



Connolly Ranch Education Center Parent Handbook 2020/2021

Connolly Ranch Education Center’s unique discovery-based pedagogy is centered around cultivating social, emotional and ecological intelligence as children of all ages explore and interact with our animals, garden and wild spaces.

Our natural and ever-changing educational environment provides spontaneous opportunities to explore and learn from “what just happened.” We lead with inquiry to encourage children to become dynamic learners, mindful leaders, and divergent thinkers.

Health and Safety Policies

All Health and Safety Policies adhere to local, state, and national health and safety guidelines and mandates related to COVID-19.

To support social distancing and meet education requirements for Napa County our programs will:

- Require children to participate for the full session
- Be organized into cohorts with a 6-1 or 8-1 child to educator ratio
- Have one educator assigned to a group and be with them throughout the session

We understand that you and your child might be doing activities outside of Connolly Ranch. If this is a formalized activity, please share with us the health and safety guidelines they will be using which will allow us to make the right decision to ensure the safety of all children at Connolly Ranch.

Drop Off and Pick up

- Pick up and drop off takes place during a 15 minute window in the Thompson Ave parking lot.
- Parents will be required to wear a mask during drop off and pick up and will not be permitted on Connolly Ranch grounds except for the parking lot.
- At drop off your child's temperature will be taken, and you'll be asked to verbal ensure that your child is in good health.
- Please let us know if you gave your child any medication the evening or morning before coming to camp.

Masks

- Parents will be required to wear a mask while assisting your child in and out of the car for drop off and pick up.
- Your child must have a mask in their backpack and will be required to wear it for periods during the day.

Children and Staff Mask Policy

- All participants over the age of two must wear a mask at all times.
- Connolly Ranch will offer mask breaks, so children have the opportunity to safely social distance from the group and remove their mask for a short period.

Sick Policy

- **Please keep your child home if you notice any of the following symptoms:**

- Temperature of 100 degrees fahrenheit or higher
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea

If your child exhibits any of these signs while at Connolly Ranch, you will be contacted and required to pick up your child immediately.

- During the program if your child exhibits any signs of illness, they will be removed from their small group, brought to a separate space, and you will be asked to pick them up immediately. Your child may return back when:
 - No fever or symptoms for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers).

Connolly Ranch reserves the right to send a child home for illness even in the absence of fever and regardless of a note from a physician.

Positive Case of COVID-19 at Connolly Ranch-Children or Staff

- Families are required to inform CREC if their child or someone in their household has been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID 19 or has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Public Health defines close contact as being within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.
- Dept. of Health to report the presence of COVID-19
- Notify staff and parents/caregivers that a child or staff member in their cohort has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Confidentiality will be strictly maintained.
- Notify all families attending Connolly Ranch that a child or staff member (not their cohort) has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Confidentiality will be maintained.
- All follow up actions (quarantine, closure, etc.) will be dictated by the public health department

Handwashing

- All staff and children will practice hand hygiene:
 - Upon arrival and after breaks
 - Before and after eating or handling food
 - After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluid (sneezing, coughing, etc.)
 - After handling animals
 - After playing outdoors or in sand
 - After handling garbage

Bathrooms

- Staff will remain outside the bathroom door to allow for one child in the stall, while the other washes their hands.
- All handles (toilet, sink, and door) will be disinfected with every use.

Sanitizing

- All surfaces and materials used during the program will be immediately disinfected after use.
- All high touch surfaces will be disinfected after use and at the end of the day.
- All plastic tables and chairs will be disinfected after use

Staff Policy

- All staff at Connolly Ranch have been tested for COVID 19 and get tested routinely every three weeks.

- Upon arrival to work, each staff member will take their temperatures and do a morning health check that will be signed off by their supervisor. The health check mirrors that of the children.

