FAMILY GUIDE · SUMMER 2027

Dr. Dirt's School of Natural Wisdom

Soil, seeds, chickens, microbes and muddy hands.

June 7 – July 15, 2027 · Monday–Thursday · 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
18-1994 Wao Nani, Mountain View, Hawai'i 96771



Over six weeks, children explore:
soil health · farming · building · plants for health · and the microscope that checks it all.

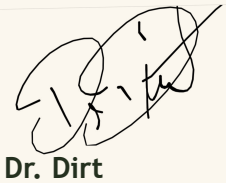
Aloha, families.

When I coached soccer, I was known for connecting the game to life. A missed shot, a muddy field, a teammate who needed a hand: every bit of it taught something bigger. The garden teaches the same way. Roots grow before fruit. Compost turns what was thrown away into food. Chicks leave the warmth of the brooder when they are ready, and not before.

Here, your child will build a chicken coop, raise chicks, plant and tend a garden, make compost and living cultures, and look at all of it under the microscope. They will cook, hear stories, climb, play and get dirty. My wife Cherie, who brings 20 years of experience in education, teaches healing herbs, salves and extracts, and she is with the children almost every day.

Nothing here happens on one day and disappears the next. The coop, the chicks, the garden and the cultures run through every day, and each week builds on the last.

I will treat your child as if they were my own.



Dr. Dirt

Day 1 matters. The cover crops, compost pile, garden, cultures and coop all begin in Week 1, and the rest of camp grows from those roots. Every child starts on Monday, June 7.

8–12	4 or 6	$275	Rain or shine
children per class	weeks, both starting Day 1	per week each with a full class	outside, under the tarp

HOW CAMP WORKS

One land, one story, every day

Children arrive to tools out and parts ready to build. We are outside nearly all day. When it rains, we work under the big tarp. The classroom is Dr. Dirt's lab, used for the microscope rather than sitting.

Four weeks: Build & Begin

A complete story from bare ground to a finished home for the chicks.

- Plant cover crops and a garden; start compost and cultures
- Build the coop and move the chicks in
- Lead their families through it on Family Harvest Day
- **Take home:** field journal, handmade salve and badge log

Six weeks: Tend & Lead

Weeks 5 and 6 are when the work pays off, not extra time.

- The compost started on Day 2 is finished and feeds the garden
- Children become the chicken keepers and build the run
- Each child investigates a question of their own
- **Take home:** journal, salve, extract, seeds, class book and badge log

Who thrives here

Curious children who love being outside, can follow safety directions, enjoy working with others and are happy to get wet and dirty. Class size: 8–12, with Dr. Dirt and his wife, Cherie.

Earning badges

Children earn wooden badges by showing a skill, not by showing up. At the end of each week they brand their own badges with Dr. Dirt's iron over the fire and nail them onto a log round they take home.

The daily rhythm

8:00	**Arrive & morning rounds**	Check the chicks, garden, compost and culture jars. Log what we notice.
8:20	**Opening circle**	The day's soil truth and what it means for us.
8:35	**Build block**	Coop work. Small groups rotate to the microscope.
9:35	**Snack**	Set the table, eat together, clear.
10:00	**Climb, play, move**	Climbing, balancing and obstacles the children create from what is on the land.
10:45	**Main lesson**	The day's garden, compost, culture, kitchen or healing-herb work.
11:45	**Lunch**	Set, eat, clear.
12:15	**Story & creative reading**	Under the tarp, rain or shine.
12:45	**Afternoon thread**	Healing herbs with Cherie, garden care, kitchen or open exploring.
1:35	**Clean up**	Tools, tables and hands.
1:50	**Closing circle**	What grew today? On the last day of each week, the badge ceremony comes first. Pickup at 2:00.

THE HEART OF IT

Six soil truths

Every week has a soil truth. We live it in the garden, talk about it in circle and hear it in a Dr. Dirt story. What happens to the soil, the plants and the chicks becomes a way to talk about growing up: starting strong, struggle, patience, change, teamwork and giving back.

