

Wild Roots Parent Handbook 2024-2025



**“Children learn as they play.
More importantly, in play, children learn how to learn.”**
– O. Fred Donaldson, Play Expert





“To raise a nature-bonded child is to raise a rebel, a dreamer, an innovator...someone who will walk their own verdant, winding path.”
– Nicolette Sowder



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**“There are three teachers of children: adults, other children,
and their physical environment.”**

– Loris Malaguzzi

The Backcountry Wilderness Area

The Backcountry Wilderness Area consists of 13 square miles of land that was set aside for conservation during the development of Highlands Ranch. The Backcountry Wilderness Area provides important habitat to many different species. Elk, coyotes, black bears, golden eagles, bobcats, great horned owls, bull snakes, bluebirds and wild turkeys are just a few of the species that call the Backcountry home. The mission of the Backcountry Wilderness Area is to improve wildlife habitat, inspire the next generation of environmental stewards and ignite a lifelong love of the outdoors for all.

Our Facilities

Located at 5,920 feet in the heart of the Front Range, our 8,200-acre campus serves as the ultimate learning environment. Our Base Camp facilities include outdoor learning spaces, natural playscapes, learning garden, fire pit, discovery trail and all of our barnyard friends. Just down the road from our Base Camp is our state-of-the-art archery range and horse corrals.

Campus Address

6005 Ron King Trail
Littleton, CO 80125

Phone

Field Phone: 720-576-4245
Director (AnnaKate Hein): 303-471-8876
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Email

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Your Child's Teachers: wildrootsteachers@hrcaonline.org

Wild Roots Mission and Vision Statements

Wild Roots is an alternative to preschool as you know it. Wild Roots is an outdoor-based early childhood education program for children ages 3-6. Our program offers an immersive experience in nature with a play-based approach to learning. Our flexible outdoor learning environment allows for an emergent curriculum, with teachers acting as guides, noticing each child's observations and interests.

We know that conventional teaching methods fail to understand the true nature and purpose of education. Children are not hollow vessels waiting to be shaped by a teacher but are unique human beings deserving of a holistic education that caters for all of their needs. Children learn through play and learn best when they are allowed to move their bodies and focus on what interests them. At Wild Roots, children can show up fearlessly and unapologetically themselves.

We Are Committed to these Principles:

- Children learn through play: children develop the skills they need both for school and life through play.
- Children learn best when they are interested in what they are learning: our flexible outdoor environment allows teachers to be responsive to the interests of the children, freeing them to construct knowledge together.
- Children are not hollow vessels waiting to be shaped by a teacher.
- We hold space for the curious, the strong-willed, the expressive, and the free-spirited.
- Nature is the best venue for play: nature is full of loose parts, inspires imaginative play, active play, and problem solving.
- Low teacher to child ratios: we always maintain a 1:6 ratio.
- Emphasis on empowering children through positive guidance: we do not use reward systems or punishments.
- Frequent, immersive experiences in nature in a variety of weather builds resilience.
- Children must spend time in nature in order to develop respect for all living things and a sense of environmental stewardship.
- Today's children will be tomorrow's environmental stewards.

Our Goals:

- To help each child grow and learn through developmentally appropriate practices
- To prepare each child to succeed, both socially and academically
- To foster a love for, and connection to, the natural world

Curriculum

Our program seeks to build student's social, emotional, cognitive, physical, linguistic, problem-solving, and nature skills through an outdoor nature-based program. Wild Roots incorporates ecological awareness and STEAM concepts in order to help learners of all ages connect to themselves, others, and the natural, cultural, and geographical components of their communities. This is accomplished through an emergent curriculum, with teachers acting as guides, taking the time to notice each child's observations and interests. Teachers are responsive to the needs and interests of each child, rather than following a rigid or set curriculum. Teachers adapt any planned curriculum based on the student's interests. Emergent curriculum focuses on the process of learning that emerges from the children. It is designed to be open-ended and self-directed in order to meet the needs and interests of every child. It relies on teacher initiative and students' intrinsic motivation. This might mean that a lesson or art activity that was pre-planned is scrapped entirely for something else, or that the class studies clouds for only one day, or for three whole weeks, as it is the student's interests that fuel the curriculum.

