

When a Student Should Not Attend Mosaic

We need to know that we can keep all our students safe, both physically and emotionally. We want to set all our students up for success at The Mosaic Project, and thus have developed some guidelines for when it is best to leave a student back at school. These are guidelines rather than rules, meant to guide discussions between families, teachers, schools, and Mosaic in preparation for this decision, because many students who have a hard time at school end up thriving at The Mosaic Project. Only very rarely will we recommend a student be left at school.

Out of the many thousands of students we have served, we have sent very few home early from the Outdoor Project. Sending a student home early is a very difficult thing to do and is hard on everyone involved, including the student. While it is rare that students become enough of a safety risk to themselves and others to warrant considering sending them home, the impact is so serious when it does happen that we ask you to read this document carefully. Your student's school and teacher(s) have also read our guidelines for when to leave a student at school, and have agreed to discuss any concerns with us before finalizing their attendance list. We hope it will help to ensure that every student who comes to Mosaic's Outdoor Project can have the very best experience possible.

We recommend students not attend Mosaic's Outdoor Project if:

- They are unable to make it through a school day successfully in a mainstream classroom; if a student would be better off in a very small class where they could receive constant, intensive one on one attention along with intensive therapy.
- You have ever felt that they may be a danger to themselves or others; if a student consistently lashes out at others, either physically or verbally.
- More than once this school year, they have refused to move to where teachers/adults in authority positions asked them to go. We need to know that our students will move where we need them to move if we are to keep them safe in an expansive outdoor setting.
- They have run off, away from the group, more than once during the school year. Again, it is very important that we are able to keep all students safe in an expansive outdoor setting. We also very strictly enforce our "rule of three." This means we must always have two of our staff follow a student if they run off, which can also put the other students' safety in jeopardy.
- We have found the following behaviors lead to emotional and physical safety concerns for the students themselves as well as others:
 - sudden violent outbursts
 - inability to keep from touching other students without their consent
 - inability to self-regulate during the night so that they and others are kept awake
 - lack of honesty, guilt, or remorse after causing harm

- They display severe symptoms associated with (or have already been diagnosed with) either high or medium support needs autism or reactive attachment disorder.

Please note that students who need a 1:1 aide at school will need a 1:1 aide at Mosaic, 24/7 (including overnight in the student's cabin). The school is responsible for providing this aide to accompany the student. Students who have come with needed aides have indeed been successful at our program. A student who you feel would benefit from such an aide, but does not have one, would not get the individualized attention they need to succeed in our program and should not attend.

It is our highest priority to keep everyone in the program physically and emotionally safe. Please keep in mind that we reserve the right to remove anyone who we believe to be a disruption or danger to themselves or the program. In this case, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to arrange transportation home, however, if the parent/guardian is unable to do so, that responsibility falls on the school's teachers and administrators.

Thank you for supporting us in creating a safe, positive learning environment for all of our students! Please discuss with your teacher if you have any concerns about your child attending our program. We partner closely with teachers for decisions around whether or not to send students to our program, behavior management during sessions, and in all communications with parents before, during and after sessions. Your child's teacher is your best resource for these decisions.