Wk	Soil truth	What it means for us	Story	Milestone
1	**Roots Before Fruit**	You can't see roots, but everything stands on them. Showing up, learning names and starting strong is how anything great begins.	*Dr. Dirt and the Stubborn Seed*	Cover crops, compost, garden and cultures all begin
2	**Feed the Soil**	What you feed grows. Good friends, good habits and kind words are compost for people.	*Dr. Dirt and the Star-Shaped Sickness*	Compost tea; treated and untreated beds
3	**Breaking Down to Build Up**	Compost is what was left over, turned into food. Mistakes and hard days become what we grow from.	*Dr. Dirt and the Standstill Squash*	Lactobacillus harvest; the roof goes on
4	**Leaving the Brooder**	Chicks move out when they are ready, into a home built with care. Change takes courage and a safe place to land.	*Dr. Dirt and the Brittle Bamboo*	Chicks move into the coop; Family Harvest Day
5	**Many Lives, One Soil**	Healthy soil is crowded with differences. Teams are strongest when every role matters.	*Dr. Dirt and the Rainy Day Rust*	Children lead chicken care and their own investigations
6	**Harvest and Seed**	A harvest is meant to be shared, and seeds are how it continues. What we learn, we pass on.	*Dr. Dirt and the Twisting Twin Stalks*	Finished compost; Family Teaching Day

Woven through every day

Each day touches nearly every thread, so learning blends instead of switching subjects.

Build
A real chicken coop, start to finish

Grow
Cover crops, vegetables and fruit

Living things
Raising chicks and caring for them

Compost & cultures
Bokashi, compost tea, lactobacillus, PNSB

Look closer
Before-and-after slides of everything we make

Kitchen & table
Cook, set the table, clear it

Stories
Listening, imagining, writing our own

Healing herbs
Salves and extracts from Cherie's herb jars

Climb & play
Learning with the whole body

Care
We clean up after ourselves

WEEK 1

Roots Before Fruit

Story: *Dr. Dirt and the Stubborn Seed*
You can't see roots, but everything stands on them. Showing up, learning names and starting strong is how anything great begins.

DAY 1 — MON JUN 7

Welcome to the land

- Learn names and walk around the land
- Meet the chicks; first brooder log
- See the garden plan and the coop parts laid out, ready to build
- Sow cover crops

Look closer: BEFORE: Day 1 garden soil

DAY 2 — TUE JUN 8

Start the compost

- Build the bokashi compost pile in layers; take its first temperature
- Coop: tool safety, measure and mark the base
- Kitchen: wash up, set the table, make a fruit snack, clear

Look closer: BEFORE: compost pile materials; bokashi bran vs. plain bran

DAY 3 — WED JUN 9

Plant the garden

- Plant the vegetable beds with a ready bokashi batch; care for the fruit trees
- Cherie: open her herb jars to smell and touch; start a 3-week extract for our salve
- Coop: build the base frame

Look closer: Finished bokashi batch vs. Day 1 soil

DAY 4 — THU JUN 10

Two living cultures

- Set PNSB bottles in the sun
- Make rice wash to catch lactobacillus
- Coop: floor frame
- Data circle: what the chicks, pile and beds told us

Look closer: BEFORE: fresh rice wash and PNSB source water

WEEK 2

Feed the Soil

Story: *Dr. Dirt and the Star-Shaped Sickness*
What you feed grows. Good friends, good habits and kind words are compost for people.

DAY 5 — MON JUN 14

The milk step & compost tea

- Add soured rice wash to milk: the lactobacillus step
- Brew compost tea
- Coop: wall frames
- Cherie: start a 2-week extract

Look closer: AFTER: rice wash 4 days later; BEFORE: plain milk

DAY 6 — TUE JUN 15

Treated and untreated

- Apply compost tea to half a bed; the other half is our comparison
- Begin the daily monitoring plan
- Coop: raise the walls

Look closer: BEFORE & AFTER: compost vs. 24-hour compost tea

DAY 7 — WED JUN 16

Knife skills & salad

- Kitchen: knife safety with soft foods; garden salad
- Garden: weed, mulch and scout for pests
- Coop: roost bars
- Story: draw what you heard

Look closer: Pest or helper? Garden insects

DAY 8 — THU JUN 17

Dr. Dirt's meters

- Measure pH, EC and Brix on garden plants
- Cherie: herb-jar session; start a 1-week extract
- Coop: nesting box
- Data circle

Look closer: AFTER: treated vs. untreated soil; cover-crop roots

WEEK 3

Breaking Down to Build Up

Story: *Dr. Dirt and the Standstill Squash*
Compost is what was left over, turned into food. Mistakes and hard days become what we grow from.

