



FIDALGO
NATURE • SCHOOL

Benefit-Risk Assessments

2021-2022

www.fidalgonatureschool.com

Updated March 29th, 2021

Site Risk Assessments

Site name	Bowman Bay		
Site assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director		
Date	March 29th, 2021		
Site location	Bowman Bay campground including campsites, open field, and beachfront		
Risks	Anticipated Danger	Decision	Ongoing management
Traffic in parking lot	Injuries from car accidents	Do not allow play or other activities in the parking lot. Locate check-in and home base area at least 100 m from parking area.	Explain reasons for caution around vehicles and roads with children.
Hazardous litter including sharps and other biohazards	Injury or infection from contact with litter	Staff will check play areas for dangerous litter before allowing children to explore an area. Children will not pick up litter in the park unless it was generated by our program, as it may be dangerous.	If found, report hazardous litter to park management.
Heavy rain/snow with cold temperatures	Hypothermia Frostbite Dangerous driving conditions	Use the site whenever weather is suitable. If weather or road conditions are unsafe, class will be cancelled. Utilize park shelter, open field, or forest cover in challenging weather. Coordinate with parents to ensure adequate clothing is worn, and provide extras to borrow	Monitor body language and clothing of children throughout the day, and assist them with adding or removing layers if necessary. Notify park management if class is cancelled.
Large trees	Injuries from tree	During windy weather,	Notify park

shedding limbs	limbs falling on program participants or staff	<p>move class to park shelter and open field</p> <p>Cancel school when there is a wind warning, sustained wind over 25 mph, or gusts over 35 mph.</p>	management if class is cancelled.
Presence of poisonous and hazardous plants	<p>Skin rash</p> <p>Poisoning if ingested</p>	<p>Survey play areas for plants that are hazardous to skin contact and do not allow free play in or pass through those areas.</p> <p>Do not allow ingestion of wild plants unless with the explicit knowledge and permission of a teacher every time.</p>	Alert park management to the presence of any invasive poisonous plants
Exposure to members of the public	Dangerous behaviour of strangers	<p>Ask members of the public not to engage with children while they are in the program.</p> <p>Remove children immediately from situations where they are in contact with strangers.</p> <p>Report suspicious behaviour to park staff immediately.</p>	Monitor presence of the public near children and avoid choosing play areas near others' activities.
Ocean waterfront at park	Water-related injuries including drowning	<p>Situate home base at least 100 m from shoreline.</p> <p>Always actively supervise students when playing near water.</p>	Explain reasons for caution around waterfront to children, and remind them of beach safety rules before every activity on the shore.
Tripping hazards in play area	Injuries from falling	Situate picnic tables over campfire grates when not in use to prevent tripping. Designate areas with tripping hazards as slow-movement zones, or remove tripping	Help children bring attention

		hazards before play.	
Hot, dry weather	Dehydration Heat exhaustion	Remind children to hydrate frequently, especially on hot days. Move eating, resting, and play activities to shade during hot weather	Monitor body language and clothing of children throughout the day, and assist them with adding or removing layers if necessary

Activity Benefit-Risk Assessments

Activity	Climbing without shock-absorbing ground cover
Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	December 3, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves spatial and directional awareness, balance, and coordination • Develops the ability to solve spatial problems • Develops the ability to assess the risk of falling from a height • Develops confidence in own abilities
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury due to falling from a height including traumatic brain injury and spinal injuries • Injury due to limbs caught while falling including dislocation
Site factors worth noting	Site includes numerous stumps, logs, trees, and boulders that are climbable. Some climbable elements are large enough for children to fall from a considerable height.
Decision	Incorporate climbing into daily activities as described below.
Action(s) taken	<p>Allow children to climb independently (but actively supervised) up to 3 feet high.</p> <p>Allow children to climb with support of an adult, up to 5 feet high (adult must be able and close enough to reach child's midriff in case of emergency).</p>

Ongoing management and monitoring	Record any climbing-related incidents using incident report form. Review actions taken based on data from incident reports yearly or more often if needed.
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Activity	Using sharp tools
Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	December 3, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop self-confidence and concentration • Improve fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts, stab wounds, or other injuries caused by self or others
Site factors worth noting	None
Decision	Do not incorporate sharp tool use into programs at this time.
Action(s) taken	None
Ongoing management and monitoring	Consider sharp tool use as an element in future programming.

Activity	Campfire activities
Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	December 3, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning science of energy and how fire works • learning to respect and assess the risks of fires • learn to create and cook on an outdoor fire
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burns from touching hot objects or falling into fire
Site factors worth noting	Many existing fire pits in campground
Decision	Start fire only when all actions listed below are completed.
Action(s) taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signed, written permission from parents for campfire activities • keep bucket of water, shovel, and first-aid kit with fire blanket and sterile non-adhesive bandages nearby • delineate 3-foot boundary in which one adult always stays and only one child may enter at a time • fires must be in a fire pit and no more than 2 feet in diameter • ensure children understand safe fire behavior before campfire activity • allow children to assist in developmentally appropriate ways
Ongoing management and monitoring	<p>Record any fire-related incidents using incident report form.</p> <p>Review actions taken based on data from incident reports yearly or more often if needed.</p>

Activity	Activities near water
Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	December 3, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand for play activities involving building, sculpting, and drawing • Encounters with marine ecology including kelp, snails, crabs, and other life forms
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning or other water-related injuries • Slipping on rocks or seaweed • Sand entering eyes, nose or ears
Site factors worth noting	<p>Bowman Bay beach has little space to play during high tide.</p> <p>One part of the beach is mostly sandy while the northern section is covered in small rocks.</p>
Decision	Allow play near, but not in, the water.
Action(s) taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers actively supervise while at beach • Children are reminded of beach safety rules before each beach session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ always stay within the boundaries ○ no body parts in the water ○ sand stays on the ground • Do not use beach area when large waves or high tide are happening
Ongoing management and monitoring	<p>At least one member of the teaching team will acquire lifeguarding certification.</p> <p>Record any water-related incidents using incident report form.</p> <p>Review actions taken based on data from incident reports yearly or more often if needed.</p>