Clothing, Gear & Materials

All season outdoor play is a vital part of early childhood development, and at Wild Roots we are typically outside at least a portion of the day every day, no matter the weather. Most days we are outdoors the entire day. All students must come with gear that is appropriate to the weather each day. Anyone who is not adequately dressed is not able to attend that day. Please refer to our full gear guide on the website.

Everyday Materials - Please label all belongings!

- **A backpack** your child can carry independently. Inside the backpack you should pack:
 - Spill-proof, insulated **water bottle** (please be sure your child's name is labeled on top of the lid, as well as the bottle itself)
 - A **healthy, high-energy morning snack** (in a small bento box with your child's name on it)
 - **Extra shirt, pants/shorts, underwear, and socks** packed inside a zippered wet bag (for messy clothes/accidents)
- A **high-energy lunch** packed inside an insulated lunch box with an ice pack
- Your child's **teatime set**, with an **afternoon snack** packed inside the teatime kit bag or the teatime kit bag can be attached to an insulated lunch box if you wish
- **Hat**
 - A sun hat with a wide brim is required in the spring, summer, and fall
 - A winter hat is required in the fall, winter, and spring

Layers

We recommend wearing and bringing layers of clothing so your child can make adjustments as needed according to changes in weather and activity levels.

Footwear

Boots or sturdy **waterproof** shoes with good grip on the bottom. Even when it is not raining, the ground may remain wet or we may play in water or mud. Footwear must be closed-toed (no sandals, including Keens). If you send your child in non-waterproof footwear, no matter the time of year, you **MUST** send a second pair of shoes for them to change into should their feet get wet.

For Rain and Snow

- Base layer should be 100% polyester or natural fabric such as wool or silk. The fabric should wick moisture away from the skin and provide a warm, breathable layer. No cotton.
- Mid layer of insulation made of wool or fleece.
- An outer shell of waterproof, windproof clothing, including a rain or snow jacket and rain or snow pants.

- For the feet, we recommend neoprene Bogs or Sorel boots. Please make sure boots are not too small, as this cuts off circulation to the feet and makes them colder.
- Warm hat that covers the ears
- Waterproof mittens or gloves that can easily be taken on and off. Mittens are warmer and much easier to put on and take off! If your child cannot get fingered gloves on by themselves, we strongly recommend wearing mittens on cold days.

Outdoor Play in All Weather Conditions

All season outdoor play is a vital part of early childhood development, and at Wild Roots we are typically outside at least a portion of the day every day, no matter the weather. Most days we are outdoors the entire day.

We have access to a permanent building located on our neighbor's property, a short walk from our Base Camp. We move indoors if conditions are unsafe to remain outdoors or if teachers deem it necessary at any point in time. Our general guidelines are to move indoors when temperatures drop below 20 degrees or rise above 95 degrees, but our staff use their best judgement and consider all weather factors including wind, humidity, sun & shade, and precipitation. The group may move in before temperatures reach these guidelines, or on the contrary, the group may stay out if other weather conditions make it safe to remain outdoors despite temperatures reaching these guidelines.

Heat/Sun – Activities that take place in the sun or that require lots of movement will be minimized as necessary due to extreme temperatures. We will seek shade, stay cool with misters and water games, or take a break indoors or move indoors for the day as staff deem necessary due to heat.

Snow/Cold – We will keep our bodies moving, be sure gloves and hats remain on, use hand warmers, and take a break indoors or move indoors for the day as staff deem necessary due to cold. Even if it is not actively snowing, if it is cold and the ground might be wet, please be sure your child has snow pants with them.

Rain – We will typically remain outdoors in the rain as long as wind and temperature do not require us to move in. Please be sure your child has a raincoat and rain bibs or full rain suit in their bag any day there is any chance of rain.

Lightning – In the event of lightning or any severe weather we will move indoors immediately. We will remain indoors until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike within 6 miles.

Fire, Flood, or Tornado– If there is a natural disaster such as a fire, flood, or tornado, we will immediately proceed to the nearest secure location. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as it is safe to do so.

Activities & Guidelines for Safe Behavior in Nature

Due to the outdoor nature of our program, with no walls or physical boundaries, it is imperative that students are capable of following safety instructions and boundaries given by a teacher. Children are expected to stay within the boundaries that have been established by teachers at all times.

Hikes

To ensure the group's safety, anytime the group is changing locations, students must stay behind the lead teacher and in front of the sweep teacher. The lead teacher checks for hazards along the path.

