



# Getting set for summer camp

Even before winter ends, parents typically have to plan to find good summer child care options. Summer camp can be a great option for children, no matter their age or interests.

## Benefits of summer camp

Camps can provide your child with numerous benefits:

- › Finding role models
- › Undertaking new challenges and creatively express himself or herself
- › Making new friends in a safe place
- › Improving his or her physical, interpersonal and decision-making skills

## Types of camps

Camps fall within two main categories: daytime-only and overnight. There are two types of camps within these categories: private and public.

- › **Private.** Examples include: vacation Bible school, Boy Scout or Girl Scout summer camps, nature camps and

special-interest camps (e.g., science camps, art camps, sports camps).

- › **Public.** These can be less expensive. Examples include: day camps sponsored by community park districts or public schools, and YMCA swim or sports camps.

## What should you ask?

Visit the facility with your child, or at least talk on the phone with the camp supervisor before registering. Some questions you should consider asking include:

- › What are the fees?
- › What activities will my child be participating in?
- › Where will my child be traveling and visiting?
- › What is each staffer's background?

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