



The Dewey School
growing inside...out
at the Canterbury Shaker Village

Caregiver Handbook

2025
Summer Camp

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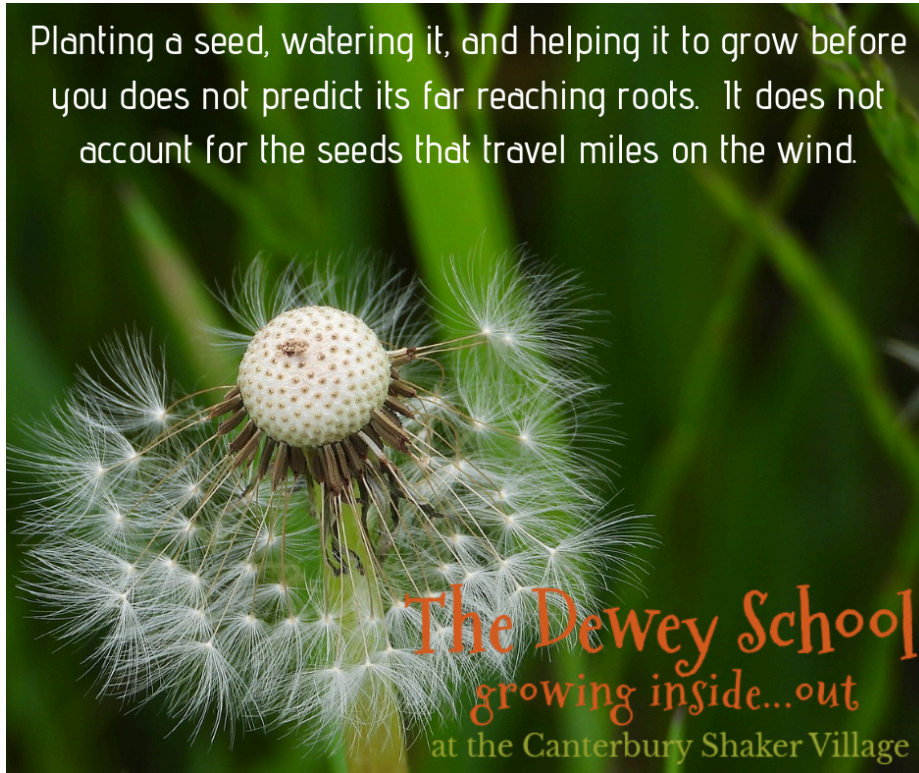
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Welcome

Thank you for choosing to enroll your child in summer camp at The Dewey School. We are excited to have you join us in nature-based, Reggio inspired learning. The Dewey School is committed to spending time outdoors and learning with joy! Time in nature allows for spontaneous exploration outside and acts as inspiration for work inside. At The Dewey School, children have the freedom to explore their own interests, growing inside...out in the community.

This handbook is a starting place in our journey together. Please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to learning and building community with your family.

Planting a seed, watering it, and helping it to grow before you does not predict its far reaching roots. It does not account for the seeds that travel miles on the wind.





As taken from the Canterbury Shaker Village Master Plan, adopted by the Board of Corporators of the Canterbury Shaker Village, May 1, 1993.

The Shaker Legacy at Canterbury

The Shaker story in Canterbury began in the 1780's with a gathering of Shaker converts at the farm of Benjamin Whitcher. In 1792, the community was formally "called to order." In 1992, Canterbury became the first Shaker community in America to reach its 200th Anniversary with a Shaker in residence. On Labor Day, 1992, the long and distinguished Shaker movement in New Hampshire reached a quiet end with the death of Sister Ethel Hudson, at the age of 96.

Canterbury was one of 19 villages established by the United Society of Believers. These villages were an alternative model of human social organization and development from that operating in the American society which surrounded them. While American society exalted individual achievement, the Shakers believed human potential was best realized collectively. Consequently, they organized themselves socially in order to de-emphasize individualism and self-interest. Within the Shaker community, human relationships were restructured to offer a countervailing force to prevailing social structures. For example, men and women were declared equal from the appointment of ruling Elders and Eldresses to the daily duties of Shaker Brothers and Sisters.

