



# CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Dear Prospective Parents/Guardians,

Your child's physical, emotional, and social well-being is incredibly important to us at Concordia Language Villages. We want to provide a healthy experience for each villager. To accomplish this goal, we partner with you. You know your child's health needs; we know the capabilities of our program.

Our healthcare plan is designed to complement the growth and development needs of children and youth within reasonable parameters. Our program expects that villagers can meet their own personal needs, but we also seek to be as inclusive as our facilities and program design allows.

Given the Language Villages' mission and the program that has been designed to support that mission, in order to be a successful villager, your child should be able to:

- Meet their personal needs, such as getting dressed, showering, and eating;
- Move independently from place to place; and
- Effectively interact in our group-based and community-living environment, a setting that takes place largely outdoors and follows a schedule subject to change

These developmental markers — especially the third one — are critical to the Language Villages experience. Your child will share a bedroom with several other people and will be expected to appropriately interact with others to accomplish all kinds of quests — from establishing cabin rules to creating skits and maintaining emotional resilience in our language immersion setting.

**Mental, Emotional & Social Health (MESH):** We are particularly concerned about MESH conditions, especially those that make it challenging for your child to sustain their involvement in our community-based program and/or conditions that impact the experience of others. Mental, emotional, social, and/or physical behavior that negatively affects a child's ability to participate in the program or that significantly disrupts the program experience for others may constitute grounds for dismissal, so it is important that you contact Health Services prior to enrollment if you have questions or concerns about your child.

A few things to consider:

- Does your child have a psychiatric diagnosis such as depression, OCD, panic/anxiety disorder, or other emotional health concern?
- Has your child been to a residential camp before? If so, how did they respond to being away from home? How well did they interface with their cabin mates?
- Does your child have an IEP, Section 504 Plan, or other special support services in school? Although every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations, there are instances where a child's needs may exceed the parameters of the scope of our program. Keep in mind that school-based plans are helpful but our residential program may need information beyond the scope of your child's school plan. Contact Health Services to discuss further.
- Does your child take medication for a behavioral or mental health concern? If so, they should be on the same medication at the same dose for the three months prior to their Village arrival.

- Has your child received in-patient care in the last 12 months for psychiatric reasons?
- During the past 12 months, has your child seen or are they currently seeing a professional to address mental, emotional, or social health concerns?
- Have you discussed the potential for your child to attend our program with your child's therapeutic team and do they support this?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, it is a good idea to contact Health Services as well as your child's health professional (e.g., psychiatrist, physician) to discuss further. Youth with MESH challenges may have the potential to do well in our program but only if we carefully explore their needs to determine if our program is a good fit for them. It is better to have these conversations sooner rather than later to determine if our program is the right fit.

Please e-mail Kira Frisby, Manager of Health Services at [kfrisby@cord.edu](mailto:kfrisby@cord.edu) or the direct CLV Health Services at [health@cord.edu](mailto:health@cord.edu) for more information.

Thank you