DAY 9 — MON JUN 21

The curds separate

- Harvest the lactobacillus serum
- Check the compost pile: temperature, smell, moisture
- Coop: roof frame

Look closer: AFTER: milk culture vs. Day 5 milk

DAY 10 — TUE JUN 22

Patience in a bottle

- Apply diluted lactobacillus to the garden
- Cherie: start a 3-week extract (ready in Week 6)
- Coop: roof
- Story: change the ending

Look closer: BEFORE: leaf surfaces before spraying

DAY 11 — WED JUN 23

Cook what we grew

- Kitchen: cook a simple dish from the garden
- Coop: hardware cloth to keep out mongoose and rats
- Garden: thin radishes; check the comparison beds

Look closer: AFTER: the same leaves; PNSB vs. Day 4

DAY 12 — THU JUN 24

What the data says

- Data circle: treated vs. untreated
- Meters: second readings
- Cherie: strain our 1-week extract
- Coop: door and ramp

Look closer: AFTER: compost pile vs. Day 2

WEEK 4

Leaving the Brooder

Story: *Dr. Dirt and the Brittle Bamboo*
Chicks move out when they are ready, into a home built with care. Change takes courage and a safe place to land.

DAY 13 — MON JUN 28

Finishing touches

- Coop: finish, paint and make a name sign
- Brooder: lower the heat; the chicks' first supervised time outside
- Kitchen: plan the Harvest Day snack
- Cherie: strain our 2-week extract

Look closer: AFTER: PNSB, red and alive, vs. Day 4

DAY 14 — TUE JUN 29

Salve day

- Cherie: turn our 3-week extract into salve; each child fills a tin
- Coop: the children inspect it with a checklist
- Story: act it out

Look closer: BEFORE & AFTER: dry herb vs. our 3-week extract

DAY 15 — WED JUN 30

Move-in day

- The chicks move into the coop the children built
- New coop routines: water, feed, bedding, latch check
- Garden: harvest radishes and greens; apply PNSB

Look closer: BEFORE: brooder bedding before it goes to compost

DAY 16 — THU JUL 1

Family Harvest Day

- Children make a garden snack and set the table
- Families join 1:00–2:00 for tours led by the children
- Four-week campers take home their journal, salve and badge log

Look closer: Children show families their before-and-after slides

WEEK 5

Many Lives, One Soil

Story: *Dr. Dirt and the Rainy Day Rust*
Healthy soil is crowded with differences. Teams are strongest when every role matters.

Tuesday–Friday this week. No camp Monday, July 5 (Independence Day observed).

DAY 17 — TUE JUL 6

Keepers

- Chicken-care roles rotate; first coop clean-out goes to compost
- Each child chooses a question to investigate
- Build: start the chicken run

Look closer: BEFORE: your own question

DAY 18 — WED JUL 7

Ferments in the kitchen

- Kitchen: quick pickles or sauerkraut, made by the same family of microbes we grew for the garden
- Build: chicken run
- Meters: third readings

Look closer: BEFORE: kitchen ferment vs. our garden culture

DAY 19 — THU JUL 8

Balance

- Fungi and bacteria: count and compare
- Cherie: herbs for everyday care; make an instant extract
- Build: dust-bath box
- Story: begin writing our own soil stories

Look closer: Count fungal threads vs. bacteria

DAY 20 — FRI JUL 9

Show what you found

- Data circle: each child shares early results
- Investigations continue
- Garden: deep watering, mulching and harvest

Look closer: AFTER: kitchen ferment and your question

WEEK 6

Harvest and Seed

Story: *Dr. Dirt and the Twisting Twin Stalks*
A harvest is meant to be shared, and seeds are how it continues. What we learn, we pass on.