In the larger social context of the history and culture of New England, Canterbury was a progressive urbanized village within a conservative rural region. It functioned effectively in the market economy of New England yet maintained physical and psychological distance from the outside world. The Shakers at Canterbury were unusually inventive and resourceful. They were more technologically progressive than their neighbors and practiced a farsighted stewardship of land and resources. At its peak in the 1850's, Canterbury was divided into four "families" in over 100 buildings housing 300 residents. Surrounding these buildings were over 3,000 acres of farmland, woodlands, millponds, and pasture. The largest of the four Canterbury Shaker "families", the Church Family, erected a Meeting House in 1792, a three-story dwelling house in 1793, a school house where Shaker children and orphans were educated, an infirmary to house the sick, a massive laundry building, and many large industry and farm buildings.

When the Shakers established their Village in Canterbury, there was a virtual absence of natural ponds and large streams which could be used for power generation, and they were forced to rely upon a single horse-drawn saw and grist mill. By 1800, the need for power had become so great that the Shakers constructed a series of eight ponds, linked by ditching, which held water that originated in natural springs two miles to the north. Gravity carried water through the two mile system as it flowed from north to south. The mills were crucial to the economic viability of the Canterbury community, for they provided products and services to be sold to the outside world and used in Village industries.

Although the Shakers are gone from Canterbury, their legacy is still intact as the Village enters its third century. The Dewey School is excited to be located at the Canterbury Shaker Village. All registering families will receive one family membership to the Canterbury Shaker Village enabling families to participate regularly in Village events.

Mission

*It is the mission of **The Dewey School** to offer early learning rooted in play and exploration of the natural world.*

We envision a summer camp program which provides a joyful early learning environment,

- where children are viewed as capable and competent citizens who express themselves through a variety of ways;
- where opportunities to grow through play and student interests are fostered;
- where developing a sense of community is valued and exploring nature is embraced.

The Dewey Way

At The Dewey School summer camp, **children** will be valued for their ability to do meaningful work, their wonder and curiosity, their perspectives, and ability to play. **Families** will be valued for their bonds and traditions, their potential for playfulness, their commitment to work, home and community, and their dreams for their children. Our **Camp Leaders** will be valued for their vision, their delight in children, their wealth of skills and knowledge, and their commitment to families.

Together, (children, families, and faculty, supported by our Dewey Board of Directors) we will cultivate a caring environment of mutual respect where children are active participants in their learning; negotiating play, solving conflicts, and establishing the social rules and boundaries of the group. The Dewey School teachers will view each individual child in a holistic way, understanding that children will represent themselves through the 100 languages; a hundred different ways of expression such as art, voice, drama, engineering, and more. We will respect and nurture each child's potential for physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and creative growth. In our approach to learning, curriculum is emergent and experiential. It is authentic. It provides a context for children to make sense of the world around them and to be invested in and excited about their own learning. Student learning will be made visible through documentation which demonstrates both process and product through photos, narration, and demonstration.

To support the learning path of each child, we:

- Offer a hands-on approach to education in a multi-age, natural learning environment as well as a mindfully created indoor setting.
- Cultivate the students' relationship to self, other, place and land through continuous exposure to all four.

- Utilize an emergent and integrated curriculum to develop the whole child.
- Provide a low student to teacher ratio and lots of time learning and playing through a variety of mediums.

With research as a beacon for our pedagogy, The Dewey School appreciates and respects the work of those setting forth learning standards for early learners. Children approach learning in a myriad of ways and when they are ready. That readiness is influenced by many factors. Through encounters with nature, ample free play, and vigorous physical activity, children at The Dewey School develop a solid foundation for their continued learning.

