



Oregon Department of
**Early Learning
and Care**

**Outdoor Nature-Based
Community Workgroup**

May 7, 2024





Welcome to the Workgroup!

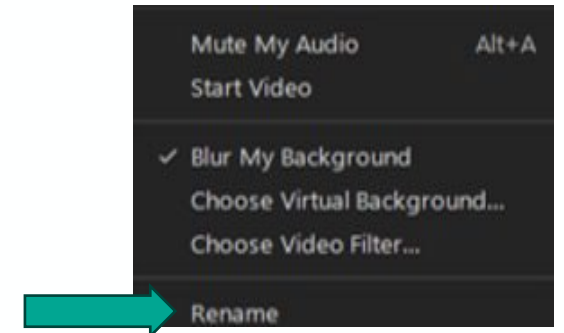
We are glad you are here. While we are waiting to begin, please add your name and role in this Workgroup in the chat.

Rename your participant icon with your first and last name. You can do that one of two ways:

1. Click on the participants icon on the bottom of your screen.
 - At the top right, your participant name will appear.
 - Hover over your name and click on the 3 dots to the right and click rename.



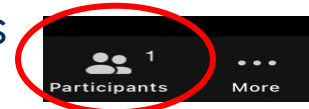
2. Right mouse click on the screen to get a short menu. Choose rename.



Accessing Zoom from a phone App:

Rename your participant icon with your first and last name.

1. On the Zoom in-meeting controls, tap Participants
2. Tap your name, then tap rename
3. Other controls:
 - *6 Mute/Unmute
 - *9 Raise/Lower hands





Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Review of meeting agenda
3. Review Group Norms
4. Workgroup scope and format
5. Follow-up/Feedback:
 - Definition of ONB Programs
 - Definition of ONB Curriculum
 - Items Available for Review and Required Postings
6. Discussion Topics:
 - Risky Play (supervision, policies, and safety measures)
 - Staff/child ratios
7. Break
8. Discussion Topics
 - Active Supervision Definition
 - Risk/Benefit analysis tool
9. Closing and next steps (5 minutes)





Group Norms



- Allow opportunities for all voices to be heard
 - *Take space, make space*
- Remain focused on the scope of the workgroup
- Be open for respectful discussion
 - *Have an open mind and ask clarifying questions to confirm understanding*
- Encourage and honor individual perspectives and truths
 - *All experiences are valuable and contribute to our shared understanding*
- Use the "raise hand" function or chat for comments
- Practice active listening
 - *Listen to understand and give time to reflect before responding*
- Seek commonality
 - *We may disagree-which is okay-but will be guided by our shared commitment*



Workgroup Scope and Format

- ❑ What is a Community Workgroup?
- ❑ Workgroup topics will be sent out prior to each meeting to help participants prepare for the discussion
- ❑ Workgroup members will provide feedback on where changes can be made. Some guiding questions and considerations:
 - ❑ What are the potential impacts for those changes?
 - ❑ How would this look in an outdoor environment? Keep in mind some programs are strictly outdoors.
 - ❑ Balance possible financial impacts, available research on recommended best practice, and available resources
- ❑ CCLD will review the feedback to the proposed language
- ❑ CCLD will make changes based on previous meeting feedback

If other topics arise





Definition Feedback and Follow-up

Outdoor Nature-Based
Definition

And

Outdoor Nature-Based
Philosophy Curriculum





ONB Definition Feedback and Follow-up

What we heard:	Proposal:
<p>The definition will need to be clear what buildings or outdoor space need approval to use, the ages of children in care, and what an ONB curriculum looks like to distinguish the program as an ONB program rather than a program that spends the majority of its time outside.</p>	<p>"Outdoor nature-based child care" means an agency or agency-offered program that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enrolls only preschool through school-age children;<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Preschool will be defined as 36 months to attending kindergarten which aligns with certified child care center rules.</i>• Provides child care primarily in an outdoor nature space approved by the Department; and• Utilizes a philosophy where nature is central to children's learning and development. <p>An outdoor nature-based child care may utilize indoor space of a building for non-regular use, emergency use, or to meet the biological needs of children and staff with indoor bathroom facilities. The building and indoor space must be approved by the local building department, environmental health, and the fire marshal for that particular use. The program must submit all approvals to the Department when seeking approval for use of the indoor space.</p>



ONB Definition Feedback and Follow-up

What we heard	Feedback from Washington State
<p>How will nomadic ONB programs fit within this definition?</p>	<p>CCLD reached out to Washington State who piloted a few nomadic program models, this is what their pilot revealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All areas utilized by the nomadic program need to be reviewed and licensed to ensure health and safety of the space.• If a program moved, they needed to have a license for that location.• A program could have multiple licenses for different locations, which allows for seasonal usage.• Land-use agreements and other approvals are needed for operating and by designating a location, it protected the program from being displaced since they had an agreement in place.
<p>How this could look: Have a designated meeting spot, or “home-base” approach for arrival and departure and then go on excursions or field trips during the day. If an ONB program would like to have multiple locations, they will need to apply for a license for each location. The intent of this is to ensure that each location is a healthy and safe and meets ONB licensing requirements.</p>	



