

# TAKE ME OUTSIDE *for learning*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

[Date]

Our class will be enjoying the outdoors as a regular learning space this year. We are excited to be taking part in the **Take Me Outside year long Learning Challenge**. I am writing to inform you what this will look like for our class, and also to share the Take Me Outside contract that both students and parents will need to sign.

There is a growing amount of scientific evidence that says when we provide children with the chance to **spend regular time in nature, they are happier, healthier and better learners**. We are undoubtedly in a time more than ever that needs our youth to be empowered to protect and be stewards of the earth.

**I will be designing lessons based on [insert your province/territory] Curriculum, which are normally taught indoors, to teach in and around the schoolyard and/or in our local natural areas** [insert your local natural areas you may utilize]. It is important that students understand that when we are taking a lesson outside; this is not free play or recess time. We will be working hard on our classroom respect, behaviour and approach to learning throughout September so students get into the groove of productive learning outdoors on a regular basis!

**To assist your child in feeling comfortable and ready to learn outdoors, please help him or her to choose clothes and footwear that are appropriate for the weather each day.**

[Fill in any details about routine times you will be outside. *Example: We will be aiming to have most of our outdoor learning on our 'Wilderness Wednesdays', but with schedule changes or weather conditions, that day is flexible to change.*]

[Fill in details about your outdoor learning space. *Example: Our school's outdoor classroom has picnic tables, an outdoor chalkboard and shade cloth, and sometimes students will be asked to bring our class set of clipboards outside.*]

If you have any questions about our outdoor learning or your child's individual needs, please don't hesitate to contact me! Thanks for your support, and let me know if you're ever interested in joining our class outside!

[ Teacher signature ]

"What's important is that children have an opportunity to bond with the natural world, to learn to love it and feel comfortable in it, before being asked to heal its wounds... If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it."  
-David Sobel

