

# 4-TIER forecast framework

OSK\* IS COMMITTED TO BEING OUTSIDE ALL FOUR SEASONS. ☺☺

Rain strengthens resilience, wind sparks curiosity, and winter instills grit. Because we currently serve families with children ages 0–5, our weather approach balances courage with care, ensuring safety without ever compromising the OSK spirit.

This protocol outlines how OSK evaluates and adapts to various weather scenarios, how group leaders communicate decisions, and what families can expect throughout the year.

## WEATHER PHILOSOPHY

### 2 HOUR MINDSET

When winter feels intimidating, remember: it's only two hours. Two hours to show your child—and yourself—that you can greet the season with courage, breathe in the cold air, and come out stronger on the other side. Those two hours will nourish your mental health far more than you expect.

### GEAR ELIMINATES CHALLENGES

Proper layers, waterproofing, sun protection, and preparation make nearly all weather safe and enjoyable.

## WEATHER DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Primary decisions are made by the Group Leader, who evaluates conditions using local weather reports, on-site observation and the unique characteristics of the chosen location (wind exposure, tree cover, natural shelter).

In borderline situations, Group Leaders may choose to relocate to an indoor space, if available.

We do our best to avoid last-minute cancellations and provide timely communication.

Parents may always opt out based on their child's comfort. Attendance is never forced.

### WEATHER HEALS

Weather heals. Children learn confidence, adaptability, fortitude, and self-regulation by experiencing a wide range of natural conditions.

### PARENTS KNOW BEST

Because OSK is not a drop-off program, parents have final judgment on their child's comfort, tolerance, and participation.

### COMMUNITY MATTERS

We show up for one another—but we remain flexible, empathetic, and respectful of families who make different choices.

### LITTLES DESERVE SENSITIVITY

Infants, toddlers, and children with sensory or medical considerations may need modified participation or early departure on harsher days.

# \* 4-TIER forecast framework

## TIER ONE

### GREEN LIGHT WEATHER

We run as normal. Full grit activated.

#### EXAMPLES

- Light to moderate rain
- Cloudy, misty, or damp days
- Cold temperatures (25°F+)
- Light snow
- Moderate wind (under 20 mph)

#### APPROACH

- Keep infants well-insulated and elevated from wet ground
- Encourage baby-wearing to support warmth and regulation

## TIER TWO

### YELLOW LIGHT WEATHER

We proceed with caution and modify programming.

#### EXAMPLES

- Heavy rain/snow showers (short)
- Temperature between 5–15°F with wind chill
- Wind 20–30 mph
- Heat 80–90°F with no beach access

#### APPROACH

- Shorten the session
- Avoid long stationary art activities
- Prioritize active, body-warming movement
- Choose sheltered locations when possible
- In high heat, prioritize shade and water play

## TIER THREE

### ORANGE LIGHT WEATHER

We modify and/or relocate indoors if available.

#### EXAMPLES

- Active thunderstorms
- Sustained heavy rain or freezing rain
- Unsafe driving conditions
- Temperature between 0–15°F
- Real-feel temperatures above 95°F

#### APPROACH

- Relocation to an indoor space
- Significantly modified outdoor session
- Optional attendance clearly noted for families

## TIER FOUR

### RED LIGHT WEATHER

Program canceled or rescheduled.

#### EXAMPLES

- State-issued weather warnings
- Temperatures below 0°F with wind chill
- Dangerous road conditions preventing safe travel

#### APPROACH

- Cancel or reschedule
- Notify families promptly through the group chat