DAY 21 — MON JUL 12

Compost comes full circle

- Our bokashi pile is finished: feed the garden with compost we made
- Chop and drop the cover crops
- Build: coop and run repairs

Look closer: AFTER: finished compost vs. Day 2; Week 6 soil vs. Day 1

DAY 22 — TUE JUL 13

Bottle it up

- Cherie: strain and label our 3-week extract
- Save seeds from the garden
- Kitchen: plan the family meal

Look closer: AFTER: brooder bedding in the compost; seeds and roots

DAY 23 — WED JUL 14

Get ready to teach

- Kitchen: prepare the family meal
- Finish our class book of soil stories
- Rehearse teaching stations

Look closer: AFTER: final investigation readings

DAY 24 — THU JUL 15

Family Teaching Day

- Children teach their families at stations around the land
- Shared garden meal
- Take home: extract, journal, seeds, class book and badge log

Look closer: Families' turn, taught by the children

THREADS IN DETAIL

How the pieces grow together

The monitoring plan

Starting Week 2, children log every morning:

- **Brooder:** temperature, how the chicks gather, smells, food, water and droppings
- **Compost pile:** temperature, smell and the squeeze test
- **Culture jars:** color, layers, bubbles and smell
- **Garden:** moisture, new growth, pests and rainfall

Every Thursday's data circle asks what changed, why it changed and what we should do. If something seems off with the chicks or the garden, we look closer under the microscope.

Healing herbs with Cherie

Dr. Dirt's wife, Cherie, brings 20 years of experience in education.

- Week 1: open the herb jars to smell and touch; start a 3-week extract for our salve
- Week 2: start a 2-week extract; herb-jar session; start a 1-week extract
- Week 3: strain the 1-week extract; start a 3-week extract
- Week 4: strain the 2-week extract; turn the first 3-week extract into salve; every child fills a tin
- Week 5: herbs for everyday care; make an instant extract
- Week 6: strain, bottle and label the second 3-week extract

Cherie chooses the herbs from her jars and how each extract is made.

Kitchen & table

- Every meal and snack: set the table, eat together, clear it
- Wash up and handle food safely; fruit snacks
- Knife safety with soft foods; garden salad
- Cook a simple dish from the garden
- Kitchen ferments: pickles or sauerkraut
- Plan, prepare and serve a family meal

Kitchen lessons use garden harvests and small tastings. They are not lunch.

Stories & creative reading

- A story after lunch every day, including Dr. Dirt's own books
- Predict what happens next
- Draw what you heard
- Change the ending
- Act it out
- Write your own soil story for our class book

Climb, play & move

Every day includes free play. Children climb, balance and create their own obstacles and activities from what they find on the land.

Before & after under the microscope

Everything we make gets a "before" slide and an "after" slide: rice wash, milk, compost and tea, sprayed leaves, PNSB, the compost pile and Day 1 soil against Week 6 soil. Children draw or photograph each pair in a slide journal.

CALENDAR

Six weeks at a glance

Monday–Thursday · 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. · Week 5 runs Tuesday–Friday because Monday, July 5 is the Independence Day holiday. Gold boxes mark milestones. On the last day of each week, children brand their badges at the fire.

Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Week 1 **Roots Before Fruit**	Mon Jun 7 · Day 1 Welcome to the land	Tue Jun 8 · Day 2 Start the compost	Wed Jun 9 · Day 3 Plant the garden	Thu Jun 10 · Day 4 Two living cultures **Badge fire: Seed rank**
Week 2 **Feed the Soil**	Mon Jun 14 · Day 5 The milk step & compost tea	Tue Jun 15 · Day 6 Treated and untreated	Wed Jun 16 · Day 7 Knife skills & salad	Thu Jun 17 · Day 8 Dr. Dirt's meters **Badge fire: Root rank**
Week 3 **Breaking Down to Build Up**	Mon Jun 21 · Day 9 The curds separate	Tue Jun 22 · Day 10 Patience in a bottle	Wed Jun 23 · Day 11 Cook what we grew	Thu Jun 24 · Day 12 What the data says **Badge fire: Sprout rank**
Week 4 **Leaving the Brooder**	Mon Jun 28 · Day 13 Finishing touches	Tue Jun 29 · Day 14 Salve day	Wed Jun 30 · Day 15 Move-in day	Thu Jul 1 · Day 16 Family Harvest Day **Badge fire: Grower rank**
Week 5 **Many Lives, One Soil**	Tue Jul 6 · Day 17 Keepers	Wed Jul 7 · Day 18 Ferments in the kitchen	Thu Jul 8 · Day 19 Balance	Fri Jul 9 · Day 20 Show what you found **Badge fire: Keeper rank**
Week 6 **Harvest and Seed**	Mon Jul 12 · Day 21 Compost comes full circle	Tue Jul 13 · Day 22 Bottle it up	Wed Jul 14 · Day 23 Get ready to teach	Thu Jul 15 · Day 24 Family Teaching Day **Badge fire: Harvester rank**

Before camp

- **May 21, 2027:** registration closes
- **Late May:** family introduction meeting; date sent with your registration confirmation
- **June 7:** balance due; camp begins

Family days

- **Thursday, July 1, 1:00-2:00:** Family Harvest Day
- **Thursday, July 15:** Family Teaching Day and shared garden meal; time sent ahead
- **Field trips:** any free family hike or farm or compost-producer visit is announced at least a week ahead. Parents come too.

COSTS & REGISTRATION

Simple, fair pricing

Camp costs **$3,300 per week** to run, shared equally by the children who enroll. The class is never smaller than 8 or larger than 12. **Your weekly price is set when registration closes and stays the same for every week you attend**, even if fewer children stay for Weeks 5 and 6.

Children enrolled	Per week	Four weeks	Six weeks
12 (full class)	**$275.00**	**$1,100.00**	**$1,650.00**
11	$300.00	$1,200.00	$1,800.00
10	$330.00	$1,320.00	$1,980.00
9	$366.67	$1,466.67	$2,200.00
8	$412.50	$1,650.00	$2,475.00

Example: 12 children enroll, so the price is $275 a week. If only 8 stay for Weeks 5 and 6, six-week families still pay $275 for those weeks.

How to register

1. Choose four or six weeks. Every child starts on Day 1, June 7.
2. Return the Enrollment & Health form and the Release & Permission form.
3. Pay a 50% deposit to hold a spot: **$550.00** for four weeks or **$825.00** for six weeks (half the full-class price).
4. Registration closes **May 21, 2027**. You will then receive your weekly price, based on final enrollment, and the date of the family introduction meeting.
5. The balance is due by the first day, **June 7, 2027**.

Scholarships, grants, financial aid and barter are possible. Contact Dr. Dirt to talk it over. If fewer than 8 children enroll, camp will not run and deposits are refunded in full.

Lunch

Food is not included. How we handle lunch will be discussed at the family introduction meeting. If you can't attend, please return the Food Preferences form before the first day.

Contact

drdirt.earth
drdirt@plantsandpeople.earth
808-992-0106
18-1994 Wao Nani, Mountain View, Hawai'i 96771

SAFETY & PACKING

Real work, taught safely

How we keep children safe

- Two adults on site: Dr. Dirt and his wife, Cherie
- Tools are earned one at a time and always supervised
- Hands are washed after handling chicks, compost and cultures
- Cultures, compost and compost tea are never tasted; gloves for bokashi
- Microscope glass is handled with adult help
- Knife and kitchen skills grow step by step
- Allergies are reviewed before any tasting or salve use
- Badge branding: one child at a time at an adult-tended fire, gloved, with the badge held in a clamp
- Heavy rain: we work under the tarp. Lightning: we move indoors.
- First aid kit on hand; families called for anything more than a small scrape

What to bring, every day

- Refillable water bottle
- Closed-toe shoes that can get muddy, plus spare socks
- A full change of clothes and a small towel
- Rain jacket and a hat
- Sunscreen, applied before arrival
- Lunch and snack, as discussed at the introduction meeting

Please label everything. Leave electronics and toys at home.

