

# Outdoor School Testimonial

Sarah Sibbersen  
Jacksonville, OR

February 27, 2023

House Bill 2717  
Outdoor Preschool Licensure

Dear All,

I have had the opportunity to send my daughter to an outdoor preschool program and now an outdoor grade school program near Jacksonville, Oregon. Our experience has been truly wonderful and I can't imagine a better way to begin the educational paths of all kids in our state. I feel that my daughter's preschool experience outdoors has been empowering, comprehensive, and appropriate to her needs as she has developed through her preschool years.

The outdoor preschool program we participate in has created confidence and social connections in a unique way for my daughter and her classmates. They have developed a closeness that resembles sibling relationships and have grown alongside one another in their outdoor classrooms. Being outside and constantly stimulated by all that there is to take in seems to mitigate so many of the anxious and stressful aspects of these early experiences away from the primary family.

Access to quality preschool and early education programs has been shown to effectively increase graduation rates and improve educational outcomes. Outdoor preschool licensure would begin to improve the access of all families to these programs regardless of financial barriers or special needs. In addition to improving graduation rates, the positive impacts of early education would create all kinds of positive change for rural Oregonians. Kids who stay in school and engaged are going to lead to a better future. Our communities would greatly benefit from improved access to outdoor preschool programs!

We feel very fortunate to have access to this outdoor preschool program. The deep social and environmental connections that our daughter has formed through her outdoor preschool program have been inspiring. I am so thankful that she has been able to start her educational path in this program. These students seem to be on a better path toward shaping a better future for our state and preserving and sustaining the resources we are so lucky to have here in Oregon. Thanks very much for your time and please pass this bill along with any that may come along in regards to preschool access for all!

Best,

Sarah Sibbersen