

Petersburg Medical Center  
PMC Youth Programs Press Release  
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# PMC Expands Summer Youth Programs

Petersburg Medical Center's youth programs are expanding this summer to allow more children to participate and to provide additional programming and options when it comes to childcare needs. The total capacity for the Kinder Skog summer program is essentially doubling, increasing to 40 children, up from the previous capacity of 20.

As part of the expansion, Kinder Skog is offering a new summer "Forest Kindy" program designed specifically for 5-6 year olds. The goal of this program is to keep children engaged and learning over the summer while helping to support the school district's summer learning goals for students. Other PMC summer youth programs, such as PODS (Play Outside Days) and ORCA camps (Outdoor Recreation Adventure and Creation), will continue under the PMC Community Wellness Department.

These expanded programs are possible following the recommendation of the State of Alaska Childcare Program to transition the PMC Kinder Skog program from a licensed childcare program to an exempt from childcare licensure recreational program, starting in June 2023. This change better reflected the services provided and allowed the program to expand capacity and meet the community's needs. PMC plans to implement a scholarship program for eligible families in need of tuition assistance who are affected by this licensing change, including those who currently have assistance from the State Childcare Program or Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Association.

While the transition to an exempt recreational program lifts childcare licensing regulations from PMC childcare programs, PMC will continue to maintain many of the same safety and quality measures such as a low staff-to-child ratio currently in place under the licensed childcare regulations. In addition, Kinder Skog has appointed a local safety officer and has implemented additional safety policies and procedures that fit the unique outdoor program, such as staff training on concussions and ice and cold water safety and rescue.

If you are interested in learning more about these youth programs contact PMC's Youth Program Coordinator Katie Holmlund at [kholmlund@pmc-health.org](mailto:kholmlund@pmc-health.org).