Activity	Physical interpersonal play
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Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	December 3, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practicing balance, body control, body awareness ● Learning self-regulation to be gentle enough for play ● Learning to set boundaries and negotiate with others to make sure everyone is happy with the play ● Provides “peak” play experiences: intense, high energy experiences with others
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A child could physically hurt another ● Relationships between children could be damaged ● Physical play without consent could cause children to feel unsafe
Site factors worth noting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Areas of gravel, rocks, and concrete ● Fire grates, picnic tables, and other obstacles that children might not notice during physical play
Decision	Only some kinds of physical interpersonal play will be allowed.
Action(s) taken	<p>In order for physical interpersonal play to occur, it must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be consensual for all children involved ● occur in soft, grassy areas away from dangerous obstacles ● not involve wrestling ● not involved sticks or other hard, sharp objects ● not involve pulling or tugging on clothing ● be gentle enough that all children and teachers are comfortable with the play <p>All physical interpersonal play will be actively supervised.</p> <p>Teachers check in with children whenever necessary to make sure the game is still consensual, solve interpersonal conflicts, or move children away from dangerous areas.</p>
Ongoing management and monitoring	<p>Record any physical play incidents using incident report form.</p> <p>Review actions taken based on data from incident reports yearly or more often if needed.</p>

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Activity	Stick play
Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	January 7, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open-ended play item allows for creativity and imagination • builds strength and coordination • teamwork during large stick movement and building play
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries from being hit with another child's stick • Injuries from a stick being dropped on a child's limb • Injuries from tripping and falling while holding a stick
Site factors worth noting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire grates, picnic tables, and other obstacles that children might not notice during play
Decision	Only some forms of stick play will be allowed.
Action(s) taken	<p>Children may use large sticks (larger than their body) for fort building or other creative building activities only.</p> <p>Children may use a stick shorter than their arm for activities involving swinging, hitting, or combat play with sticks. Children may use sticks for combat play only at the discretion of the teacher and with coaching to ensure safety. Children will be actively supervised</p> <p>Sticks may not be used to hit another person's body.</p>
Ongoing management and monitoring	<p>Coach children in spatial awareness to prevent accidental injury during stick play.</p> <p>Coach children in gentle play to avoid combat play injuries.</p> <p>Record any stick play incidents using incident report</p>

	<p>form. Review actions taken based on data from incident reports yearly or more often if needed.</p>
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Activity	Interacting with wild animals and plants
Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	December 3, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by interacting with the natural world, children build connections to plants and animals and learn to care about them. • interacting with plants and animals is an engaging way to learn about nature.
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child could touch or ingest dangerous plant material • A child could touch or ingest dangerous animal waste
Site factors worth noting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presence of cow parsnip and giant hogweed • presence of common snowberry • presence of birds, squirrels, and chipmunks in campground
Decision	Only interaction with wild animals and plants with supervision and appropriate distance.
Action(s) taken	<p>Encourage children to observe wildlife quietly without approaching.</p> <p>Do not allow consuming wild plants unless specific permission from a teacher is given every time.</p> <p>Do not allow harvesting of living wild plants unless specific permission from a teacher is given.</p>
Ongoing management and monitoring	<p>Record any plant or wildlife incidents using incident report form. Review actions taken based on data from incident reports yearly or more often if needed.</p>

Activity	Regulating temperature/clothing independently
Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	December 3, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying attention to the body and its needs • Learning self-regulation to make responsible choices for oneself • Learning to make decisions based on present and possible future scenarios
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child could become wet, cold, or overheated without realizing • Once clothing or hair is wet, it may be difficult to warm a child outside
Site factors worth noting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenty of extra clothing on-site as resources • Park shelters as a resource for staying warm
Decision	Children will be allowed to decide on most parts of their clothing depending on their needs.
Action(s) taken	<p>If there is precipitation (even slight drizzle), children must be wearing a waterproof jacket. They may choose to wear rain pants but will not be allowed to splash or puddle jump without waterproof pants and shoes.</p> <p>Teachers will monitor a child's body language and appearance, and encourage adding or removing clothing if necessary.</p>
Ongoing management and monitoring	Coordinate with a child's family if they repeatedly come to class with inappropriate clothing for the weather.

Activity	Regulating hunger and diet independently
Assessor	Emma Rohleder, interim director
Date	January 7, 2020
Site location	Bowman Bay recreation area

Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying attention to the body and its needs • Learning self-regulation to make responsible choices for oneself • Learning to make decisions based on present and possible future scenarios
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child could become hungry or have low energy without realizing it if they do not eat • A child may not follow safe eating practices (hygiene, sitting while eating) if they eat separately from teachers and peers
Site factors worth noting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children bring their own food from home
Decision	Children will be allowed to decide on how much they want to eat at snack and lunch time.
Action(s) taken	<p>Children will not be allowed to eat outside of snack and lunch periods unless there are special circumstances to avoid unhygienic practices and wildlife encounters with our food.</p> <p>Children will be encouraged to eat at least one food item at both snack or lunch periods. They must eat during at least one of these meals.</p>
Ongoing management and monitoring	Coordinate with a child's family if they have difficulty with meal times or food choices at school.

Risk Management Plans

In addition to the actions taken and monitoring described above, policies for managing risky activities can be found in the family handbook.