



Oregon Department of
**Early Learning
and Care**

**Outdoor Nature-Based
Community Workgroup**

June 4, 2024





Welcome to the Workgroup!

We are glad you are here. While we are waiting to begin, please add your name and role in this Workgroup in the chat.

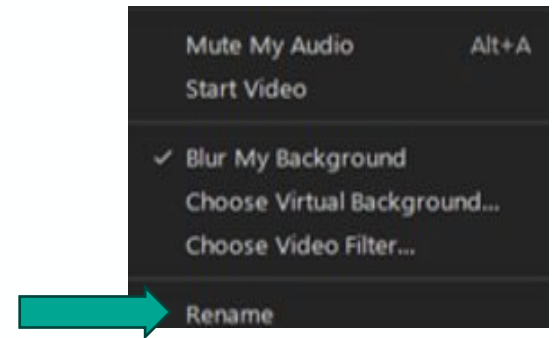
Rename your participant icon with your first and last name. You can do that one of two ways:

1. Click on the participants icon on the bottom of your screen.

- At the top right, your participant name will appear.
- Hover over your name and click on the 3 dots to the right and click rename.



2. Right mouse click on the screen to get a short menu. Choose rename.



Accessing Zoom from a phone App:

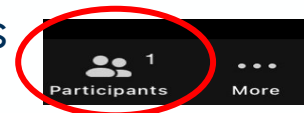
Rename your participant icon with your first and last name.

1. On the Zoom in-meeting controls, tap Participants

2. Tap your name, then tap rename

3. Other controls:

- *6 Mute/Unmute
- *9 Raise/Lower hands





Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Review Group Norms
3. ONB Licensing Guiding Principles
4. Workgroup Guiding Questions
5. Follow-up/Feedback:
 - Workgroup Feedback Summary
6. Discussion Topics:
 - Determining Capacity for ONB programs
7. Break
8. Discussion Topics:
 - Emergency Preparedness
9. Closing and next steps (5 minutes)





Group Norms



- Allow opportunities for all voices to be heard
 - *Take space, make space*
- Remain focused on the scope of the workgroup
- Be open for respectful discussion
 - *Have an open mind and ask clarifying questions to confirm understanding*
- Encourage and honor individual perspectives and truths
 - *All experiences are valuable and contribute to our shared understanding*
- Use the "raise hand" function or chat for comments
- Practice active listening
 - *Listen to understand and give time to reflect before responding*
- Seek commonality
 - *We may disagree-which is okay-but will be guided by our shared commitment*



ONB Licensing Guiding Principles

Goal: To develop and implement licensing requirements that ensure the health and safety of children in outdoor nature-based settings.

- Draw from and align with existing licensing regulations and national ONB experts when possible:
 - Washington Licensing Regulations for ONB
 - Natural Start Alliance
 - Current CCLD licensing rules for certified facilities (guidance and discipline, prohibited punishment, CBR rules, etc.)
- Incorporate knowledge and expertise of current Oregon ONB practitioners
- Ensure compliance with CCDF (federal requirements) licensing regulations (Ratios, background checks, monitoring, training requirements, complaints, 11 health and safety topics)
- Consider the unique physical environments, materials, and activities inherent to ONB programs.
- Provide for flexible ways to meet health and safety requirements in ONB programs.



Workgroup Guiding Questions

When reviewing the Workgroup discussion topics, some guiding questions and thoughts to consider:

- How would this requirement look in an outdoor environment?
- What are the possible financial impacts, is there available research on recommended best practice, and are there available resources?
- How would these rules support new ONB programs as they pursue licensing?
- What recommendations do you have to alter the proposed requirement?



