

The background of the entire image is a dense, close-up photograph of green leaves, likely from a tropical plant like a Philodendron. The leaves are various shades of green, from deep forest green to lighter, almost yellow-green highlights where the light catches the veins. They are arranged in a chaotic, overlapping pattern that fills the entire frame.

# Kindergarten Orientation Community Roots

Phase 1: September 10-October 23

# Agenda



We will use our time together tonight to:

- Introduce
- Share a plan for the start of Kindergarten
- Explain our rationale for this plan
- Share next steps
- Answer question

And the most important thing: The Kindergarten Team is joining us tonight (on their summer break)



# Introductions

- Alli Keil: Co-Founder/Co-Director
- Allison Kao/Rebecca Williams: K Co-Teachers
  - Lorrie Balton/Eliza Cutler: K Co-Teachers
  - Maia D'Egidio: K/1 Learning Specialist
- John McCann-Doyle: Outdoor Education Specialist





# **Moving Kindergarten Outdoors**

To start the school  
year



# Key Aspects to the Start of Kindergarten



## **Socialization and Community Building**

Building our  
community through  
play



## **Routines**

Following directions,  
listening to others,  
turn taking



## **Academic Skill Development**

Foundational reading,  
writing, and math  
skills



# Outdoor Learning for Kindergarten



## **Why?**

Key Factors for  
Decision Making



## **Where?**

Outdoor Sites



## **When?**

Outside  
Learning/Virtual  
Learning



## **How?**

Key Aspects of  
Outdoor Learning  
Plan



# Why move K outdoors?



**Physical Health  
Benefits**



**Mental Health  
Benefits**



**Issues with  
Larger Plan for  
K Students**



**Early K Goal  
Alignment**



## BETTER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Learning in natural environments can:



### BOOST PERFORMANCE

in reading, writing,  
math, science and  
social studies

1, 2, 3, 4, 5



ENHANCE  
creativity, critical  
thinking and  
problem solving<sup>9</sup>

Seeing nature from  
school buildings can  
foster academic  
success<sup>6, 7, 8</sup>

## ENHANCED ATTENTION

Spending time in nature can help  
children focus their attention:



### FOCUS AND ATTENTION

10, 11, 12, 13



### ADHD SYMPTOMS

14, 15

The greener the  
setting, the better  
the focus<sup>14, 15</sup>

## INCREASED ENGAGEMENT & ENTHUSIASM

Exploration and discovery through outdoor  
experiences can promote motivation to learn:



### INCREASED ENTHUSIASM FOR LEARNING

1, 16



### GREATER ENGAGEMENT WITH LEARNING<sup>17</sup>



### MORE IMPULSE CONTROL<sup>10</sup>



### LESS DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

20

Nature-based learning is associated with reduced  
aggression and fewer discipline problems:<sup>18, 19</sup>



## INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Access to parks and greenspace can foster:

INCREASED  
PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY<sup>11,12</sup>

REDUCED  
RISK OF  
OBESITY<sup>13</sup>

### OUTDOOR PLAY

increases the likelihood  
that girls will remain  
active into adolescence<sup>9</sup>

Children are better able to cope with stress  
when they live near trees and other greenery.<sup>15, 16</sup>

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Learning in nature can support:



IMPROVED  
RELATIONSHIP SKILLS<sup>17, 20</sup>



REDUCED STRESS<sup>17</sup>  
ANGER<sup>18,19</sup>  
AND AGGRESSION<sup>18,19</sup>

# Where will outdoor learning take place?

- Our Garden
- FG Park
- Commodore Barry Park







## When will Outdoor Learning Happen

This will depend on how many K families opt into outdoor learning.



Most likely we will be in a two pod outdoor learning hybrid model meaning each student can be outdoor learning 2 days a week and remote learning 3 days per week.

If less than 12 students per class elect outdoor learning than each student could have outdoor learning 4 days per week.

**ALL FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE FULLY REMOTE**

# Sample Weekly Schedule with a Two Pod Hybrid

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pod A Hybrid	Outdoor Learning	Remote	Remote Enrichment	Outdoor Learning	Remote
Pod B Hybrid	Remote	Outdoor Learning	Remote Enrichment	Remote	Outdoor Learning
Pod C Full Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote Enrichment	Remote	Remote



	Kindergarten Outdoor Sample Schedule
9:00	Arrival: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Temperature Check</li><li>• Unpack</li><li>• Morning Choice</li></ul>
9:30/9:45	Morning Meeting
10:15	Literacy Block
10:45	Play Structure
11:15	Math
11:45	Lunch/Recess/Rest
12:45	Special (TBD: PE, Art, Music, Science)
1:30	Writing
2:00	Self Directed Exploration and Discovery
2:30	Read Aloud/Snack/Closing Circle
3:00	Pick Up

# Health and Safety



# Social Distancing



## POTENTIAL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CONFIGURATIONS WITH 6' SOCIAL DISTANCING

SCALE MODELS BELOW ASSUME EACH OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FITS PART OF A CLASS

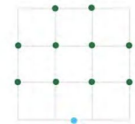
10 students + 1 adult



Circle: 21' diameter



Amphitheater:  
22' dia. outside & 10' dia. inside

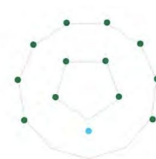


Grid: 18' x 18'

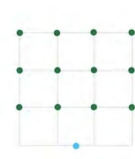
12 students + 1 adult



Circle: 25' diameter



Amphitheater:  
22' dia. outside & 10' dia. inside



Grid: 18' x 18'



# Next Steps



**August 24**

Choose Hybrid  
Outdoor Learning  
or Fully Remote



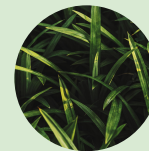
**September 8/9**

Materials  
Distribution



**September  
10/11**

First Days of School  
½ Days



**October 23**

End of Phase 1  
Potential New  
Hybrid Model



# Questions