This is Hawai‘i. Expect wet clothes, muddy shoes, bug bites, little scratches and tired, happy children. If that sounds like a problem, this may not be the right camp for your child. If it sounds like a good day, welcome.

Chicks and hand-washing

Live poultry, even healthy chicks, can carry germs such as salmonella. Children wash their hands after every visit to the brooder or coop, chicks are never kissed or held near faces, and the brooder stays away from food areas.

Release & Permission

This is Hawai'i. Expect your child to get wet, muddy and dirty. Expect little scratches, splinters, bug bites, scraped knees and sore muscles. If you don't want any of that, this isn't the camp for your child.

I will do everything I can to keep your child as safe as possible, and I will treat them as if they were my own. But they will be learning with real tools, live animals, living cultures, plants, uneven ground, climbing and weather, so injury is always possible. We will teach them safety every day and do our best.

Please initial each item. I understand my child will:

- ____ Use real hand tools and, with supervision, power tools to build a chicken coop
- ____ Handle and care for live chicks, and wash hands afterward
- ____ Work with soil, compost, bokashi, compost tea and living cultures that are never to be eaten
- ____ Climb, dig, haul and play actively outdoors on uneven ground, rain or shine
- ____ Prepare and taste foods in kitchen lessons, including knife skills and heat
- ____ Touch, smell and make products from plants, including salves and extracts
- ____ Use microscopes, glass slides and garden meters
- ____ Brand their own wooden badges with a heated iron at a supervised fire, wearing a glove
- ____ Possibly join family field trips, with a parent or guardian present

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

If I cannot be reached in an emergency, I authorize Dr. Dirt's School of Natural Wisdom staff to obtain emergency medical care for my child, and I accept responsibility for its cost.

PHOTOS

☐ Photos of my child may be shared ☐ Group photos only, no names ☐ No photos

AGREEMENT

I have read this form, understand the activities and their risks, and give permission for my child to take part.

Child's name _____

Parent/guardian name _____ **Relationship** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

DR. DIRT'S SCHOOL OF NATURAL WISDOM

Enrollment & Health

Child's name _____ **Date of birth** _____

Path: ☐ Four weeks: June 7 – July 1 ☐ Six weeks: June 7 – July 15

PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____ **Address** _____

Name _____ **Phone** _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS (OTHER THAN PARENTS)

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Name _____ **Phone** _____

WHO MAY PICK UP YOUR CHILD

Names _____

_____

HEALTH

Food allergies _____

Insect, plant or other allergies _____

Medications or medical conditions _____

Doctor's name and phone _____

Emergency medication on site (EpiPen, inhaler): ☐ Yes ☐ No

HELPING YOUR CHILD THRIVE

What should we know? _____

_____

_____

Parent/guardian signature _____ **Date** _____

Food Preferences

Food is not included. We will talk about lunch at the family introduction meeting. **If you can't attend, please fill this out and return it before the first day, June 7.**

Child's name _____ **Parent/guardian** _____

LUNCH

☐ My child will bring their own lunch each day

☐ I am interested in a shared lunch plan if the group chooses one

☐ I would like to talk about this; please contact me

ALLERGIES & INTOLERANCES

Food allergies (please be specific) _____

Intolerances (dairy, gluten, other) _____

HOW YOUR FAMILY EATS

☐ No restrictions ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ No pork ☐ No beef

☐ Halal ☐ Kosher ☐ Other: _____

KITCHEN LESSONS & TASTINGS

Children help cook and taste small amounts of garden food, instant extracts and kitchen ferments (pickles or sauerkraut). Milk is used to make a garden culture; that culture is never eaten.

☐ My child may taste everything made in kitchen lessons

☐ My child may taste kitchen-lesson foods except: _____

☐ Please do not offer my child tastings

ANYTHING ELSE

Foods your child loves _____

Foods your child won't eat _____

Notes _____

Parent/guardian signature _____ **Date** _____