We value community. The Dewey School is a community of learners. We believe that our school should be a reflection of our community, its values, and valuable connections that it has to offer our children. We welcome the expertise of our community. If you have a talent or skill set you'd care to share, please let us know.

Daily Rhythm

We value spontaneity and take advantage of “teachable moments.” We will be learning inside and out during summer camp at The Dewey School! Just as we breathe, we will have active learning (inhale) followed by peaceful reflection (exhale). We'll take our time in all that we do, providing opportunity for the children to be our guides as we move through the day from active to reflective, peaceful learning. A full day may look something like this:

Arrival at 8:00.

Inhale: Work Time - Campers are introduced to materials and invitations of inquiry. Camp Leaders will help facilitate community by guiding children in their communication with one another, problem solving, kindness, and courteousness.

9:00ish

Exhale: Morning Meeting - This gathering includes greeting songs, mindfulness moments, weather, and the plan for the day.

9:30ish

Campers clean up, wash, toilet, and ready themselves for a family style snack that is served outside and provided by Dewey.

10:00ish

Inhale: Daily Adventure - Campers will explore all the forest has to offer; streams, ponds, fields, marshes and more. Introduction to materials and invitations of inquiry will unfold each day to spark interest, investigation, and the intention to dig deeper. Camp leaders will help facilitate nature-based lessons. Some days are

spent hiking and exploring the Village side; mapping, whittling fallen sticks, catching pond specimens, creating natural art, and more.

12:00ish

Exhale: Group time - This gathering is for songs, stories, and group large motor activities such as games, parachute, music, and yoga. It is time to prepare ourselves for lunch.

12:30ish

Lunch as a community. Hands are washed and lunches are served and unpacked. A time to connect and converse about the day and learn more about one another.

1:00-1:30ish

Exhale: Rest time, story time, reflecting the morning,

1:30-2:30ish

Inhale: Afternoon Work - A time to dig deeper, activities may be based on morning topics, allowing the opportunity to further investigate skills, projects, and outdoor interests.

After 2:30ish

Exhale: Closing Meeting, Cleanup of the day, and Goodbyes.

Supporting Your Child's JOY at Dewey

A great day begins with a full tank. Have you ever run out of gas on your way to something you look forward to? It's frustrating to say the least. A good breakfast prevents our children from running out of gas. Whole grains, proteins, and fruits will support them tremendously rather than a bowl of empty calories. Their little bodies travel miles over the course of a morning and while we offer a healthy snack they need to begin their day with a full tank.

Names are Important! Everything you send to camp should be labeled with your child's first name and last initial. Silver sharpies work on black items. Black sharpies work on most everything else. While we pride ourselves in recognizing the gear of the children, many items are often similar and we have friends with the same first names. If you want to ensure that your child's gear comes and goes with them, please put their first name and last initial on **EVERYTHING**.

Sending your child on time to camp each day prepared and dressed appropriately for the day's weather is an expectation. We understand that life happens and that things can go wrong as you are heading out the door...every now

and again. If you find there is a daily struggle, please let us know. We can offer tools and perspectives that may make your morning flow just a bit better. Being consistently late to camp prevents the children from participating in their work time and morning exploration.

TOILETING

It is expected that all children are potty trained and can use the bathroom independently. Pull-ups are **not** acceptable as underwear. For boys, they may choose to stand or sit (a stool is available) to pee. Both boys and girls should be proficient in wiping their own bums after a poop.

Children are encouraged to toilet at regular intervals throughout the day: before snack, after snack/before outside time, when coming in from outside, before lunch, before rest, after getting up from rest. Children are always welcome to use the bathroom on their own after telling a teacher. We do not, as a practice, freely toilet outside.

