/volunteers, or place an undue administrative or financial burden on Ketcha.