Outdoor Nature-Based Curriculum Philosophy Feedback and Follow-Up

What we heard:	Proposal:
<p>Curriculum should be free flowing, emergent, and not prescriptive to allow for flexibility in learning.</p>	<p>We removed the reference to “nature-based curriculum” from the ONB definition and changed it to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilizes a philosophy where nature is central to children’s learning and development
<p>ONB Philosophy Proposal:</p> <p>As demonstrated in OAR xxx-xxx-xxxx, ONB programs must have a written curriculum philosophy that describes the planned daily activities related to child development and how that philosophy is implemented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) ONB programs must include in their curriculum philosophy how nature is central to their curriculum and how learning and being outdoors in a nature setting impacts the ONB program’s daily activities.(2) The curriculum philosophy must address all age groups being served. The curriculum philosophy may include, but is not limited to:<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) How children develop emotionally, socially, cognitively, and physically in nature and through nature-based experiences and reasonable risky play;(b) What ONB programming looks like, or areas of focus, that meets the children’s developmental abilities, interests, cultural and individual needs;(c) How the ONB provider is inclusive for all children in the group regardless of disabling or limiting conditions; and(3) Staff must be trained on ONB programs' philosophy and implementation.	

ONB Program Policies Feedback and Follow-up

Program Records
And
Program Policies





Items Available for Review and Required Postings Follow-up

What we heard:	Proposal:
<p>Posting licensing requirements would be difficult since oftentimes there is not an area to post items and adverse weather conditions can make it difficult to have items outside.</p>	<p>An ONB program must have the following items available in a prominent and frequently visited location for the parents and public to view:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONB License• Planned field trips, showing the date, times, and place of each excursion• When there is a restrictable disease• Handwashing procedures• Serious complaints, serious non-compliance letters, current or pending legal action or sanctions• Emergency numbers (911, local law enforcement, fire department, etc.)• Emergency evacuation and relocation diagram• ONB schedule and ONB activity plans• Menu and children's dietary restrictions• Any allergies• Applicable ratios and group sizes
<p>ONB programs can maintain their program information in a binder, at the ONB drop-off/pick-up location, if the binder is visible to parents and staff. This supports clear communication with staff and families of an ONB programs' information and creates a shared understanding of how the program operates.</p>	



Items Available for Review and Required Postings Follow-up

What we heard:	Proposal:
<p>Suggestions provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Items can be stored in a binder or electronically	<p>An ONB program must maintain records that demonstrate compliance with all rules for 2 years following the record's creation, such as parent permissions, attendance records, emergency preparedness drills, and pet vaccinations. An ONB program must maintain staff and children's records for 2 years after termination of employment or care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An ONB program must have at least one staff member on site who can access any records that are stored in paper or electronic formats.• Electronic records must be portable for use during an emergency evacuation• If using electronic records, the center must have procedures in place to ensure prompt access, including an on-or-off site electronic back-up method to ensure access in the event of data loss.
<p>Rationale: Early care and education programs must keep correct records so that they can give quality care and protect the health and safety of their children.¹ Programs should store records in an easy-to-access place while also keeping information about staff and children confidential. <i>Caring for Our Children (CFOC) 9.4.1.2: Maintenance of Records</i></p>	



Discussion Topics





Risky Play Activities

What types of risky play options do you offer in your program?

Last meeting, the following activities were mentioned as options for children in your ONB programs:

- Tree climbing;
- Tool use;
- Berry eating;
- Water safety;

Do you engage in other "Risky Play" activities, such as:

- Plant foraging;
- Climbing natural features other than trees (rocks/boulders, challenge courses etc.);
- Campfire activities;
- Interacting with pets or animals;
- Play in an area adjacent to a body of water;
- Allow children to swim in a body of water over 24 inches



Ratios and Group Size

Proposed Ratio Table for ONB Programs:

Age of Children	Minimum Number of Staff to Children	Maximum Number of Children in Group
Preschool: 36 months – eligible for kindergarten	1:6	16
Younger School-Age: Eligible for kindergarten-8 years old	1:8	20
Older School-Age: 9 years old-12years old	1:10	20

A certified ONB Program may combine preschool-age children through school-age in one group.

- In a mixed age group, a certified ONB program must meet the ratio and group size requirements for the youngest child in the group.



Five Minute Break





Supervision

Supervision Requirements for "risky play" activities:

Increased supervision will be needed when children are participating in certain activities that are considered "risky." We are proposing two levels of supervision:

Supervision: means the act of caring for a child or group of children. This includes awareness of and responsibility for the ongoing activity of a child. It requires physical presence, knowledge of children's needs, and accountability for their care and well-being. Supervision also requires that caregivers be near and have ready access to children to intervene when needed. Supervision requires children have the full attention of the required number of staff and they be within sight and sound, without relying on audio or video monitoring devices.

