



Informed Consent Form

Introduction

At Featherfin Family Services, we support children in becoming confident, curious people who have a 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 can make learning less engaging. 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, child-led outdoor play and learning are central to this program/experience.

Featherfin Family Services takes reasonable steps to manage and balance risks, while at the same time allowing children to play freely in an outdoor setting. Program participants acknowledge inherent risks of harm and personal injury. While minor injuries like bruises, bumps 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 this as a condition of your child's participation.

Risks

The variety of risks is more than can be listed here and will vary depending on the activities included in each individual program.

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

- Injuries from executing strenuous and demanding physical activities

- Injuries resulting from the presence of harmful plants, natural loose parts, wild animals, and/or ticks
- Injuries resulting from matches or fire
- Injuries resulting from trips and falls
- 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
- Negligence on the part of other participants

Most Featherfin programs include both structured offerings and unstructured, child-led experiences. At any time, children may 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. In most cases, children are permitted to explore on their own as long as they can still see or hear their caregiver and you can still see or hear them.

Informed Consent Form

By attending a Featherfin Family Services program, you agree to the following:

I received the above informed consent form upon registration and/or prior to program attendance
I am aware that, alongside the benefits, participation in outdoor programming involves risks, dangers, and hazards, including but not limited to those referred to in the list above, and:

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/our child, I give my permission and consent for them to participate.

I will notify program hosts if my child suffers from any medical or health condition that may cause injury to themselves or others, or may require emergency care during their participation.

If the program host is not properly trained or capable of providing the type of assistance or care required, I may be asked to not participate in the program in question and will receive a full refund of any enrollment costs.