Sticks, Rocks & Plants

Students will interact with these materials every day, and we will facilitate their play in age-appropriate ways. Our guidance is centered around keeping each other safe, attending to our immediate environment, and building communication skills. Children may not play with a stick that is longer than their arm, unless it is clearly and responsibly being used as a walking stick, a tool (digging, for example), or for building under the supervision of a teacher. To keep everyone safe, running is not permitted while holding a stick.

Collecting, Digging & Building

As we support the students in being good stewards of the land we are on, we encourage children not to take the first thing they see & not to take more than they need. We discourage picking of flowers, to minimize our impact and leave them for pollinators. We encourage collaborative play, which often includes gathering, altering the land, and creating structures or play areas. Some structures may be left up and others we may work together to remove before the end of the day, to minimize our impact.

Ingestion

Children may not eat or drink any substance or material found in nature.

Climbing Trees & Campfires

Each child goes through individualized assessment on the risk and capabilities of each higher-risk activity. In climbing trees: students must be within an arm's length of an adult and may not engage in climbing without permission from an adult. Children are not permitted to climb higher than their height. During all tree climbing and campfire activities, students are actively supervised by one teacher solely responsible for the child(ren) who are climbing or who are around the campfire.

School Calendar for the '24-'25 School Year

The Wild Roots school year runs from August '24 through July of '25. Tuition is divided up into 12 equal payments throughout the year and cannot be paused due to vacations or for any other reason.

- First Day of Fall Semester: Monday, August 12
- **Monday, September 2: Closed for Labor Day**
- **Wednesday, November 27-Friday, November 29: Closed for Thanksgiving Break**
- Last Day of Fall Semester: Friday, December 20
- **Monday, December 23-Friday, January 3: Closed for Winter Break**
- First Day of Spring Semester: Monday, January 6
- **March 17-21: Closed for Spring Break**
- **Monday, May 26-Tuesday, May 27: Closed for Memorial Day Holiday**
- Last Day of Spring Semester: Friday, May 30
- First Day of Summer Session: Monday, June 2
- **Thursday, July 3-Friday, July 4: Closed for 4th of July**
- Last Day of Summer Session: Friday, August 1
- **Monday, August 4-Friday, August 8, 2025: Closed for Summer Break**

Sample Schedule

9:00-9:30 a.m. Drop off and Child-Led Play at Landing Pads

Upon arrival, families will prepare children for the day with toileting, sunscreen application, and layering up for the weather, then helping their child plug into play at our landing pads. Landing pads will rotate based on the weekly single-skill and may include things such as sensory tables full of science investigations, water table, mud kitchen, reading tent, art easel, building projects, or play in the fairy forest. Then we say, “see you soon!” to our caregivers to start our days’ adventures.

9:40-9:50 a.m. Gathering Circle

At the sound of the drumbeat echoing through the woods, we join together as a community to sing good morning songs, greet our friends, go over the weather, discuss expectations, and talk about the days’ rhythm.

9:50-10:20 a.m. Snack & Storytime

We take a break to use the potty and wash hands, and head to our morning adventure spot where we fuel up on a snack (brought from home), and read stories related to the weekly single-skill.

10:20-a.m.-12:00 p.m. Nature Immersion / Child-Led Play

Perhaps the most important of all, our child-led time spent in nature will look different each day. We set up our classroom with loose parts related to the weekly single-skill, and children get the opportunity to explore and relate with nature on their own terms and to have uninterrupted child-led play in nature. Social-emotional learning, imagination, creativity, and wonder take the reins, and the possibilities are purposefully endless.

12:00-12:45 p.m. Lunch

Children will have the opportunity for an unhurried lunch (brought from home) and time to talk and tell stories with friends.

12:45-1:45 p.m. Sit Spots & Independent Play

An independent sit spot gives children a chance to rest their minds, still their bodies, and recharge for the afternoon. Depending on the weekly single-skill, children are offered sensory materials, art materials, books, or other independent play options.

1:45-3:00 p.m. Guided Activity

After sit spots, we use the potty and then transition to our afternoon adventure. Our teachers typically lead a guided activity related to the weekly single skill, such as an art project, scavenger hunt, science experiment, gardening, or visiting the animals. On Wednesdays, families may opt for their child to participate in Young Musician’s Academy, a fun hands-on, interactive music class.

