

# Helping All Kids Have Great Experiences!

## What program staff need to know for your child to have a successful experience

Share important information about your child, such as:



New things your child may want to learn and try

Your child's interests and talents

What your child loves to do that might make the camp experience successful

Changes in your child's life that might impact their social and emotional needs

What may cause your child to be uncomfortable or unhappy

Don't be reluctant to share information for fear it will have negative repercussions for your child. Good camps and programs want and need to know as much as possible. They want to know your child's strengths and talents, as well as what kinds of support they need to be successful. — *the more information they have, the better.*

Educate staff by spending time with them and answering and asking questions before dropping off your child. This can be critical. For example, if your child will be attending a mainstream camp or summer program, you'll want to make sure that everything is accessible for your child, and that the staff understands your child's needs. Again, good summer program staff will be more than willing to learn about your child. If staff members do not appear to listen to your concerns, then this may not be the best fit for your child.

Here is a list of seven areas of interest or talent your child may have. Use this list as a start for sharing information with camp and summer program staff.

My child loves:

**Art:** drawing, painting, music, singing, playing an instrument

**Athletics:** running, jumping, throwing, sports, swimming, dancing

**Numbers:** adding, subtracting, counting, working with numbers

**Mechanics:** taking things apart, fixing things, making/building things

**Outdoors:** plants, animals, camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, boating

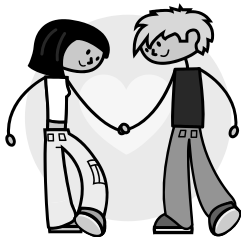
**Social settings:** talking, laughing, playing with others, being with people

**Words:** reading, writing, rhyming, being read to, making up stories

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_



Here is a list of things that may be concerning or upsetting to your child especially if this is a first time experience with a summer camp or program.



Chaotic or noisy settings

Being in new places for the first time

Meeting new people for the first time

Physical contact such as hugs or being accidentally bumped into

Unexpected transitions to a new activity

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



Most camps and programs have paperwork you can fill out to share information, including information about dietary and medical needs. And regardless of whether your child is going to a day or residential camp, you should give the staff a list of emergency phone numbers and email addresses, and make sure they know how to reach you at all times.

If your child takes **any medication**, include the phone number of your doctor, in case the prescription is lost and needs to be refilled by camp staff. If the camp infirmary does not stock your child's medication, send extra medicine.