

Adapted from our March, 2016 Newsletter

Thinking about Camp!

Finding the right site for your child's camp experience may take some extra effort, but with the proper research and planning your child's summer camping experience can be AMAZING! Camp experiences can build confidence, new skills and countless fun memories. We know that it can be both exciting and nerve-racking to find the right camp for your child. Though the weather may still be cold, believe it or not it's the perfect time to start thinking about summer camp for your child. We'd like to help, both by suggesting things to think about generally, and by offering some summer options.

Since there are many types of camps available for children today, deciding upon the type of camp you and your child are interested in may be your first step.

Depending upon your child's needs, consider an inclusive camp environment. Researching and talking to camp directors, as well as requesting references from other parents who have children who attended, may help you make your decision.

Formulating a list of questions before speaking with camp directors will help. Questions you may want to ask:

- —-Are they able to accommodate special dietary needs?
- —-Are there any medical professionals on site, and how close is the nearest hospital?
- —-Who will dispense medications if needed?
- —-What is the camper to staff ratio?
- —-Who will assist with feeding, toileting, or other activities of daily living?
- —-What types of training do the camp counselors have? Is funding assistance available?
- —How will they ensure an inclusive environment when some activities aren't appropriate for your child? What alternatives are available?

Take a look at <u>Camp Considerations</u> on our website for more tips to make this complex task easier. And don't forget that your child's therapist can be a great resource of information about camps in the area. In addition to knowing your child, and their issues, we have heard feedback from other parents about a wide variety of summer programs.