

SEEDlings' Mission & Vision

SEEDS is a two-acre urban learning farm and kitchen classroom in the heart of Durham. SEEDS empowers youth by teaching them how to grow and cook their own food through a resilience-based program, teaching practical skills that are particularly important for youth affected by Food Apartheid (also called Food Deserts) and Racism in the Food System.

In line with SEEDS' overall mission, the vision for SEEDlings is to:

- ❖ Provide kids with valuable life skills such as how to grow and prepare food sustainably and organically.
- ❖ Develop children's social/emotional skills. We interact with children to empower them to communicate their needs and feelings, to work together in community with one another, and develop their potential for leadership.
- ❖ Develop children's cooking knowledge, for early exposure to a variety of nutritious, delicious, and low cost meals.
- ❖ Connect farm and kitchen lessons to academic studies and assist with literacy.

SEEDlings' Program Policies

Attendance, Transportation, & Pick-up

- ❖ Transportation is not provided by SEEDS; you will need to bring and pick up your child or set up a bus-route with the Transportation Office at your child's school for them to be dropped off here
- ❖ SEEDlings is Monday through Friday, 3-5pm
 - We expect your child to attend daily, as there are many families on our waitlist who need access to free child care who can make that commitment
- ❖ **Pick up is between 5pm and 5:30pm**
 - We ask that you not pick your child up before 5pm so that your child can get the full SEEDlings experience
 - Our afternoon staff have personal development commitments in the evenings, and not everyone has their own transportation - picking your child up late will cause them to miss their personal projects and miss buses, causing them to spend an extra hour commuting! Please ensure in advance that you're able to pick your child up in this window or communicate potential barriers to us.
- ❖ Absences: If your child is absent from the program for more than 1 day, we will call to follow up with you to make sure everything is all right.
 - Any planned absences can be communicated to Herb Thornton, After-School Coordinator, at hthornton@seedsnc.org.

Schedule

- ❖ Weekly schedule is Monday through Friday, 3pm-5pm. An example of our weekly schedule can be found in the table below.
- ❖ We follow the DPS Traditional School Year Calendar. Even if your child is not enrolled in DPS, please refer to www.dpsnc.net if you are unsure whether we will hold programs. When students have a day off of school, our program will be closed. When children have an early release day, our program will be open and start as soon as children arrive, usually around 1 pm. Pick up time will still begin at 5pm.
- ❖ Inclement Weather: We follow DPS school closures for inclement weather. See the above link for school closures.

Seedling Schedule	Drop-Off 3:00-3:30	Daily Activity 4:00-5:00	5:00-5:30
Monday	Arrival Snack Circle Time	Farming with Aaron: Teambuilding and Scavenger Hunts	Homework/Free Time/Pickup
Tuesday	Arrival Snack Circle Time	Farming with Aaron: Outdoor scavenger hunt	Homework/Free Time/Pickup
Wednesday	Arrival Snack Circle Time	Cooking with Eli-Introduction to kitchen safety and snack prep	Homework/Free Time/Pickup
Thursday	Arrival Snack Circle Time	Social Development with Herb- role-playing exercise	Homework/Free Time/Pickup
Friday	Arrival Snack Circle Time	Group cooking and Gardening	Free time activity led by classmates. Pickup

Trial Period for New Students

Please refer to the separate document on how our trial period works for new students!

Exiting Program

In the event that you decide to leave the SEEDlings program for any reason, please provide us with at least 2 weeks notice so that we may have the time to fill your child's spot.

Homework and Academics

- ❖ Our farm and kitchen activities are from 4pm-5pm. Many of our daily activities have participants practice reading and math, and connect to science standards.
- ❖ We provide time each day for homework from 3:30-4pm, and from 5-5:30pm during pick-up time, if you pick your child up at the later part of that timeframe.
- ❖ If a student does not have homework for the day, they are expected to read during that time. We have many appropriate books for them to choose from.
- ❖ SEEDS' staff check in with students on their progress reports from school so we can monitor improvements and/or understand where students need more support.

Behavior and Discipline

- ❖ SEEDS staff work hard to build a positive community-oriented environment where children feel safe to learn, make friends, and have fun.
- ❖ We build social/behavioral learning and practices into all of our programming, and participants earn a lot of autonomy.
- ❖ Because our activities frequently involve metal tools, safe behaviour is a major priority for us. In the event that a child is disruptive or unsafe, we will remove them from the lesson to take a time out with adult supervision to reflect on the behaviour.
- ❖ If the behavior persists we will discuss ideas for how to proceed with you, the parent.
- ❖ Physical or verbal harassment, bullying or violence will not be tolerated and we will call you immediately in the event that your child engages in these behaviors. Repeated problems with very disruptive behaviour may result in your child being removed from the program, whether or not they are in a trial period.

By signing this form you agree to reading and consenting to the above program policies, including SEEDS Staff reading your child's report card.

Parent/Guardian

Date