CLOTHING

Expect your child to go outside **EVERY** day!! We will check the weather constantly for wind, windchill, temperature, upcoming storms, micro-bursts, heat index, etc. We will always err on the side of caution. Children must be dressed in adequate layers and prepared for the outdoors every morning. At The Dewey School, we believe that there is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing choices. It is the family's responsibility to ensure their child has proper clothing for camp at ALL times. We want children to be comfortable and confident outside and being properly dressed is the first step to accomplish this.

Students are involved in many types of activities while attending The Dewey School and should be dressed accordingly. Hands-on nature based experiential education requires freedom from restrictive clothing. Students need simple, comfortable, practical clothing that will not interfere with their active work. Long pants or leggings are best for our experiences with the option of shorts as temperatures rise throughout the day. Students need comfortable, protective shoes with gripping soles for running, jumping and climbing. Rain boots, sneakers, or hiking shoes work best, and closed toed sandals with a heel strap are fine for warm weather (no flip flops, clogs, crocks, dress shoes or backless shoes please).

We get dirty and/or wet on a daily basis and rely on spare clothing for warmth and comfort. It is very important that you maintain the following items in a large ziplock with your child's name on it and everything in it to be kept at camp.

Must Haves:

- 1 pair of underwear
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 pair of pants and/or shorts
- 1 shirt (short or long sleeved depending on the weather)

Children do their best work outdoors when they are warm and dry!! Layers are critically important, especially in wet &/or hot weather. Layering allows you to modify your body temperature and adapt to changing conditions. Two lighter layers are better than one heavy layer. Layering also allows you to adjust clothing to match activity level.

Getting Dirty

You should expect your child to get dirty!!! Please do NOT send them in anything you do not want dirty or wet. Please send your child in outerwear that fits. When clothing is too small or too big it does not provide your child with proper protection or comfort...especially shoes and boots.

Rain-wear

Rain pants are vital! Make sure they are waterproof and not just water-resistant. Wind pants do not provide the same protection as rain pants. Oaki has provided us with a **25% discount** and free shipping. Please use our unique discount **Dewey25** when ordering at www.oaki.com Over time we have found that two pieces (pants/overalls and jacket) are more comfortable for the children, regardless of brand.

Warm Weather Essentials
Waterproof raincoat and pants with hood*
Or waterproof suit*
Rubber Rain Boots
Fleece, Wool Sweater, or Sweatshirt
Sun hat
Sunscreen and bug spray if you have a preferred brand, otherwise we use Badger Balm

Places to buy quality outdoor gear new...

Oaki www.oaki.com Use our code for a 25% discount (DEWEY25) plus free shipping

LLBean www.llbean.com

LandsEnd www.landsend.com

Polarn O. Pyret of Sweden offers parents enrolled in an outdoor oriented school like ours a 20%off discount on their entire range of full priced outerwear. Once you sign up at the link below, you just need to be logged into your shopping account for the discount to apply. No code needed. Sign up at https://www.polarnopyretusa.com/outdoor_schools_form

Guidelines and Risky Play

Being Safe and Respectful

We want students at The Dewey School to be free in their outdoor explorations and we also want to keep our students safe. We have three basic rules at The Dewey School, which your children will learn and we ask that parents/guardians help reinforce:

- Children **MUST** stay within sight of their teacher(s) and be able to see their teacher(s) at all times!
- Children **MUST always answer the OWL CALL** and return to their teacher(s) when they hear it!
- We have 3Rs at The Dewey School; respect each other & ourselves, respect nature, respect our tools.

At The Dewey School we work to maintain a safe learning community both physically and emotionally. We are kind to ourselves and to each other. When we are angry, sad, or frustrated, we stop and take a deep breath...or five. Children are allowed and encouraged to work disagreements out with one another, but an adult will intervene if necessary. Teachers will model listening and talking as resources for conflict resolution. Teachers will support children as they work to communicate with others using their regular voices so they can be heard and understood. Children exhibiting unsafe behaviors will be removed from the situation and asked to stay by a teacher's side until they are able to resume respectful play.

