

Little Acorn School Community Agreement
Covenant of Personal Responsibility and Freedom

Parents have the right and freedom to educate their children, to self select learning environments that best meet the unique needs of their children, and carry a responsibility to honor their own and also other families' educational, health, and social culture. As a Parent and partner in my child/ren's educational journey, I understand that I am free to make educational choices for my child, and that those choices are accompanied by personal responsibility. As a Parent of my child/ren's education, I agree that the following statements are true:

- 1) Children experience life in the multi-sensorial, relational spaces around them; they have the right to learn and mature in it through direct encounter and not through the screen and its hygienic-sterile virtual world. Multi-sensory, living educational processes are essential to child development. Forced "digital schooling" is, from the perspective of pedagogy as well as child- and youth-psychology, a tragic trend.
- 2) Children have an absolute, inalienable human right to socialize with their friends and to view the undisguised, unmasked countenance of others around them. This is required for the full development of their social sphere of trust and confidence.
- 3) Children and parents have a right to make choices that preserve their health and wellbeing, and allow them to feel safe and thrive. Parents may elect to adopt additional health-related practices for themselves and their children, as long as those practices do not infringe upon the rights of other Little Acorn School families.
- 4) Anxiety and panic, systematically fueled and spread through the mass media, have a long lasting, devastating effect on the development of children and adolescents and on their relationship to themselves and the world, and on their ability to relate.
- 5) The development of social, emotional, cognitive, verbal, and other elements of intelligence require the opportunity to see a full view of facial expression. The teachers of Little Acorn will strive to provide the opportunity for children to see a full view of facial expression while also considering safe and healthy measures for themselves and the children in their care.

Therefore, in consideration of _____ being permitted to participate in Little Acorn School programs or being permitted to enter for any purpose the private land upon which Little Acorn School operates,

_____, The Undersigned:

- 1) Agree to accept all responsibility for the inherent risks associated with the above described activities.
- 2) Agree to hold harmless and indemnify all Little Acorn School teachers, staff and board of directors, and all other parent-members of the Little Acorn learning community.
- 3) Agree to take precautionary measures recommended by the CDC as well as act and work in support of the freedom of other member-families to access Little Acorn learning community, by taking personal responsibility for my family's specific needs around safety, health and hygiene. More specifically, if my family's needs are not met by the established practices and protocols of the Little Acorn learning community, I will identify and take care of those needs without imposing that responsibility on the Little Acorn learning community. I understand that this may require keeping my child home and/or speaking directly with the Little Acorn School teachers about my concerns.

4) Agree to care for and honor this Sacred learning opportunity by preserving the privacy and sanctity of the learning environment; by treating fellow parents within this Little Acorn School Covenant of Personal Responsibility and Freedom with respect and kindness; and by offering my patience and understanding to the teachers, staff and families of Little Acorn School when extenuating circumstances require a change or adaptation of operating procedures or culture.
Signature of Parent Member/s:

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

COVID safety practices to consider to help stay healthy:

-Emphasize community and care over “germ fear” in the way you discuss the Corona-19 virus with your child.

-Utilize your amazing Little Acorn School community for play dates and social activities.

-Wear a mask in all indoor public spaces when visiting locations that may not have a mask mandate outside of Asheville.

- Be discerning of who your child plays with outside of Little Acorn School.

-Learn the social distancing practices of others before letting them into your pod to ensure they are in alignment with you and our school community.

-Plan outdoor play-dates with children that do not attend Little Acorn School. Supervise during those play dates to help maintain 6 or more feet of distance.

- Choose a nature trail or a walk in your neighborhood for physical activity. Asking your child to not play with others at a playground is a big ask of a little one.

- Require individuals that perform home maintenance/ home repair services to wear a mask when entering and working in your home.

- Keep a small social pod outside of your Little Acorn School community that consists of your core family unit, work obligations and select friends that also practice similar COVID-19 related safety measures.

- Meet outdoors and maintain 6 feet of social distance with individuals that do not pertain to your small social pod.

- Curbside pick-up, take-out and delivery are the safest options and save time.

- When traveling: consider driving over flying if possible.

Practices currently mandated by the state:

Individuals and children over 5yrs of age are required to wear a mask in indoor spaces, and strongly recommends that children 2 and over wear a mask if possible.