

## SEEDlings Trial Period

We are so excited you have decided to have your child join us at SEEDS for SEEDlings, our free, hands-on, experiential learning after-school program! New students are admitted on a two-week trial basis to make sure that we will be a good fit for your child, and the purpose of this document is to inform you of what you can expect from these first two weeks.

### Attendance, Transportation, & Pick-up

There is no difference from our normal expectations during the Trial Period, but to summarize:

- ❖ 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; 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 5:15pm and 5:30pm
  - We ask that you not pick your child up before 5pm so that your child can get the full SEEDlings experience
  - Be sure to check out your child with Cynelsa at the Front Desk
  - 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.

### Behaviour & Safety

- ❖ SEEDlings really asks a lot of youth. Part of the reason some youth really shine here is because of the autonomy they're afforded as part of the program. This autonomy requires a certain level of social development and awareness, however, and not every child is ready for our experience.
- ❖ We all mature in different capacities at different rates; part of the reason our age range is so broad is because every kid grows up in their own unique way.
- ❖ Participants who are successful at SEEDS usually:
  - Enjoy having more control over their time
  - Enjoy interacting with other youth and developing relationships outside of school
  - Are able to focus and listen to directions
  - Are able to communicate their feelings/needs so we can respond accordingly
  - Are aware of others and their needs
- ❖ Because participants are frequently using metal tools both on the farm and in the kitchen, these factors come into play quite clearly. For safety reasons, we cannot have participants in the program who are not aware of others enough to not hurt themselves or others.

### Program-Engagement

- ❖ We expect participants to participate! We expect your child to engage with both our farming and our cooking programming.
- ❖ Farmwork is not for everyone! Not even all of our farming staff would have enjoyed this program as a kid, so we really don't hold it against any young people who don't find being hot and dirty very appealing.

- ❖ Youth spend on average 2.5 days per week farming and 1.5 days per week cooking. Part of the reason the trial period is two weeks is to give youth a chance to warm up to something they've never done before!
- ❖ If your child really does not enjoy and does not warm up to the two main aspects of our program, we don't fault them, but they won't be happy here.

### **Week One Check-in**

- ❖ You may expect to hear from us part-way through your child's first week at SEEDS.
- ❖ We will ask you to chat with one of us for 5 to 10 minutes that Friday during pick-up time.
- ❖ We will go over some of what we are observing if we are noticing any potential problems.
- ❖ Checking in in the first week gives you a chance to check in with your child and see how they are feeling and if they are really enjoying the program or if it is a good fit for them.
- ❖ If you don't receive an email from us requesting to check in, you may assume that we haven't seen any potential barriers to your child's continued enrollment in the SEEDlings program.

### **Exiting the Program**

- ❖ If we are seeing potential barriers that we feel will prevent your child from fully participating in the program, either due to attendance, lack of interest, or developmental-appropriateness of our program, during the second week of the trial period, we will ask you to prepare to make other arrangements for your child for their after-school time.
- ❖ Under normal circumstances, your child is welcome to finish the two weeks while you set up other after-school activities.
- ❖ Because our program is both free and high-quality, it is in high-demand, and we will notify families on our wait-list that they can start the following week in order to keep our program at capacity.
- ❖ In extreme cases of disruptive behaviour, or if your child is not actually able to attend the program Monday through Friday, we may ask you to remove your child sooner than the full two week trial period. Safety of all participants is a priority, and it is easiest for us to fill vacant spots at the beginning of the school year, so it is important for us to be able to contact families on our wait-list as soon as we are able.

Thank you for taking the time to read about what you can expect during your Trial Period. Obviously, we hope that none of these things will be a concern, and we will communicate any problems to you as expediently as possible in order to ensure the smoothest possible trial period for your family. We look forward to your child joining us at SEEDS!

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

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Date