3:00-3:30 p.m. Afternoon Teatime

We drink tea, eat our afternoon snack (brought from home), sing songs to reflect on the day’s highlights, and to say goodbye to our friends.

3:30-4:00 p.m. Pickup & Child-Led Play at Landing Pads

Children have the opportunity to revisit our landing pads, which vary based on the weekly single skill: act out a puppet show, swing in the hammock, dig in the construction zone, create in the mud kitchen, or splash in the water table. We rejoin our families with lots of stories to tell about our days’ adventures.

Enrollment Process

1. Fill out the [Registration Application](#)
2. After we receive your registration application, you and your child will be invited to join us for a tour. During your tour you will get to see our Base Camp and various learning spaces, meet with the Director, learn about our child-led approach, ask any questions you have, and allow us to learn more about your family.
3. If it seems like Wild Roots will be a good fit for your family, and space is available, we will contact you about having a spot for your child. You will have 72 hours to confirm this spot. Upon confirmation, our administrative coordinator will charge the tuition deposit and registration fee in order to secure your child’s spot. If our class is already full, we will reach out to you about adding your child to our interest list at no charge, so that we can reach out to you should a spot open up.

Tuition

Full-Day, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

5 days/week (Monday - Friday): \$1,640 monthly

3 days/week (Mon/Wed/Fri): \$1,075 monthly

2 days/week (Tue/Th): \$745 monthly

- A NON-REFUNDABLE tuition deposit of the first month's tuition is due upon enrollment to secure your child's spot at Wild Roots.
- A one-time NON-REFUNDABLE Registration Fee of \$200 will be billed upon confirmed enrollment.
- A one-time Start Up Kit fee of \$75 will be billed upon confirmed enrollment. The start-up kit fee covers required materials provided by Wild Roots including an afternoon teatime kit, sit spot (rest time) blanket and materials, and nature journal.
- The remainder of tuition is due on the last Friday of each month for the upcoming month.

Tuition will not be prorated or refunded due to missed days, sick days, or cancelled days (such as snow days). Tuition is divided up into 12 equal payments throughout the year and cannot be paused due to vacations or for any other reason, including for a summer break, without risk of losing your child's spot.

Children may not attend any days other than what they are enrolled for and have paid tuition for. Missed days, sick days, or cancelled days may not be made up on a child's non-scheduled days.

Parents wishing to no longer enroll their child in Wild Roots should provide written notification via email to wildrootsnaturepreschool@hrcaonline.org. You must include your full name, your child's full name, and the date of their last day of enrollment. Full or partial refunds will not be made for tuition that has already been paid. Notification must be given at least 10 calendar days prior to the next charge (last Friday of the month) to avoid being charged for the upcoming month.

Class Size & Ratios

Wild Roots never exceeds a class size of 15 children, and always maintains a 1:6 teacher to child ratio. Regardless of group size, two staff members will always remain with the group.

Operating Hours

Operating hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Children may not be dropped off prior to 9:00 a.m. and must be picked up prior to 4:00 p.m.

Wild Roots closes promptly at 4:00 p.m., which means an adult must be present and have signed out the child prior to 4:00. A fee of \$10 per child for every 5 minutes you are late will be charged for any child not picked up before the school's regular closing time.

Fees for late pickup must be paid before your child will be admitted back. If you are consistently late picking up your child, the Director will send a letter asking you to look for alternative care that better fits your family's schedule.

We will wait until 4:05 p.m. before calling the numbers listed on your emergency contact form, to locate you or the other individuals you have authorized us to call in case of an emergency. If we are unable to contact anyone, at 4:30 p.m. we will notify both the Douglas County Sheriff's

Department and the State Department of Human Services to inform them that we have an abandoned child in our care.

Weather Cancellations & Delays

Wild Roots typically follows DCSD cancellations due to snow and severe weather. Although rare, due to the outdoor nature of our program, there is a possibility of additional cancelled days, even if DCSD remains open.

In the event of a cancellation or delayed start, you will receive a text message sent via CampInTouch. Before your child begins at Wild Roots, please be sure to download the Companion app onto your phone from the App Store or Google Play. This will allow you to stay connected to your child's experience at Wild Roots Nature Preschool with daily photos, notes from your child's teacher and the directors, as well as notifications for delayed starts, early closures, or emergencies.

No adjustment in tuition will be made for closures or delayed starts.