Active Supervision: means a heightened standard of care beyond supervision. This standard requires an ONB provider to directly see and hear the children they are responsible for during higher risk activities. The ONB provider must be able to prevent or instantly respond to unsafe or harmful events.

Active supervision would be required when children participate in activities that are considered "risky" or when a heightened supervision is necessary



Benefit-Risk Assessment Tool for ONB Programs

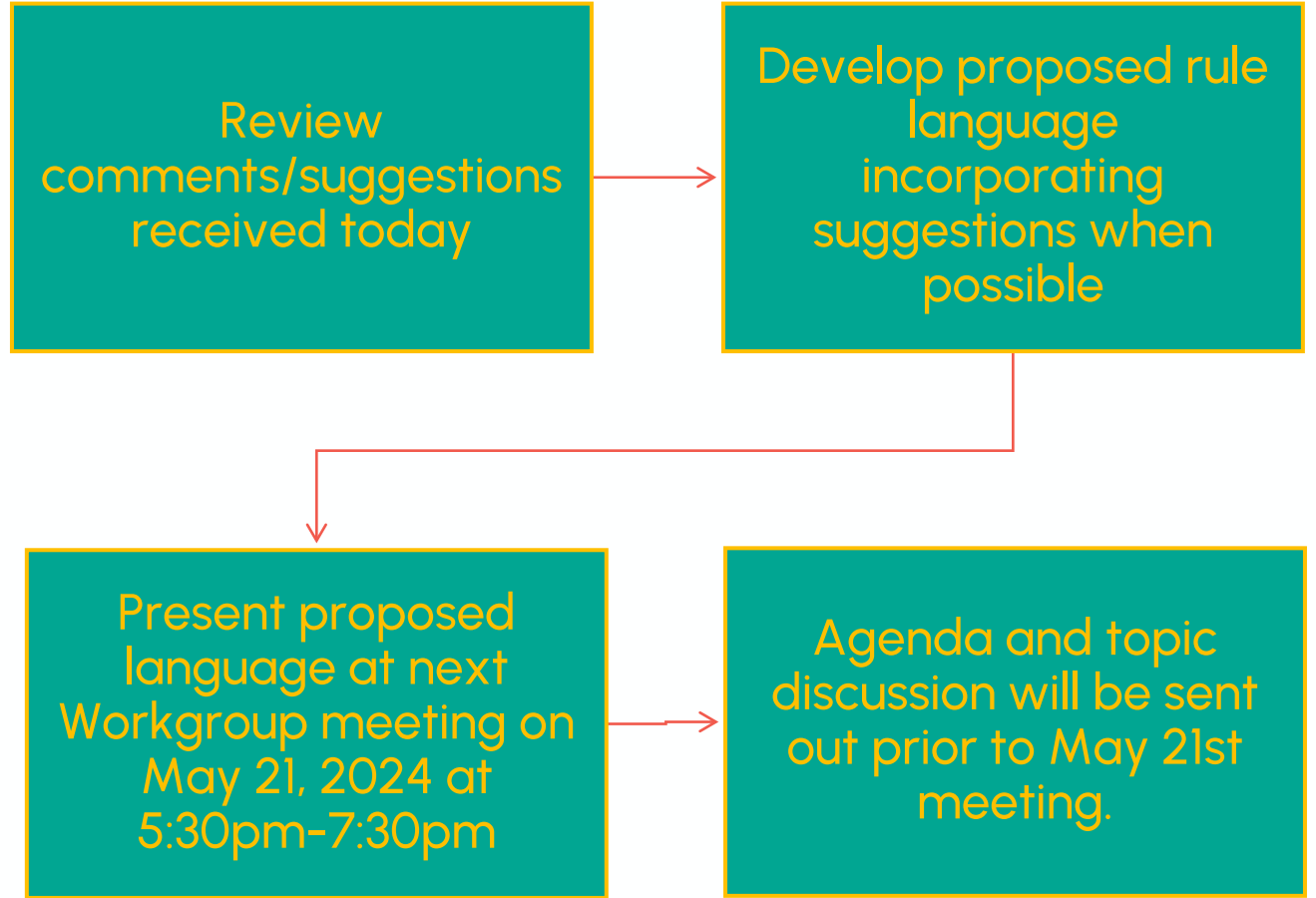
Prior to receiving an ONB license, all applicants must conduct benefit-risk assessments and create risk management policies. These assessments and policies will be included into the program information shared with parents and staff.

[Benefit-Risk Assessment Tool](#)





Next Steps





Contact Information:

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Next Meeting:

Tuesday May 21, 2024

5:30 pm-7:30 pm



Thank You