



Please sign the following forms and bring them to family orientation at Bowman Bay on Aug 29 from 3-4pm or to class on your child's first day of school.

Policy & Procedure Acknowledgement

I have received and reviewed a copy of the Family Handbook as well as the Safety Packet that includes the Health Policy, Benefit-Risk Assessment and Emergency Preparedness Plan. These documents can also be found online at: www.fidalgonatureschool.com/enroll

I consent to the policies and procedures described therein.

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____



Informed Consent for Risky Play

At Fidalgo Nature School we support children in becoming confident, capable people who have a sound sense of their abilities and interests, and the ability to take age-appropriate responsibility for their own safety. Adult anxieties about children can lead adults to overprotect them. This makes it harder for children to learn the consequences of their actions and makes learning less engaging. Furthermore, educators, public health professionals, and child development experts are concerned that children today spend less time playing and learning outdoors, with damaging results for them and society. For this reason, unstructured outdoor play and learning are central to this program.

Fidalgo Nature School takes reasonable steps to manage and balance risks, while at the same time allowing children to play freely. Program participants acknowledge its inherent risks of harm and personal injury. While minor injuries like bumps, bruises, and scrapes are not uncommon, serious injuries are rare, and life-changing injuries and fatalities are unlikely in the extreme. Still, as with almost any activity, indoors or outdoors, it is impossible to guarantee that they will not happen. You are required to accept these risks as a condition of your child's participation. Please initial in each box below and sign at the bottom.

Risks

The variety of risks is more than can be listed here and will vary. However, educators are trained and experienced, and their role is to support children in learning and playing, while keeping the risks to an acceptable level.

Below is a list of some of the more significant risks:

- Injuries from strenuous or physically demanding activities
- Injuries resulting from matches or fire
- Injuries resulting from the presence of harmful plants, natural loose parts, wild animals and insects
- Changing and inclement weather, including storms, high winds, and lightning
- The possibility that your child may not heed safety instructions or directions given to the group or delivered individually
- Injuries arising from the actions of other children

In unstructured outdoor play, children freely choose which experiences and forms of play they are comfortable engaging in. Your child is under no obligation to participate in all experiences and may choose not to participate at any time during the program.

I am aware that, alongside the benefits, participation involves risks, dangers, and hazards, and:

- *I freely and voluntarily assume the risks, dangers, and hazards inherent in participating, including all those described above, and the possibility of personal injury, and the remote possibility of fatality;*
- *Being satisfied that participation is suitable for my child, I give my permission and consent for them to participate; and*
- *I will notify FNS staff if my child has any medical or health condition that may cause injury to themselves or others, or may require emergency care during their participation.*

____ *I have been given access to or copies of the Family Handbook and Benefit-Risk Assessment & Risk Management Plans (located in the Safety Packet) which outline the rationale and potential consequences for play involving risks. I hereby authorize and grant permission for my child to participate in calculated risk activities while enrolled at Fidalgo Nature School.*



Outdoor Footwear

As a Nature-Based Early Childhood provider, we believe that children need to know what it feels like to walk barefoot on the grass and feel the sensation of sand between their toes. Some of these benefits include: strengthening the feet and body, developing a sense of body awareness or proprioception (which has been shown to lead to improved balance and jumping skills later on), as well as a healthy, natural gait to name only a few.

____ *I have been given access to or copies of the Family Handbook and Outdoor Footwear Policy (located in the Safety Packet) which outline the rationale and potential consequences for play involving bare feet. I hereby authorize and grant permission for my child to participate in barefoot activities while enrolled at Fidalgo Nature School.*



Near-Water Activities

Operating near a body of water, Fidalgo Nature School will occasionally engage in activities near water. This may include (but is not limited to): free-play on the shoreline with sand, shells, driftwood and other site specific materials as well as observing marine life. At Fidalgo Nature School, children are not allowed to swim or put their feet in the water at the shore. Additional specifics regarding activities near the water can be found in the Benefit-Risk Assessment and Risk Management portion of the Safety Packet.

____ *I have been given access to or copies of the Family Handbook and Benefit-Risk Assessment & Risk Management Plans (located in the Safety Packet), which outline the rationale for and potential consequences of activities near water. I hereby authorize and grant permission for my child to participate in near-water activities while enrolled at Fidalgo Nature School.*



Campfires

Fidalgo Nature School will conduct campfires on occasion. The use of fire in an outdoor preschool setting offers the opportunity to: 1) Learn the science of energy and how fire works; 2) Learn how/why to respect and assess the risks of fires; and 3) Learn to create and cook on an outdoor fire.

As the use of fire possesses inherent risk, Fidalgo Nature School will closely monitor fire safety practices and protocols. Additional specifics regarding fire use can be found in the Benefit-Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plans.