Workgroup Discussion Summary

What We Heard:	Adjustments Made Based on Feedback:
<p>ONB Definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Needs to be clear to distinguish an ONB program rather than a program that spends the majority of its time outside.	<p>"Outdoor nature-based child care" means an agency or agency-offered program that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Enrolls only preschool through school-age children;Provides child care primarily in an outdoor nature spaceUtilizes a philosophy where nature is central to children's learning and development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ONB curriculum should be free flowing, emergent, and not prescriptive to allow for flexibility in learning.	<p>Done! We removed the reference to "nature-based curriculum" from the ONB definition and changed it to read: Utilizes a philosophy where nature is central to children's learning and development.</p>

Workgroup Discussion Summary

What we Heard:	Adjustments Made Based on Feedback:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition of supervision: There isn't a difference between active supervision and supervision	<p>We heard you! There will only be one definition for supervision.</p> <p><i>This aligns with the certified child care center supervision definition.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Size and Staffing: Concern about two teacher qualified staff needing to be with each group of children.	<p>Adjustment made: Each group will need to have a caregiver who meets the qualifications of a teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The other staff can be a teacher, aide II or aide I qualified staff, with CBR enrollment.

Workgroup Discussion Summary

What we Heard:	Adjustments Made Based on Feedback:
<p>Benefit/Risk Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will all licensed programs have to use this form? Does this apply to field trips?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed use of this form will be a precertification tool and will be used whenever additional classroom space is added.• The primary use for this form is for the outdoor "classroom" space.
<p>Staff Qualifications (Director and Teacher)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why would there be a different set of requirements for ONB staff than in other licensed settings?	<p>This is still under review. We are exploring options for different pathways for qualifications that incorporate experience, training, and education, or a combination.</p>

Workgroup Discussion Summary

What we Heard	Adjustments Made Based on Feedback:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posting licensing requirements would be difficult since oftentimes there is not an area to post items• Adverse weather limits the ability to post items.	Changed the language to read: "items must in a prominent and frequently visited location" ONB programs can maintain their program information in a binder at the ONB drop-off/pick-up location, if the binder is visible to parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ratios: The ratio requirements reviewed during the meeting were too restrictive.	Based on this feedback, this is still under review with the rulemaking group.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risky Play Requirements	Based on this feedback, this is still under review with the rulemaking group.



Discussion Topics





ONB Program Capacity

Washington State's Requirements:	Questions we Have:
<p>For each child attending an ONB program, there must be a minimum of 4,000 square feet of natural space per child in attendance to support a nature-based curriculum, unless otherwise approved by a park's director and the department;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How large is the space you are currently working with?
<p>For a permanently located outdoor classroom area, each child in attendance who is receiving instruction within that area must have a minimum of 75 square feet of space in that area per child in attendance, not including bathroom or diaper changing spaces or ground space occupied by shelves, features, or other equipment not intended to be accessible to children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's reasonable considering environmental impacts and how much land you are working with?• Thoughts and feedback on the 4,000 square feet requirement<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note: 1 acre of land=43,560 square feet. Based on that calculation, one acre of land could possibly accommodate 10 children.



Five Minute Break



Emergency Preparedness

CCLD is federally mandated to have rules regarding emergency preparedness and response planning. This is required for all licensed programs. The information must cover:

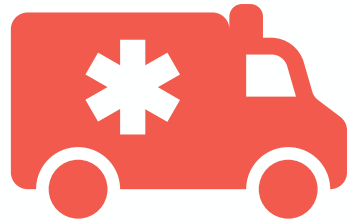
Emergencies resulting from natural disaster or man-caused event;

Procedures for evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place and lockdown;

Staff and volunteer emergency preparedness training and practice drills;

Communication and reunification with families, continuity of operations and accommodation of children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions

Emergency Preparedness



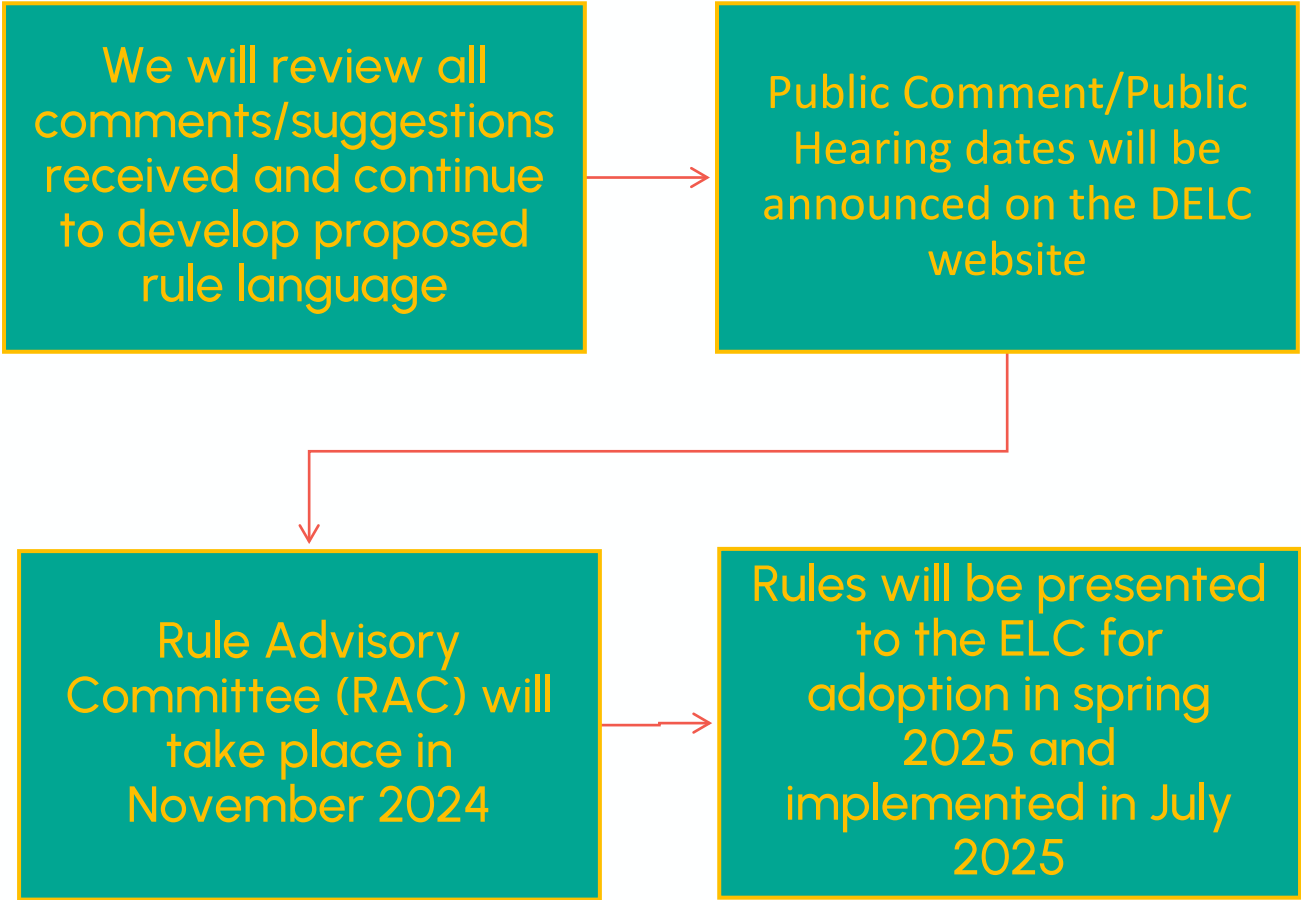
An emergency preparedness plan will be required from ONB programs prior to the issuance of a license.



ONB Emergency Preparedness and Response



Next Steps





You will be compensated for your time. Please watch your email for reimbursement instructions!

Contact Information:
Carol Petersen
carol.a.petersen@delc.oregon.gov



Thank You