Required Paperwork

Children will not be allowed to begin at Wild Roots until all paperwork is completed via CampInTouch. CampInTouch is a secure network that we use to collect personal, medical, and emergency contact information electronically for Wild Roots. Not only does CampInTouch streamline the paperwork process, but it also ensures we have a way to communicate with you via text message in the event of an illness, injury, or larger scale emergency.

How it works:

- You'll receive a link in your registration email from HRCA that will direct you to the Application Form on CampInTouch.
- Enter your information to create a free account, or log in if you already have an existing account (note: CampInTouch accounts are separate from your HRCA account)
- Select the session(s) that you registered your child for and submit the application.
- You will then be directed to your home page and will access the rest of the paperwork there. You can either continue in the CampInTouch browser or download and use the sister app called Companion to finish the paperwork and upload forms. Companion uses the same login information as CampInTouch.
- Enter the required information, like medical conditions, and any additional paperwork and press submit.
- CampInTouch will show you what forms need to be completed or if any are missing.

Contact sami.dhainin@hrcaonline.org if you have any trouble or questions about completing your child's paperwork on CampInTouch.

Children's Ages

Children ages three years to six years may attend Wild Roots. Children must turn three prior to their start date at Wild Roots.

Lunch and Snacks

All food a student requires throughout the day must be sent from home. Please pack a large, healthy lunch each day. We recommend avoiding many sugary snacks and juice. We recommend packing your child's lunch inside a bento box, which should then be placed inside an insulated lunch box with an ice pack. Lunches will not be refrigerated and cannot be heated.

You must also pack a morning snack and an afternoon snack, in addition to lunch. Morning snack should be placed inside your child's backpack. We recommend using a small bento box for morning snack to give your child a few options and plenty of high-energy food for our morning play. Afternoon snacks should be placed inside your child's teatime kit bag, or the teatime bag should be attached to their afternoon snack box.

Toileting

Wild Roots requires all students to be potty trained, no exceptions. This includes the ability to communicate toilet needs to a teacher, as well as ability to use the potty independently. Teachers are not permitted to change diapers or pullups.

Students will use a child-sized port-a-potty during their time at Wild Roots. Potties are professionally cleaned at least once per week, and are disinfected daily by Wild Roots staff. Baby wipes, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and a full hand wash set up are available to students at the potty.

Anytime a student is using the potty, a teacher is present to help as necessary, but students should be able to go to the potty independently. This requires students to be able to push down and pull up their own pants/shorts/underwear. We ask that all shorts/pants/snowbibs etc. worn to Wild Roots have an elastic waistband, please no buttons, snaps, or zippers. We also recommend making sure your child's pants/shorts are not too small or tight, as that can make it challenging for them to get their pants up or down on their own.

In the event of an accident, students are supported by staff to get into new clothing. Soiled clothes will be placed inside the student's zippered wet bag and given to the parents at the end of each day. All students are required to have a set of clean, spare clothes placed inside their zippered wet bag, which should be inside their backpack. This includes pants or shorts, shirt, socks, and underwear.

Please make sure your child uses the potty right before you drop them off in the morning.

Hand Washing

Anytime after toileting, anytime before eating, and anytime after visiting the animals, all students and staff must wash their hands with soap and water. A staff member is always present during hand washing to ensure that proper hand washing techniques are followed by students.

If soap and water are not readily available (due to extreme winter conditions etc.) then hand sanitizer may be used in lieu of soap and water. Baby wipes will also be available to help remove dirt and visible soil from hands prior to use of hand sanitizer.

Positive Guidance Strategies

Wild Roots has developed guidelines and expectations to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all students. The Director works closely with teachers to implement teaching strategies that encourage positive behavior, through use of positive guidance strategies. Staff are trained to set boundaries, but never use punishments, rewards-based systems, or timeouts. Our staff undergoes ongoing trainings on child development, to ensure developmentally appropriate practices. Teachers will communicate with parents/guardians daily, so that families and staff can work as a team in the best interest of each child.

If staff efforts to redirect challenging behaviors continue to fail after discussions with parents, we will follow a 3-step process: 1) Set up a conference with the parents, teachers, and director to ensure we are all working towards the same goals for the child and come up with a support plan. 2) The child will be put on a behavior modification plan and teachers will continue to work closely with families and the child to provide the support needed. 3) Possible expulsion from Wild Roots.

