

# Bringing Classroom Guidelines OUTSIDE



Our first priority when bringing students outdoors to learn is to be safe. We know when a child does not feel safe, is afraid, unfamiliar, or uncomfortable their ability to participate in a group is limited and the opportunities for learning quickly diminish. Our work as educators, teachers, parents, and community members is to not only inspire wonder and intrinsic motivation for learning outdoors but to also teach children how to make safe choices as a class and a community. By involving children in the process of creating safety guidelines for an ECO day they will be motivated to hold each other to those guidelines. Students will learn new communication and social skills and develop self esteem and confidence by having taken responsibility for their own safety and their class's safety.

Below is a list of guidelines we encourage teachers to “pre-teach” and review every day before going outdoors for ECO.

- Sticks are used for building and can be used in a helpful way. Teachers will let students know when it's a building time. Sticks are not used for walking or climbing (we have our hands, feet, and friends for that!)
- Work together to solve problems .Ask for help.
- Stay with your buddy/class/ teacher. Students should always be able to see an adult.
- Respond to signal for gathering back together as a group (drum, call and response, howling, singing).
- Participate in activities and try new things.
- Feet stay on the sidewalk.
- In the forest, feet stay on the ground. We do not climb trees.
- Honor the talking stick and the person holding it.