It is expected that The Dewey School staff and parent/guardian will work together to support the children in conflict resolution. These situations can be great learning opportunities and can have a very strong impact on the development of the child depending on how we handle them together.

Stick Play

At The Dewey School children are allowed to play with sticks and are guided by their teachers in respectful stick play. Sticks are amazing, creative tools that can be used for digging, walking, building, counting, and endless imaginary play. Our three rules for stick play are:

1. We do not point sticks at people, not even to pretend.
2. Any child using a stick must constantly be aware of others around them.
3. Sticks must be shorter than the child's arm length unless working with a friend/peer.

If a child is using a stick in an unsafe way after reminders, they will lose their stick privileges for the remainder of their time outside on that day. It is expected that The Dewey School staff and parents/guardians will work together to reinforce these rules around stick play.

Health and Safety

Health Assessment Record and Immunization Form

We are required by the state to have your child's health assessment record and immunization form **BEFORE** their first day of camp. A health form must be completed by your child's physician and on file showing that your child has had a physical within the past year. Health forms **expire one year from the date of the physical exam** indicated on the form and not the date the form was completed. Please talk to The Dewey School director if you need an exemption.

Illness

Children are to be kept home if they have symptoms of illness such as a fever of 100 degrees or higher, sore throat, deep cough, rash, diarrhea, inflammation of the eyes, vomiting, or any infectious condition. If your child will not be present, please notify us before 8:30 a.m. on the day of their absence. Students should not be sent back to camp until they have been symptom and medication free for 24 hours*. If your child becomes sick at camp, you will be notified through the information you provided on the emergency contact form. If we are unable to contact a parent or guardian, then an emergency contact will be notified.

Water and Creek Play

The Dewey School will use various locations at the Canterbury Shaker Village for educational purposes and play. A seasonal creek runs through our Paradise Meadow as well as a wetland. Students may need to cross over the creek or wetland daily to access some of the hiking trails. Often we will play in the creek exploring the properties of water, flow, damming, pooling, etc. Please notify us if you or your child have any concerns about water.

Ticks/Mosquitoes

Ticks and mosquitoes have now become a consistent part of our outdoor experience. Please check your child for ticks at the end of each day. The Dewey School Staff will help to establish a daily tick check. This is a daily routine that

you will also want to do with your child while getting ready for bed or taking a bath. Please feel free to spray your child's clothing with your desired spray and/or send them to camp pre-sprayed. Rubber boots have been said to be of benefit as ticks are challenged to climb their slippery surface. We spray with Yaya Tick Ban and use White Mountain natural oil to ward off blackflies.

Injuries

In the event that your child is injured during the day at The Dewey School, a staff member will complete an injury report form and parents/caregivers will be notified of the incident at pick-up time. In the case of a serious injury, parents will be notified by phone to discuss further action. If we are unable to contact a parent/guardian, then an emergency contact will be notified. In the event of a critical emergency we will contact 911 and the Canterbury Police Department (First Responders). All of our teachers are Pediatric CPR/First Aid certified with at least one being Wilderness First Aid certified.

Head Lice

Parents **must** notify the school if they discover that their child has head lice. If there is a confirmed case of head lice identified in our camp community, all children will be screened. Students with head lice will be sent home from camp and will be readmitted when they have been treated and are nit free.

Medication Administration

Prescription and over the counter medications should be discussed with The Dewey School director and will be handled in compliance with NH DHHS regulations.

Child Protective Services Act

The Dewey School staff are required by the state of New Hampshire to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities.

Payment Policy

Deposit

An enrollment fee of \$25 per child is required at time of registration. The fee is non-refundable and cannot be transferred to other persons or camp sessions.

Payment Due Dates

Payment is due two weeks prior to the camp session start date via HiMama. Check payments must be coordinated with The Dewey School office. Failure to pay on time will result in losing your camp session spot.