The Director reserves the right to suspend a student for the remainder of the school year or in perpetuity if a student behaves in a way that is considered to be detrimental to the quality and best interest of the program, that child's safety, or other children's safety.

Our Teachers

Our number one priority at Wild Roots is the health and safety of your child. Our staff are all qualified early childcare professionals. All staff undergo background checks, are certified in First Aid and CPR, and complete ongoing training in the areas of child development, group management, positive guidance strategies, and outdoor group safety.

Our teachers are responsible for the health, safety, and discipline of students when a group is working with an outside contractor who comes to Wild Roots. Wild Roots always maintains required staff to student ratios, not including contractors from the special activity.

Attendance Procedures

Students must be signed in and out each day by a caregiver. The sign-in and sign-out sheets must have the time of arrival and departure and an authorized person's signature. Before leaving your child, please ensure that they have gone potty, have sunscreen applied, and are dressed appropriately for the weather, and have everything they need for the day.

Once checked in, Wild Roots staff will also check the student in on CampInTouch, and will do regular Face to Name checks throughout the day anytime we change locations.

Students will not be released to unauthorized individuals. Parents/guardians or anyone designated by the parent / guardian on CampInTouch as an emergency contact is authorized to pick up the student. If an individual other than a parent or emergency contact is picking up a student, Wild Roots requires written and signed notice by the parent / guardian. Any adult that Wild Roots staff do not recognize will be asked for a photo ID.

Missing Child

If a child cannot be located at any point in the day, a teacher must immediately alert all full-time BWA staff, including the Director. A search of the premises will be conducted, and emergency services will be called, followed by the parents/guardians.

Visitors

All visitors are required to check in upon arrival. We kindly ask that visits by parents / guardians and friends are limited to drop-off and pick-up windows. All children present at Wild Roots must be enrolled, with complete registration paperwork completed on CampInTouch. Children who are visiting and not enrolled may not participate in any class activities.

Sunscreen

To protect your child from sunburn and other hazards of sun exposure, sunscreen should be applied daily. Caregivers should apply sunscreen to their child before arriving for the day. Teachers will reapply sunscreen in the middle of the day during sit spots, or more often as deemed necessary. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing a bottle of sunscreen to Wild Roots, labeled with their child's full name—lotion only, no spray sunscreen.

Sickness

A record of current immunizations and health history are required for enrollment. These documents are kept by Wild Roots and must be updated annually as required by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Denver Department of Human Services, and Colorado Department of Early Childhood Licensing.

For the protection of your child and others, your child may not attend Wild Roots if any of the following symptoms are present or have been present within the last 24 hours:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Flu-like Symptoms (sore throat, cough, runny nose, congestion, fatigue)
- Severe Coughing, including croup
- Conjunctivitis
- Chicken Pox
- Impetigo
- Norovirus
- Ringworm
- Head Lice
- Strep Throat
- Any Respiratory Virus (COVID-19, Influenza, RSV)
- Other Vaccine Preventable Diseases (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Pertussis—Whooping Cough)

Students must be symptom free for greater than 24 hours without the use of any medication prior to returning.

Children must be kept home if they do not feel well enough to take part in usual activities at Wild Roots. For example, if a child is overly tired, fussy, or will not stop crying, or does not have the energy to hike to our various locations and participate in active play.

Please notify Wild Roots immediately if your child contracts any communicable disease. This helps ensure other children and staff are not exposed, or that other children's families can be notified to help prevent others from becoming ill. This information will be handled in a confidential manner.

If a child is brought to Wild Roots with any of the above symptoms, they will not be allowed to stay. If a child becomes sick while at Wild Roots, the child will be separated from the group, and an authorized parent/guardian or emergency contact will be required to pick up the student within 30 minutes of being contacted.

Medications

Wild Roots can only accept medication with proper documentation signed by a doctor and uploaded to CampInTouch. Medications must be in their original packaging, not expired, and labeled with your child's full name. This includes all over the counter medications, prescription medications, homeopathic remedies, and topical ointments. If your child carries an EPIPen or an inhaler, you must have the Allergy/Asthma Action Plan form completed by a doctor and uploaded to CampInTouch.

