

Oak and Orca Bioregional School  
Teacher Interview

**TEACHER INTERVIEW**

The following interview questions will be used for the formal interview portion of the application process. Please note that this is a 45 minute interview. You will want to adjust your answers to the questions in order to fit them into 45 minutes. You may alter the order of the questions, if you feel some are more important to you and are concerned that you may run out of time.

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What does bioregionalism mean to you? How do you embody this philosophy in your lifestyle and teaching practice?

What is your own teaching philosophy? How do you see it fitting with what you know of the Oak and Orca philosophy? What challenges do you see for yourself with respect to philosophy if you were to work here?

Given the complex nature of this work environment<sup>1</sup> and the responsibility of each teacher to create consensus amongst children, parents and other staff, what challenges do you see for yourself working here? Do you feel any of your needs would be in conflict with this approach? If so, what strategies would you use to meet these needs and responsibilities?

What is your understanding of an open classroom? How would you set up an open classroom for children who have difficulty enjoying writing? How would you assess a child's math abilities in an open classroom context?

One of the challenges of the open classroom and the degree of choice children are given at Oak and Orca is the conflicting feelings and needs children sometimes have. What would be your approach to a child that has difficulty producing work he was proud of in a group setting, yet has social needs that make it difficult for him to choose to work alone?

What are your preferred methods of discipline with children?

What are your goals as a teacher? How does Oak and Orca school fit into your own goals?

Do you have any questions about the job or school?

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<sup>1</sup> This is a complex work environment that can sometimes be difficult and stressful. Things to be aware of include: each teacher must make a commitment to use alternative approaches to teaching and learning in order to best meet the needs of every student; being in a converted house means we are sometimes short of space, and thus teachers may at times have little personal space, and reduced storage space; as we strive to be a cooperative and cohesive teaching team, teachers do not have complete autonomy in their classrooms, nor 100% access to them at all times (they are shared between staff and students); as we are a non-profit and must be diligent with our money allocation, we have decided to use older technology that while it can be slower and can need repair, is still very capable of meeting our software needs; finally, because we strive to ensure our environmental and educational philosophies underlie all our decisions, teachers and staff collaborate on all decisions & consensus must be reached before we can move forward - while we feel that this sort of decision making is essential to school cohesion, we understand that it may at times feel time-consuming and frustrating.