

# Welcome To Marmots



## MARMOT MISSION STATEMENT

We believe in the "whole child". A child is unique, develops at his/her own individual pace, is creative, and deserves to wonder, imagine, and believe in the magic of their world. A child should be given a chance to be active in nature and have a chance to be quiet to contemplate one's thoughts. A child deserves to be told stories, act silly, care for others and in turn be cared for by others. We believe in an environment that is safe, secure, and comfortable. By allowing children to explore problems and solutions on their own, it gives the child a sense of importance and confidence in themselves. By having open communication, mutual respect and understanding we believe in creating strong relationships with the children and their families.

## WHAT TO BRING TO CLASS EACH DAY

\*A complete set of extra clothes (underwear, socks, pants, shirt) to put in your child's clothes box above the cubbies. Please have all clothes labeled!

\*Indoor shoes or slippers that stay in the Marmots classroom (you may keep these in your child's box as well)

\*Outdoor gear according to the weather outside (snow pants, rain pants, boots, mitts, sunscreen, hat...). We play outside twice a day in rain, sleet, snow, sun...



\*A nutritious lunch & 2 -3 snacks. We have one morning snack time, one lunch time, and one afternoon snack time. It's great to have choices while eating so more food is helpful! No candy or pop allowed please.

\*The Centre is **Peanut Free** due to severe allergies in different classrooms. In Marmots, you are able to send other nuts but please no peanuts! Please label your child's sandwich if it contains almond butter, pumpkin butter etc, as they seem to look like peanut butter. Thank you.

\*We have a rule that there are no toys allowed from home unless specified on our calendar. Your child may, however, bring a cuddly for Quiet Time each day if s/he chooses.

\*Please arrive by 10 am to be able to participate in all activities!

## HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MARMOTS

### *The start of independence*

We encourage independence in Marmots but certainly do not expect it right away. We simply help and support children as they are on their childhood journey to independence.

To help your child learn to be responsible for themselves here are some tips:

- your child can start to help pack their lunch kit and backpack at home.
- your child can pick their own cubby each day, find their name tag in the name tag box, and sort their belongings in their cubby.
- your child can ask you to read the message board for daily trips or fun things we'll do.
- your child can put their lunch kit on the shelf or hot lunch in the fridge.
- your child will be expected to put away the toys they were playing with when they get picked up at the end of the day.
- your child will be able to gather their back pack and belongings at the end of the day.



### PICK UP TIME

The Whistler Children's Centre closes at 5:30pm. We encourage parents to arrive before that to speak to teachers if they need to (as we do need to have children out by 5:30)! We try and get children set up and packed every night for you so that you can go on with your busy night as easily as possible.

As per your Parent Handbook we do give verbal and written warnings when you are late picking up, which then result in a late pick up fee.

## MEET THE MARMOTS TEACHERS

<b>Kirsi Pereda</b>	<b>Co-Head Teacher /Assistant Director (ECE)</b>
<b>Lori Van der Horst van Lil</b>	<b>Co-Head Teacher (ECE/SN/IT)</b>
<b>Allee Wells</b>	<b>Teacher (ECE)</b>
<b>Maca Butcher</b>	<b>Teacher (ECE Assistant)</b>

### Kirsi Pereda

Kirsi was born in Vancouver and raised in the Richmond and Ladner areas. Kirsi has been an Early Childhood Educator since 1993. Before coming to the Whistler Children's Centre in 1997, she taught at the Burnaby Association for the Mentally Handicapped. Kirsi has built her home in Pemberton Valley where she enjoys gardening and walking along the river with her husband, two sons Tiago and Costa, and her dog "Chivito". She has travelled many times to South America, Europe and has gone to the UK for a story telling and singing course. Kirsi tries to bring imagination alive within children and adults through music and stories. Kirsi speaks five different languages: English, Spanish, French, Finnish and sign language for children.

#### **Fun Fact:**

What did Kirsi do growing up that got her into trouble?

**She peed in her Kindergarten Teacher's boot! I had to go!!**

### Allee Wells (on Maternity leave until Spring 2018)

Allee has been living on the west coast of BC in places like Vancouver, Tofino, and Whistler since 2001. She has her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Emily Carr University of Art and Design and has her Early Childhood Education from Capilano University. Allee has been teaching art to children (as well as teens and adults) for many years at various places such as Arts Umbrella and the Vancouver Art Gallery. She has a strong passion for how creativity informs learning and is very interested in using the Arts and imagination to explore, experience, and discover things in the world. Allee is also a practicing artist, a backyard ecologist and environmentalist, an avid snowboarder, a keen surfer, loves riding her bike, playing outside and generally enjoying everything life has to offer.

#### **Fun Fact:**

What did Allee do growing up that got her into trouble?

**She would sneak things from her big sister and cousin...**

### Lori Van der Horst van Lil

Lori moved to Whistler in 2008. Before coming to Whistler, she took four months off from the childcare field to travel around Europe. Lori is from Port Moody, B.C. where she received her Early Childhood Educator and Special Needs certificates. Lori has much experience in early childhood teaching, supported childcare, after school programming, and preschool. In her free time, Lori enjoys scrapbooking and making cards. Lori also can be seen going to the gym, bungee jumping and spending time with her husband Matt, son Jack, and daughter Stella.

#### **Fun Fact:**

What did Lori do growing up that got her into trouble?

**She would blame others for anything bad that she actually had done!**



## **Maca Butcher**

Maca was born and raised in Chile and in 2006 she received her diploma as a Physical Education Teacher. In 2009 she moved to New Zealand where she taught swimming lessons for children and adults, there she met her husband Adrian. In 2013 she moved to Whistler and started working in hospitality and volunteering in Whistler adaptive sports. Maca started teaching at Whistler Children's Centre in April 2017 and is currently studying to obtain her ECE. She enjoys snowboarding in winter and loves swimming, hiking and biking in summer.

### **Fun Fact:**

#### **What did Maca do growing up that got her into trouble?**

When she was 3 years old she was playing in the kitchen and got her arm burnt with hot tea, now she has a big scar on her right shoulder!

## **MARMOTS DAILY ROUTINE**

(\*times may vary slightly according to the day and the children's interests)

8:00 am	Children begin to arrive Table activities/ Work Time
10:00 am	Children should have all arrived (field trips may begin now)
10:30 am	Tidy-up Time
10:45 am	Recall (tell your group what you worked on)
11:00 am	Morning snack (encouraged to eat the healthier snack!)
11:20 am	Large Group Time (music and movement in a group)
11:30 am	Outside Time
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Quiet Time begins (quiet activities, sleep: if your child needs to, group stories, individual stories, cuddlies, whispering with friends)
1:45 pm	Tidy up mats, cuddlies, quiet time activities and books
2:00 pm	Small Group Time (math/science and language/literacy focused activities)
2:30 pm	Outside Time
3:30 pm	Tidy-up Time Outside and go in
3:45 pm	Afternoon snack and pack your bags to be ready for home
4:00 pm	Work Time
5:00 pm	Tidy- up time
5:15 pm	Recall, group games, stories and saying good night!

