

Submitter: Jenny Noyce

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2717

I write in support of HB2717 because I believe that licensing outdoor kindergartens in Oregon will lead to good outcomes for kids and families. My own children attended an outdoor kindergarten throughout their preschool years. I observed that their experience built their stamina, made them hardier, and helped them gain confidence in their bodies and minds. The experience was positive for their social development, and they were right on track to start learning academics when they entered public school at age 6.

This excellent early childhood experience should be available to all Oregon kids! Families who need full-day childcare are currently eliminated from the pool of folks who can take advantage of this excellent form of early childhood education. Licensure for these programs would make this high-quality childcare option available to the people who arguably need it most. Adopting this bill will mean more early childhood education options in our state, which will mean more kids get the care they deserve in their preschool years. Providing state oversight for outdoor kindergartens is a cost-effective way to provide more education (and childcare) for more kids. More than that, it's a concrete way for Oregon lawmakers to invest in kids and families.

Thank you for considering this important issue; please vote in favor of licensing outdoor kindergartens in Oregon.