____ *I have been given access to or copies of the Family Handbook and Benefit-Risk Assessment & Risk Management Plans (found in the Safety Packet), which outline the rationale for and potential consequences of conducting campfires. I hereby authorize and grant permission for my child to participate in/with campfire activities while enrolled at Fidalgo Nature School.*



Sharp Tools

Fidalgo Nature School incorporates the use of sharp tools into our programs, such as knives, at Fidalgo Nature School under the guidance of a trained head teacher. Use of tools, such as whittling, can support children in a plethora of ways including with patience, self-regulation, focus and fine-motor skill development. Children will receive educational instruction around basic knife-skills, safety, and proper whittling techniques from their head teacher.

As the use of sharp tools has inherent risk, Fidalgo Nature School will closely monitor tool safety practices and protocols. Additional specifics regarding sharp tools use can be found in the Benefit-Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plans.

____ *I have been given access to or copies of the Family Handbook and Benefit-Risk Assessment & Risk Management Plans (found in the Safety Packet), which outline the rationale for and potential consequences of student use of sharp tools. I hereby authorize and grant permission for my child to participate in/with sharp tool activities while enrolled at Fidalgo Nature School.*



Consent to Treat Medical and/or Dental Emergency of Minor

In the event of an emergency situation requiring immediate medical or dental care, Fidalgo Nature School will make all efforts to contact the child’s listed parent/guardian and/or emergency contact list individual(s). If none of these individuals can be reached immediately in the event of a medical and/or dental emergency a staff or board member of Fidalgo Nature School will seek medical assistance for your child.

I hereby authorize any medical doctor, emergency medical technician, paramedic, nurse, healthcare provider, hospital, dentist or other medical facility to treat my child in case of emergency, illness, allergic reaction, or injury received while my child is participating in Fidalgo Nature School. I authorize a licensed physician to perform any procedure, including the use of anesthesia, that the physician and/or dentist deems advisable to treat any medical and/or dental emergency, illness or injury. I realize that there is a possibility of complications and unforeseen consequences in any medical and/or dental treatment and I assume that risk on behalf of my child.

I attest that I am the parent and/or legal guardian of the child and hereby agree to defend, hold harmless and indemnify Fidalgo Nature School, staff and board, volunteers from all liability, loss, costs, claims or damages that may be imposed upon said parties due to the medical and/or dental treatment or lack thereof given to my child. I have read and understand and agree to the terms in this release.

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: _____ Date: _____



Waiver and Release of Liability

I agree that this Waiver and Release of Liability shall apply to each day my child is at Fidalgo Nature School regardless of the date that this form is signed below. I assume the risk and full responsibility for any and all injuries, losses, or damages that might occur to my child or other family members while on the premises of the preschool or participating in any off-site preschool program or activity; and to the maximum extent of the law, I agree to waive and release any and all claims, suits, or related causes of action against Fidalgo Nature School, their owners, officers, employees or agents, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Deception Pass State Park staff, and the owners of Bowman Bay Campground and Deception Pass State Park, for injury, loss, death, costs or other damages to me, my heirs or assigns, or third party claims, suits or related causes of action asserted against the preschool arising from my conduct and/or my family’s conduct while participating in the preschool’s programs or activities. I further agree to release, indemnify, defend and hold Fidalgo Nature School harmless from any liability whatsoever for future claims presented by my child for any injuries, losses or damages.

Student’s Name: _____

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian’s Name: _____



Additional Forms and Authorizations

Please initial beside each and sign below.

Individual Care Plan

_____ *I understand that it is my responsibility to initiate an Individual Care Plan if my child has any known special or individual needs. Any medical condition requiring staff to administer medication or perform a medical procedure during class, including the risk of a severe allergic reaction, would qualify.*



Child Care Medication Authorization Form

An early learning provider must not give medication to any child without written and signed consent from that child's parent or guardian.

_____ *I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to provide Fidalgo Nature School with a completed and signed child care medication authorization form should my child require medication to be administered by a FNS staff member.*



Child Pick-up Authorization

Fidalgo Nature School staff will not release your child to anyone who is not an authorized individual listed on Procure under Authorized Pickups. Authorized individuals **must show a picture I.D.** to have your child released into their care.

_____ *I have entered name and contact information in Procure for people authorized to pick up my child. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to maintain current records for authorized individuals in my Procure account. I understand that changes to authorized individuals must also be communicated in writing (such as email) to the Director so that on-site printed records can be updated.*



Photo Release

I understand that my child may be photographed at Fidalgo Nature School during normal operating hours, field trips, or organized activities. I understand that these photos are primarily taken for the purpose of sharing our school's daily activities with families of enrolled students via Procure. I understand

that some of these photographs may also be used by Fidalgo Nature School for promotion of our services and may become part of the public record, either in print or on the Internet (i.e., newspaper articles, grant progress reports). I understand that any photos used will never be accompanied by any form of personal identification (such as the student's name). I agree that this permission will remain in effect in perpetuity. I understand that I will receive no cash or in-kind compensation for my child's participation in this release.

_____ With my initials, I grant permission for my child's recognizable features (i.e., face) to be photographed, or their images recorded for print or electronic use by Fidalgo Nature School as described above.

_____ With my initials, I grant permission for my child's unrecognizable features (ie: face) to be photographed, or their images recorded for print or electronic use by Fidalgo Nature School as described above.

