



Summer Day Camp Checklist

Summer can be a difficult time for working parents in terms of finding quality programs that are able to meet the needs and schedules of both the parent and the child. One option for parents is to enroll their child in a summer day camp. When choosing a summer day camp for your child, there are several things you may want to consider. Below is a list of questions and statement to keep in mind as you make your decision.

For the Camp Director

- Are you aware of the dates of the camp and do they match your child's summer vacation schedule?
- Are you aware of the number of sessions that are available for the summer?
- Are you aware if you need to sign up for the whole session or if it can be done on a weekly basis?
- Are you aware of the cost per session, and of any additional fees?
- Are you informed on when registration begins and if there is a registration fee?
- Are you informed on the hours of the camp and if extended hours are available? Is there an additional fee for extended care?
- Are you informed if your child can attend part-time or part-week?
- Are you aware of the policy for when it rains or when it is too hot to go outside?
- Is a policy for parents that are late picking up their child posted for parents' review?
- Are you informed if you need to provide program supplies for your child to attend this camp?

- Are you informed on how conflicts are resolved and the disciplinary policy?

About the Program

- The daily schedule for the program is posted.
- The activities accommodate your child's interests.
- Activities are offered that will allow your child to feel successful.
- Your child will be given choices in terms of activities offered.
- Children are asked to participate in all planned activities.
- Enrichment programs or field trips are offered.
- You know the form of transportation provided to/ from field trips.
- A permission slip needs to be signed in order to attend each field trip. A back-up plan is in place if a parent chooses not to sign the permission slip.
- Indoor and outdoor activities are provided.

About the Environment

- The program offers playground equipment. It appears to be adequately maintained and safe.
- Learn if meals are provided or if children are expected to bring their own meals. Children/parents are informed where they will be eating.
- Learn if a refrigerator is available on site.
- There is an area for a camper to have personal space away from other children but still supervised by an adult.
- A large space is available indoors for the children to be comfortable if there should be inclement weather.

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Summer Day Camp Checklist (continued)

About the Staff

- Parents are informed of the minimum requirement to become a staff member.
- Learn about the qualifications of the staff members in the program.
- The staff has received some type of specialized training for this program (i.e., CPR, First Aid).
- Learn the child to staff ratio.
- The staff has experience working with school-age children.
- Children are supervised at all times.

Parent Involvement

- What ways can parents get involved in the program?
- How can parents volunteer in the program?
- There is a daily/weekly schedule printed for parents.
- Parents receive a schedule of upcoming camp events.
- Parents are able to drop by the program during the day to see their child.

Things to Keep in Mind

- Your child enjoys the activities that are offered.
- Decide if the camp is needed for child care or for recreational summer fun. It may make a difference in the type of camp program chosen.
- Sometimes multiple summer options need to be explored because one camp may not fulfill all of your or your child's needs (i.e., schedule, length of sessions, interests, etc.)
- Talk to your child about each camp. See which one sounds the best to them. If possible, let them decide where they want to spend their summer. They may have a better outlook if they have helped in the decision.