

BE INFORMED

- A good camp will be open to answering your questions. Schedule an appointment.
- **BIG PICTURE** a camp's facilities might be impressive but they won't mean a great deal if the atmosphere is not friendly, or if the staff and program are inadequate.
- **INVOLVE** your child in the selection process. Review your child's preferences and let your child ask questions too.
- **ASK** for references of families who have had their child attend the camp. Speaking with these families can give you valuable insight about the camp and the families that send their children there.

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**CHOOSING THE BEST SUMMER CAMP
FOR YOUR CHILD**



FOR twenty-five years Guilford County Regional Child Care Resources and Referral has provided information to the community on summer camps in the area. The data is compiled of various programs providing camp opportunities and then distributed to families, providers and businesses in the community.

To receive your free copy of the Guilford County summer camps call Guilford Child Development (336)369-5097 or from High Point (336)887-8224

Brochure designed by Robin Sink



"We are the caretakers of wonder, the Promoters of Play, the Guardians of childhood." Dr. Bill Michaels

A FREE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDED TO YOU BY:
REGIONAL CHILD CARE RESOURCES AND REFERRAL of GUILFORD CHILD DEVELOPMENT
1200 ARLINGTON STREET
GREENSBORO, NC 27406
(336)369-5097 or (336)887-8224
from High Point

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CAMP FOR YOUR CHILD

Tips to consider when looking for summer camp

ASK the questions that seem most important to you and your child. Keep the child's interests forefront. **NARROW** down your camp choices.

REVIEW the brochures with your child. Then you can choose the ones you're most interested in and arrange to speak or meet with the camp directors.

1. **EXPERIENCE** What is the director's age and background?
2. **STAFF TRAINING** What kind of staff training is provided?
3. **INTERACTIONS** of staff and parents, staff and child
4. **MISSION** What are the camp's goals and philosophy?
5. **REFERENCES** Will the director supply references?
6. **DISCIPLINE POLICY** How do staff handle conflicts? Are the child care providers handling conflict among the children in a positive manner? Do the child care providers seem patient and receptive to the needs of the children?
7. **SAFETY** How does the camp insure the safety and security of children?
8. **FIRST AID/CPR CERTIFIED STAFF** on site/on trips
9. **PARENT INVOLVEMENT** drop in and participate
10. **RATIOS** What is the camper-counselor ratio
11. **CHILD CENTERED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS**
12. **SCHEDULE** of daily activities posted and current
13. **COST** What is the total cost of the camp including extras such as field trips, meals, etc.
14. **REFUND POLICY** if the camper leaves early or is absent for family vacation?
15. **INTEREST** What kind of camper is most likely to have a good experience at this camp? Are the activities observed appropriate for the ages of the children involved? Are children allowed to make choices throughout the day? Do the children seem occupied and engaged by their activities?
16. **INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACE** observe carefully, space inviting and clean, room and equipment in good repair, sufficient and age appropriate materials.
17. **SCHEDULE** What is the schedule like? Is it a structured program or one that emphasizes a lot of free choice?
18. **SWIMMING** What is the swimming instruction program like and what are the ratios of adults to students at water location?
19. **NUTRITION** What is the food like and who prepares it?
20. **INCLEMENT WEATHER** What happens when children must be inside?

NUGGETS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN SEARCHING FOR SUMMER CAMP

- **WHAT DO YOU AND YOUR CHILD WANT?**

What kind of emphasis will your child profit from the most? For example:

Is a lot of structure desirable, is social interaction with members of the opposite sex important, or does your child need a place where he or she is encouraged to develop at their own pace?

- **THIS IS GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENT AND CHILD TO EXPLORE THE CHILD'S INTEREST TOGETHER**
- **PERIODICALLY DROP IN AT CAMP UNANNOUNCED**
- **WHAT IS THE OVERALL FEEL OF THE PROGRAM?** What is your initial reaction upon entering the child care center-a positive one? Gut feeling...
- **LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD**
- **ASK YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR DAILY CAMP EXPERIENCES**

If you were the child would you want to spend your day at this location?