_____ With my initials, I do NOT grant permission for my child's recognizable features (i.e., face) to be photographed, or their images recorded for print or electronic use by Fidalgo Nature School as described above.



Toileting

Teachers offer children the opportunity to use the toilet and wash their hands in park facilities twice during each 4-hour session. Children may also request to use the bathroom at any point during the day. The bathrooms are cleaned by FNS staff daily prior to the children's use, and the toilet seats, sinks, or other surfaces that children touch will be cleaned whenever visibly dirty throughout the day.

Because we do not have the facilities to lie children down to change diapers or pull-ups, diapers and pull-ups will be changed from a standing position in the bathroom at the park facilities. We refer to the guidelines for changing soiled diapers and clothing in the American Academy of Pediatrics' [National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs](#) publication.

Our staff are required to supervise students while in the bathroom. They are also available to assist students on an individual level. Our teachers are expected to provide assistance according to the directions of the child's family. We also want to increase self-help skills. We want to ensure that expectations at home are consistent with expectations at school to eliminate any confusion. Assistance will include the following tasks:

- o Assistance with Clothing
- o Assistance with Diapering and/or Wiping after the child has tried on their own first.
- o Assistance with Hand Washing

_____ I grant Fidalgo Nature School staff permission to help my child in the bathroom as needed.

_____ I do NOT grant Fidalgo Nature School staff permission to help my child in the bathroom as needed.



Sunscreen

I understand that applying sunscreen to my child's exposed skin before class is my responsibility. I understand that Fidalgo Nature School provides SPF 50 sunscreen for staff to re-apply as needed throughout the day to the exposed skin of children whose families consent.

I grant Fidalgo Nature School staff permission to re-apply sunscreen to my child's exposed skin as needed throughout the day.

I do NOT grant Fidalgo Nature School staff permission to use sunscreen on my child.



Hand Sanitizer

I understand that hand sanitizer or hand wipes with alcohol may be offered to children over 24 months of age to cleanse their hands when proper hand washing facilities are not available (for example, an emergency nature potty) and when hands are not visibly soiled or dirty. Fidalgo Nature school staff may apply hand sanitizer or wipes to the hands of children whose families consent.

I grant Fidalgo Nature School staff permission to apply hand sanitizers to my child's hands as needed throughout the day.

I do NOT grant Fidalgo Nature School staff permission to use hand sanitizers on my child.



Special Occasions

On special occasions, such as birthdays, Fidalgo Nature School allows parents or guardians to bring in snacks for all children. The snacks provided must be limited to: store-purchased fruits and vegetables; foods prepackaged in the original manufacturer containers; snacks prepared, cooked, or baked at home by the parents or guardians of a child in care.

I grant Fidalgo Nature School permission to offer special occasion foods (prepared or provided by another child's parents or guardians) to my child.

I do NOT grant Fidalgo Nature School permission to offer special occasion foods (prepared or provided by another child's parents or guardians) to my child.



Late Pick-Up Policy

The first two times are free, and recorded on a template that we create. Staff clearly communicate with parents/guardians in each instance.

At time #3 and thereafter, it's \$10 for every 15 minutes that a family is late. This covers a little less than the administrative expense of having two staff supervising the student instead of doing closing tasks, or staying late if beyond the normal staff release time of 2pm.

The Lead Teacher notifies the Executive director. Executive director is responsible for creating the invoice and communicating with the family to solve the problem. The FNS team sticks to the policy 100% of the time, so the boundaries are clear. This makes conversations with family members smoother for the executive director.

Also, medical reasons or family emergencies do not apply. However, if these types of situations continually occur (because there's a sick family member for example), then the executive director works with the family to designate a new pick up person.

____ *I have been given the Late Pick-Up policy and understand that a fee will be added to my Procure account should any of the above mentioned situations occur.*



Private Childcare Services Policy and Release

Fidalgo Nature School understands that finding trusted caregivers can be difficult and does not prohibit families from requesting private childcare services such as babysitting or nannying from our staff. Please initial next to each policy statement, then sign and return to the staff member prior to employment.

____ *I understand that any FNS staff that I may hire for private childcare services such as babysitting or nannying are acting wholly independently from their employment at FNS. I assume the risk and full responsibility for any and all injuries, losses, or damages that might occur to my child or other family or household members caused by FNS staff while they are acting in a private caregiving capacity on or off the premises of Fidalgo Nature School. I further agree to release, indemnify, defend and hold Fidalgo Nature School harmless from any liability whatsoever for future claims presented by my child for any injuries, losses or damages. I agree that this Waiver and Release of Liability shall apply to each day FNS staff are employed for private childcare services, regardless of the date that this form is signed below.*

____ *I understand that FNS staff are under no obligation to act in a private caregiving capacity for my family and that each FNS staff member will make a choice to do so on a case-by-case basis.*

____ *I understand that it is my responsibility to help maintain a safe and friendly working environment for FNS staff; I will not pressure FNS staff into providing private childcare services and will respect their decision if they decline, or accept and later change their mind.*

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

