



Choose the right summer camp for your child



When school's out for the summer, what will the kids do? Many families choose summer camp options for school-age children to help make summer an educational and fun experience. But choosing the right camp for your child can seem daunting with so many choices.

To simplify your decision, consider these factors:

- **What type of camp works with your child's personality?** Some children only want to be gone for a day camp and come home in the evening. Others want to do overnight camps. This may depend on the child's age and whether they are accustomed to being away from home.
- **How many children attend the camp?** Some kids do better in small groups, while others enjoy the excitement of being around many people.
- **What are your child's interests?** Some camps focus on particular activities, such as sports, cooking, music or art. Some offer programs for special needs children. Look for one that offers activities they like to do.
- **How will your child get there?** Is there a bus or other transportation offered?
- **What is your budget?** Be sure you understand the total cost of the camp. Some may have extra charges for food, special outings, or transportation.
- **How are the staff trained on safety, supervision, and other issues?** If your child will be near water, discuss life guards and safety precautions for swimming.

Once you've decided upon a camp, ask about a packing list, particularly for overnight camps. Even day camps often ask the children to bring a bathing suit, water bottle, snack, sunscreen, or other supplies.

Source: American Camp Association