

# Moss Rock Preschool – Parent FAQ

## What is Moss Rock Preschool?

Moss Rock Preschool is a **part-day, nature-based preschool** for children aged **2.5–5 years**. We focus on **outdoor exploration, creativity, and community connection**, inspired by the *Early Learning Framework* and *Reggio Emilia* philosophy.

## Where is the program located?

- **Location:** 1330 Fairfield Road (Arbutus Room)
- We also spend a large portion of our day outdoors in Porter Park and the surrounding community.

## What are the program hours?

- **Days:** Monday–Friday
- **Hours:** 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **Options:**
  - 2 days (T/Th)
  - 3 days (M/W/F)
  - 5 days (M–F)

## What makes this program unique?

- Outdoor-focused, nature-based learning
- Child-led, emergent curriculum
- Daily exploration in parks, beaches, and community spaces
- Emphasis on confidence, creativity, and independence
- Strong belief in community and family connection

## Who can attend?

Children must:

- Be **3 years old by December 31** of the program year
- Be able to toilet independently
- Be able to stay within boundaries in open outdoor spaces

## Who are the educators?

Our program is led by qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and ECEAs who are:

- Certified and experienced
- First Aid & CPR trained
- Supported by a strong organization (FGCA)

## What does my child need to bring?

Daily essentials:

- Lunch + snacks (ready to eat, pre-cut)

- Water bottle

Weather-appropriate clothing (we are outdoors daily in all seasons).

### **Are children outside every day?**

Yes!

We believe in:

- Active, physical play (3–4 hours/day)
- Healthy risk-taking (climbing, exploring, problem-solving)
- Building resilience and confidence

*In extreme weather, outdoor time may be shortened or adapted.*

### **Is food provided?**

- One daily snack is provided
- Families must provide:
  - Lunch
  - Additional snacks
  - Water bottle

### **What about toileting outdoors?**

We use a portable potty during outdoor excursions, set up in a private and safe area, with a focus on hygiene and comfort.

### **What does a typical day look like?**

- 9:00 – Arrival & free play
- Morning – Outdoor exploration / outings
- Snack & story time
- More play & exploration
- Lunch
- Afternoon play
- 1:00 – Pick-up

*Schedules are flexible based on children's interests.*

### **Do you go on field trips?**

Yes! We regularly explore the community (e.g., parks, beaches, local sites).

- Advance notice is always provided
- Families are welcome to join

### **Are screens used?**

- No personal devices allowed for children
- Educators may use a program phone for:
  - Communication
  - Photos

- Music

### **How do you communicate with families?**

- Primarily via email
- Texting for quick updates (e.g., absences)
- In-person chats at drop-off/pick-up
- Meetings available anytime upon request

### **When is the program closed?**

We follow the local school calendar (SD61), including:

- Pro-D Days
- Winter & Spring Breaks
- Summer (July–August)
- Statutory holidays

### **What are the fees?**

We are a \$10/day ChildCareBC Centre

Approximate monthly costs:

- 2 days/week: ~\$80 (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- 3 days/week: ~\$120 (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays)
- 5 days/week: ~\$200 (Mondays through Fridays)

Please note that priority will be given to children attending 5 days a week.

Subsidies (Affordable Child Care Benefit) are accepted.

### **What are the attendance expectations?**

- Minimum **75% attendance** required
- Notify us of absences by 9:00 AM

Consistency helps children thrive in the program.

### **How does drop-off and pick-up work?**

- Children must be signed in and out by their guardian
- Only **authorized adults (19+)** may pick-up
- Late pick-ups incur fees

Safety is our top priority.

### **How do you keep children safe?**

- Regular head counts and supervision
- First aid trained staff
- Emergency procedures in place
- Clear boundaries in outdoor spaces
- Practice emergency drills
- Monitor weather, air quality, and safety conditions daily

### **When should my child stay home?**

Please keep your child home if they:

- Have a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Are unable to participate in normal activities
- Show signs of contagious illness

Children must be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning.

### **What is your approach to behaviour?**

We use positive guidance and support, focusing on:

- Respect
- Communication
- Problem-solving

We do **not** use punishment. Children are supported in learning and growing socially and emotionally.

### **Can families be involved?**

Yes! Families are encouraged to:

- Join field trips
- Participate in special events
- Be part of our community

### **Final thoughts - We believe:**

*It takes a community to raise a child.*

At Moss Rock Preschool, we are committed to creating a space where children feel safe, curious, capable, and connected—and where families feel truly part of something special.

***Thank you for thinking of us!***