



# Fiddleheads Forest School

Kit Harrington & Sarah Heller University of Washington Botanic Gardens

The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness. ~John Muir

**1** Kit Harrington, 4/20/2015

#### A Forest School in a Botanic Garden?







## A Balancing Act

Hurdles not roadblocks

 Sowing the seeds of a healthy school

 The intersection of horticulture and education



# Working with Families

• Rain, snow, sleet, or hail

Expecting the unexpected

A relationship built on trust

Cultivating dedication



### Milo's Story

"It's been awesome to watch how the forest itself helped shape the educational experience for Milo over the past two years. When he first started attending he had a hard time identifying and regulating his emotions...We noticed some changes immediately after he started going to Forest School. On top of just learning about the natural world, it is wonderful to see him learn how to be more flexible about unexpected things that come his way through watching his teachers naturally adapt or, in some cases, completely change, their day's lesson plans as the forest throws new and different learning experiences at the class."

-Milo's Father



# Ordinary Learning in an Extraordinary Environment



#### From Fiddlehead to Fern: Transformation in a Forest School



## Hope for our Future







Nature time into family time Fiddleheads

Growing

Continuing the connection