Hospital / Medical Emergency

You are required to provide your hospital of choice on the medical information section of CampInTouch. Your child will only be transported to a hospital via ambulance in the case of a severe or life-threatening injury, or as determined necessary by EMS. A staff member will never drive a child to the hospital or doctor. If a child were to be transported by EMS, and the parent/guardian is not yet present, a staff member from Wild Roots will accompany the child to the hospital and will remain with the child until the parent/guardian or an authorized emergency contact arrives to take over responsibility for the child. If we contact you to let you know that we have called EMS, you are required to make immediate arrangements to come to meet your child within 30 minutes or have an authorized emergency contact that can come within 30 minutes.

In the case of a less severe injury, a staff member will contact you and you will be required to make arrangements to come transport your child home or to the doctor or hospital, as necessary.

Cost for treatment or transportation arising out of an accident or injury at Wild Roots is the responsibility of the child's parent / legal guardian.

Food Allergies

Wild Roots staff are prepared to manage food allergies and common dietary restrictions. In order to do this, it is pertinent that all allergies or restrictions are properly noted on your camper's medical forms on CampInTouch. To minimize exposure to potential allergens, Wild Roots has a policy that students may not share food.

Special Needs

Our staff will work to the best of their ability to assist participants with special needs and we will make every possible effort to accommodate each student on a case-by-case basis. Due to the outdoor and exploratory nature of Wild Roots, students must be able to move around on uneven terrain. If you have questions about your child's ability to participate at Wild Roots, please contact annakate.hein@hrcaonline.org or 303-471-8876.

Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are very special at Wild Roots, and we love to celebrate with your child! We celebrate in a traditional Waldorf fashion, celebrating another trip around the sun, allowing them to experience the rhythms of a year. Each child is gifted a silk birthday crown, and we sing as they walk around the sun, honoring each year of their life. Families are welcome to bring in a snack or treat to share with the class. These will be given out during afternoon teatime.

If you wish to bring a special treat for your child's birthday, please bring in a snack or treat that is prepackaged with an FDA food label so that staff can check for allergens. Please no homemade food / treats to share.

Video Viewing

Videos and movies may be shown when we are required to move indoors for an extended period of time due to severe weather. We aim to have all videos and movies related to the single-skill. All videos and movies shown will be G or PG rated and have been previewed and deemed appropriate before viewing.

Prohibited Items

- Knives or weapons
- Fire starting materials
- Spending money – Backcountry Wilderness Area gear is available for purchase at the Gear Shack. Purchases can only be made by an adult with a credit card.
- Sporting Equipment
- Chewing Gum
- Use of Electronic Devices

Parent Code of Conduct

Wild Roots expects that all adults and children within our school be treated with dignity and respect. We will not tolerate discrimination or prejudice from anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or immigration status. This applies to all employees, teachers, parents, guardians, caregivers, or any adult dropping off an enrolled child.

No parent or adult shall be permitted to curse, yell, or use any other inappropriate language when on Wild Roots or Backcountry Wilderness Area premises. Such language will not be tolerated in the presence of children, staff, parents, guardians, caregivers, and family members of children enrolled at Wild Roots.

If there is a conflict between two children, staff members will not, under any circumstances, give out the name(s) of any other children involved. This is to protect the safety of all children enrolled at Wild Roots.

No parent or guardian should have the personal phone number or personal email of any staff member. Please feel free to contact your teacher through the field phone or their classroom email.

Any violations of this policy will result in the immediate withdrawal of the child from Wild Roots.

Child Abuse/Neglect

Colorado state law requires that childcare providers report any known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to Douglas County Department of Social Services. If any staff member or parent / guardian suspects child abuse or neglect, 1-844-CO-4-KIDS can be called.

Licensing

The state of Colorado does not currently have a childcare license available for programs wishing to operate as an outdoor nature-based preschool. Wild Roots is not a licensed preschool and operates under CDEC’s single-skill exemption. To ensure compliance with the single-skill exemption, our curriculum is designed to focus on specific weekly single-skills related to a monthly theme, and we do not provide a naptime or mats for napping.

Single-skill exemption is defined by CDEC as: A special school or class operated for a single skill-building purpose. A single-skill program includes the development of an individual skill which does not include naptime or overnight care.

For more information, you may contact the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, Child Care Licensing and Administration:

Email: cdhs_oec_eclchildcarelicensing@state.co.us

Phone: 1-800-799-5876 or 303-866-5948



“If we want our children to move mountains, we first have to let them out of their chairs.”

– Nicolette Sowder