Cancellations, Refunds and Withdrawals

A written 2 week notice is required to withdraw your child from camp sessions. Cancellations less than 2 weeks prior to the start of camp sessions are only permitted if a child has an illness/injury requiring doctor's care and a note from a physician stating that they are unable to participate. Refunds will not be permitted otherwise.

Lillio (Previously Himama)

All payments can be made using the Lillio billing service. You can find their app at <https://www.himama.com/childcare-app>. Here you will be able to track your billing and pay using convenient ACH withdrawal.

We will do our best to email reminders, important dates, and any additional information that needs to be shared at the end of each week. ***If email is not an option for your family, please let the director know so a hard copy can be sent home.*

Caregiver Involvement

Caregiver involvement is essential to the health of our program and our community. As a small non-profit school with few staff, we rely on your support in a number of ways to help our community.

Your responsibilities as a caregiver/parent in support of your child while attending The Dewey School include:

- Sending your child on time to camp each day prepared and dressed appropriately for the day's weather
- Providing a nutritious lunch
- Read and when necessary, respond to emails

Caregivers are always welcome and encouraged to be a part of their child's learning process. When talking to your child about their time at camp, please remember that they have had a full and physically active day. The weather, peer interactions, or unexpected situations may have proved challenging for your child on any given day. We believe these challenges can be worked through and help

our students grow in many ways. Please be sensitive to these potential challenges and try asking questions specific to that day. For example: “What did you see on your hike today?” “What inspired you outside or inside today?” “What work did you do today?” Rather than “Did you have fun today?” or “How was your day?” When we ask specific questions that require more than a one word response we show our children that we are genuinely interested and clued into their world. Their responses and your presence in dialog encourages speech literacy and self esteem.

Please be mindful of your attitude toward the weather, temperatures, and wildlife. Your children are watching and listening to you and we want to set our children up for success in their indoor and outdoor adventures at The Dewey School.

Donations/Fundraising

The Dewey School is an IRS designated 501(c)(3). We appreciate your charitable donations and support of us through **NH Gives in June** and **Giving Tuesday in November**. We also participate in small local fundraisers such as “Good to the Last Crumb” in the fall and spring, as well as our “SHOP Gibson’s” event the weekend before Thanksgiving. If you have other ideas or suggestions for grants, donations, stock contributions, etc. please contact the director or school administrator.

Dewey Gear

CAP has started an online store for Dewey Gear. You can access sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats and more for children and adults at <https://www.deweyschool.net/dewey-gear>.

Behavioral and Intervention Policy

Our goal is to meet the needs of the children enrolled at The Dewey School, acknowledging that all children have their own special needs at one time or another. We see facilitation of early intervention services as a critically important aspect of our work with young children. We watch the development of all the children in our care, and should we have questions, we will follow the steps outlined below:

- Camp Leader will document development and note when behaviors seem outside the norm range over time for children of their age (through anecdotal notes, samples of work, and observation reports)
- We will contact the family and communicate concern(s). We may request permission to arrange for a screening. Should the family agree, we will help to coordinate a screening through the appropriate school system agency.
- If the family refuses to pursue a screening or consult with their child’s school system or a mutually agreed upon outside resource, it may be

determined that The Dewey School is not able to serve the child. The Dewey School director will let the family know as early in the school year as possible of this possible outcome so that the family can pursue other placement options.

The Dewey School has these considerations when asking a child to leave:

- Has the implementation of strategies over time resulted in improvement or have the concerns persisted or escalated?
- Is your family supporting the interventions and practices of The Dewey School?
- Is the program able to meet the needs of the individual child and the needs of the group as a whole?

Each case is considered on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, we will implement a one month adjustment period after which a determination will be made about continuing enrollment. After thoughtful discussion between staff and parents a family may be asked to make other arrangements for their child.

Transitioning

We understand that transitions can be hard for both child and parent. For many children, the most difficult transition is drop-off time. The more routine we can make drop-off, the easier for everyone involved. There are several actions you can take to help this transition and any separation fears your child may have.

