

# 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>Beatriz Tiebas</b>	<b>Teacher (ECE)</b>
<b>Petra Giacomelli</b>	<b>Teacher (ECE Assistant)</b>
<b>Gemma Ribas</b>	<b>Teacher (Bachelor in Special Education)</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!!**

### 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!**

### Beatriz Tiebas

Beatriz was born and raised in Spain (the Basque region). She studied in Early Childhood Education and as a Social Educator as well. When she was 28 yrs old she went to be an au-pair in Glasgow and has travelled ever since! She has lived in New Zealand, Scotland and in 2015 moved to Canada.

**Fun Fact:** What did Beatriz do growing up that got her into trouble?

**When Beatriz knew she was in trouble, she would hide and nobody could find her! That probably got her into more trouble!**

### Petra Giacomelli

Petra grew up in a small ski village high up in the Austrian Alps. She is a certified Kindergarten Teacher and Educator and has more than 10 years of experience in childcare working in after-school programs, preschools, ski schools as well as Au-pair. Before finally settling down in Whistler 2017, Petra lived for two winter seasons at Sun Peaks and work-travelled over a year the world, mainly through NZ and Asia.

When Petra is not working, you can find her out in the nature, adventuring or in the Yoga studio. She loves the mountains. Her passion is Ski-touring, Mountaineering, Music and being in the moment with (your) children.

**Fun Fact:** What did Petra do growing up that got her into trouble?

**Petra really enjoyed teasing her older sister in a cheeky provocative way. Her loud, screaming sister was always the one who got blamed.**

### Gemma Ribas

Gemma was born in a little village near Barcelona. She started 2 different careers in engineering and biology but she didn't enjoy them so took some time to travel until she found her passion: special education. Gemma returned to school and completed her Bachelors degree. She loves to travel and has spent time in India and Nepal. Gemma also enjoys yoga and is a certified instructor. Gemma is excited to be living in Whistler and creating a new home for herself.

**Fun Fact:** What did Gemma do growing up that got her into trouble?

**Gemma would pretend to choke to get her mom's attention then she would laugh!**

## 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!