Medication/Health policy

- Bring required medication enclosed in their original containers, labeled and sealed in a Ziploc bag with your child's full name on it.
- Healthcare services which may be provided by Staff of Connolly Ranch to a child:
 - Wound care, including cleaning and bandaging minor cuts, scrapes, burns and bruises
 - CPR in the case of an emergency which necessitates it
 - EpiPen and Inhaler
- In the event of an incident requiring further care than the actions named above, a parent/guardian and/or emergency medical personnel will be notified and, if necessary, engaged to perform the needed services.

Nut (and other) Allergy Policy

- While we are not technically a “nut-free” facility, we take allergies very seriously. If your child has a nut allergy or any food allergy for that matter, we will make sure to place them at a table away from those foods. Please note there are walnut trees on the property.

Potty Policy

- Children MUST be potty trained. No diapers or pull ups are allowed. Teachers can help with buttons/zippers but we ask that your child is independent in the bathroom.

Lost and Found

- All unlabeled items left behind at the ranch will be placed in the Lost and Found bin located at the parking lot.

Make-up days

- We do not have make-up days in the event that your child misses his/her program unless previously sorted out.

Air Quality Policy

- Our policy is to cancel programs if the AQI exceeds 150 (3 point variable) and deemed "unhealthy". Between 101-149, we monitor the forecast and levels to make a call as early as possible; we also modify programs to take advantage of the indoor spaces and reduce prolonged physical exertion to limit exposure.

**Please note that due to Covid-19, "indoor spaces" are limited and include the two barns and the greenhouse, which do not have proper air filtration. Due to these new policies*

and the inability to offer indoor programming, this policy is subject to change. Pending the length of closure, make up days may be offered.

TO WEAR

“There’s no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing”. – Swedish proverb
Please note that camp is held 100% outdoors. To ensure the health and safety of your child, please read below.

**Parents will be contacted and asked to bring extra layers if their child is not dressed appropriately.*

SPRING and SUMMER: Please make sure your child is wearing long pants, sturdy close-toed shoes and clothing that can get dirty!

FALL AND WINTER (pending weather) have additional required attire - please see below

TOP: Dress in layers

- Wool or silk long underwear tops (keeps core warm)
- Additional layer over the base layer (long sleeve, vest, hoodie, etc.)
- Warm jacket
- Rain jacket (even if it isn’t raining, it’s good to have with the mud!)

BOTTOM:

- Wool or silk long underwear
- Regular pants
- *Waterproof pants
 - Waterproof pants are important even if it’s not raining out.
- Rain boots or sturdy/warm outdoor shoes

ACCESSORIES:

- Hat
- Gloves

NOTE: Rainsuits can be found on AMAZON (“Playshoes” rain gear is wonderful and affordable!)

TO BRING

A backpack with...

- **Lunch and labeled water bottle**

We ask that you please send your child with a substantial lunch and water every day. We kindly ask that you limit non-compostable items in their lunches and try to use reusable containers when possible.

- **Change of Clothing**

- Pants, shirts, socks, shoes and underwear in a labeled plastic bag.

Can we bring toys from home?

We ask that you leave all toys/"lovies" at home. That being said, we are aware that transitions can be tough so we are always open to communication and working with you and your child.

Please label everything!

Behavior Support

Child to Educator Ratio:

1:6 (ages 3-4)

1:8 (5 and up)

Behavioral Aide:

- Connolly Ranch does not typically allow adults to attend camp with children. If your child requires special consideration, such as a behavioral / 1:1 aide or special medical assistance (i.e. type 1 diabetes) we would be happy to have them attend camp with your child to help ensure a successful camp experience. Please speak with the Executive Director as arrangements must be made prior to the beginning of the program. Please note, due to COVID - this policy is subject to change.

Behavior Issues:

- It is our goal to create a fun, safe and positive environment for all children at Connolly Ranch. If a child's actions are unsafe or disruptive (requires 1:1 supervision) staff will speak with the parent or caregiver about the behavioral incident.
- If the child's actions progress and/ or become a repeated issue, children may be asked not to return to camp that week.
- If a child's actions are more serious or threatening in nature to oneself or others (biting, hitting, scratching) staff may require immediate pick up.