As much as possible, please arrive at camp on time! Camp begins at 8:00, a timely arrival will offer your child a chance to self-select their work choices which are offered and settle in with their friends prior to snack and morning meeting.

- While driving to camp, gently remind your child of their morning's schedule/routine. If it seems helpful, perhaps tell them one or two things you will be doing while they are at camp.
- Calmly explain and reassure your child that you will be back and offer a specific reference.
- Remind your child that when they arrive, their The Dewey School time begins! They can join their friends, help a camp leader, explore and play.
- After walking your child to The Dewey School offer a hug &/or kiss and say your good-bye. Allow your child's camp leader(s) to welcome, comfort, and take good care of your child from there. Your child may cry, but we recommend that you continue on to your car. By doing this, you are communicating to your child that you know The Dewey School is a safe place for them and that you have confidence in their ability to handle new challenges. You are also communicating that you trust your child's camp

leader(s). We have found that the adjustment period can be more challenging when good-byes are prolonged.

- Please be reassured that any crying usually stops within a few minutes of seeing you drive away. However, if for some reason your child does not calm down and settle into their morning, you will be called to discuss next steps.

Arrival and Departure

Arrival

Please arrive at The Dewey School by entering through the parking lot entrance. Please do not enter the exit-only driveway at the south of the school. Parking will be **across from the granite steps** of Dewey. **Do NOT park in front of the red brick building as this is a private residence.** Please arrive at your scheduled time. Campers should arrive between 8:00 and 8:10. Your walk up the stairs is a great time to begin your goodbyes. You'll be greeted at the door by a camp leader who will help your child to their cubby to deposit their belongings, invite them to be with friends and explore activities, and sign them in.

Departure

All campers will be picked up at 3:00. Prompt pick up at the respective times is important for the child and is also respectful of the camp leader(s) who has their own commitments to keep. Anyone who picks your child up from camp **must** be on your authorization form. We will ask for photo identification until we know our families well, students will not be released without it. In the event that different pick-up or drop-off arrangements have been made, please inform staff at drop-off that day. The Dewey School will not transport children in a vehicle.

Late Pick-Up Policy

The first five minutes after the scheduled pickup-time are free of charge. A \$10 fee for each 10 minutes you are late thereafter. This charge will be reflected in an invoice via HiMama.

Inclement Weather/School Closings

The Dewey School will not operate when extreme weather creates conditions which are dangerous for camp staff and young children and their families. The Dewey School follows our local school districts, the Shaker Regional School District and Merrimack Valley School District, for weather events. The Director will communicate any delay or cancellation due to inclement weather by 6:00am via HiMama, and The Dewey School Community Facebook page. Closures for inclement weather or natural disasters are not refundable.

FOOD

Snacks and Lunches

Food and water are a very important part of our time together. Taking good care of our bodies by nourishing them with healthy food and lots of water will help keep us energized and prepared to do our work. Lunch will always be eaten together with camp leader(s), family style, building community as we use kind manners and enjoy each other's company. Morning snacks will be provided by the camp. Children will be offered a form of protein, fruit and/or vegetable, and whole grain.

Please provide an insulated, reusable water bottle that will be taken home daily for washing and returned.

Children attending The Dewey School all day are required to bring their own nutritious lunch every day. Lunch needs to be in a leakproof lunch container with your child's name on it that will be placed in the fridge. Good nutrition plays an important role in the development of a child physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Food Restrictions and Allergies

Please notify the director of any food restrictions or allergies for your child. Depending on the nature of the restrictions or allergies, families may be asked to provide snack alternatives or eliminate certain types of food.

Non-discrimination Policy

The policy of the The Dewey School prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, gender, religion, race, color, creed, sexual orientation, handicap, national or ethnic origin, or marital or parental status in the recruitment and employment of employees, in (i) the awarding and acceptance of grants and funds; (ii) the admission of students; (iii) the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, tuition assistance and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs and services.