

## **Preparing children for a visit to the garden**

**Dress appropriately:** Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for a field trip to the **Garden of the Senses**. Requirements vary depending on the season and weather. Some considerations include:

- closed-toe shoes
- sun hat
- boots (for rainy days)
- sunscreen
- water
- litter-less lunch (if the group is staying for lunch) or snacks

**Rain or shine and all outdoors:** Let children know they will spend all their time outdoors so proper clothing is essential. There are no indoor facilities but we do have port-a-potties on site.

**Rules of the Garden:** We want children to touch the plants (and use all of their other senses) but there are rules of the garden. Share them with the children before arriving. Click [here](#) for our list of garden rules.

### **Weather Considerations**

**Tours of the garden are rain or shine. If programs need to be modified, rescheduled or cancelled due to *extreme* temperatures (warmer than 35 C) or thunderstorms, staff will call the teacher from the visiting school the day before (where possible) or the morning of the trip. Otherwise, there are no cancellations.**

### **8 Tour Tips for Teachers**

1. Share information with parents how to best prepare their children for a visit to the garden.
2. Bring a camera and capture your students enjoying the outdoors!
3. Encourage children to use the bathroom before they board the bus. We do have port-a-potties on site.
4. Put a name tag on each student and teacher. It is so nice to use a child's name during our interactive learning time.
5. Please stress the importance of appropriate clothing for the weather. For rain, it's better to dress children head to toe in waterproof clothing, rather than using umbrellas (which can poke) and ensures their bottoms stay dry while sitting on wet surfaces. Please note, our program will still run in rain.
6. Allow enough time to start the tour at the time you have booked. If you arrive late, we will not be able to accommodate additional time at the end of your

tour to do the activity missed at the beginning.

7. Allow time after the tour to hike through Willow Park or to have a picnic!
8. If you are bringing more than 29 children at one time, your group will be divided. You will want to divide your classes in advance of your arrival.