



## *Why Dolphins & Whales?*

Dolphins and whales are often seen nurturing their babies and having a close family unit and bond. They are joyful and remind us to embrace happiness and lightheartedness in our lives. Their playful nature encourages us to reconnect with our inner child and find delight in everyday moments.

Dolphins and whales are known for their intelligence and higher consciousness by being able to navigate life's complexities. They inspire us to enhance our emotional intelligence, empathy and build strong connections with others.

Dolphins and many toothed whales thrive in groups called pods, which highlights the importance of community and supportive relationships. They are believed to safeguard those in danger and protect the ones they care about. They symbolize joy, intelligence, community, empathy and kindness; all attributes Darling Dolphins Childcare hopes to teach, model and have in their small home childcare facility.

Winter the Dolphin who was inspired by the film Dolphin Tale lost her tail to an injury and learned to swim with a prosthesis. She inspired the owner to keep fighting and advocating as she lives with a disability as well.

The owner loves, studies and advocates for the Southern Resident orcas of the Pacific Northwest whom live in the Salish Sea and consist of the J, K and L pods. There are only 74 of them left as they are struggling to survive because of lack of food and low survival rates of their calves. They eat only fish, primarily Chinook Salmon to survive. The captures for marine park in the 1970's significantly decreased their population. They are the most studied and documented pods and all have letters, numbers and names associated to them such as J35 Tahlequah, K45 Prosper and L25 Ocean Sun.

The owner and her family have been blessed by going to Monterey Bay several times and seeing many Humpback whales, Risso dolphins, Transient Orcas, Sea Otters, Sea Lions and birds such as Albatrosses and Pelicans. She still wants to see a Gray Whale, a Blue Whale and Bottlenose Dolphins and Pacific White Sided Dolphins someday!



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