

# TINKERGARTEN

## What does it mean to be a Tinkergarten Teacher?

Being a Tinkergarten Teacher is truly special work, and we want to make sure that each teacher in our community understands and feels aligned with three key things:

- The [vision, mission and values](#) our Tinkergarten team shares
- Some unique [qualities](#) that make this role so special
- The [agreements](#) we each make when we become and act as a Tinkergarten Teacher

Before you share your offerings via our Find a Local Teacher directory, we ask that you read and agree to the following. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [teacher.support@tinkergarten.com](mailto:teacher.support@tinkergarten.com). A clear, shared understanding will align us, allowing us to make the biggest impact we can.

### Vision, Mission and Values

#### Our Vision

All parents and caregivers are empowered as their child's most important teacher; all families nurture our planet; and all kids learn how to thrive in our dynamic world.

#### Our Mission

We help kids and families learn together through well-designed, outdoor play experiences.

#### Our Core Values

##### *Purpose*

We share an unwavering commitment to make a lasting, positive impact in the lives of children and families.

##### *Joyful Community*

We create inclusive spaces in which every person is celebrated, valued, connected and encouraged to flourish.

##### *Love to Learn*

We are curious, humble, and playful, driven to learn from every experiment, collaboration, and experience. We all have much to teach and even more to learn.

##### *Power in Teamwork*

We embrace our diversity and work together with mutual reverence in order to grow as individuals and serve our greater purpose.

##### *Nature at the Core*

Nature is our north star. It's an ideal classroom and our shared home. It is our duty and promise to nurture the future stewards of our planet.

## Qualities of the Role

### As a Tinkergarten Teacher, we...

#### **Facilitate wonder.**

Kids are curious & open to learning when they feel wonder. It's our honor to create moments that produce it.

#### **Empower grown ups.**

We help adults to be playful, curious and open to learning. We nurture our learning communities and make personal connections to help adults feel known, valued and ready to grow.

#### **Get lost in the work.**

We sing like small children are watching. When we are playful, our learners are playful. When learners are playful, they learn most and want to learn more.

#### **Continually learn.**

Our TG team invests in teacher growth through the training courses we provide, the professional community we nurture and the rich curriculum we create each season. TG Teachers remain curious and self reflective, asking great questions, exchanging ideas and seeking opportunities to continue to develop our craft.

## Agreements

### As Tinkergarten Teachers, we...

#### **Provide Dependable Continuity.**

We follow through on our promises to explorers (kids) and guides (their grown ups), making policies and ensuring that we provide whatever learning experiences we promise with the highest possible quality.

#### **Learn Outside, All Four Seasons, Rain or Shine.**

We celebrate and facilitate learning in all weather in all four seasons each year. When it's unsafe or not possible to learn outside, we bring the outdoors in!

#### **Support all families.**

We welcome people of every culture, race, creed, and identity to participate, honoring the unique interests, strengths, and needs of everyone who joins us. We strive to continue to learn about how we can understand the ways in which we can create learning environments that help each and every person thrive. See our full statement of equity [here](#).

#### **Communicate with colleagues.**

We remain responsive and keep in touch with teammates on the Tinkergarten central team and our fellow teachers, always communicating with curiosity and deep, mutual respect.

#### **Build community.**

We create spaces that celebrate and value every person and our broader community. We build strong relationships with local green spaces and teach our community to care for and support green spaces. We regularly share thought leadership and actively raise awareness in our communities to further our shared mission and support new families in getting involved.