

EENIE, MEENIE, MIINIE, MO – TO WHICH CAMP SHOULD MY CHILD GO?????

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- Even though school is still in session and the leaves are just starting to become green, it's already time to begin thinking about summer plans for your children
- Choosing the right camp for a child can be an overwhelming process, often leaving parents baffled by just the sheer number of camps out there
- Summer camp can help children develop independence and the ability to make friends
- Choosing the right camp for your child can help build fond memories that will last a lifetime

Important points to consider:

1. Consider your child's interests and abilities:
 - If your child is interested in arts or science or sports, try to find a program which offers that activity
 - Don't make the mistake of assuming that a camp which emphasizes sports will motivate a child who hasn't shown much interest in sports – the child will just be miserable there
 - Choose the program that best fits with your family's personal values
 - What is the camp's philosophy?
2. Does your child have any special health concerns:
 - Some children have special dietary needs and/or medication needs, find out how this is handled at the camp you are choosing
 - Some children are classified as special needs like Attention Deficit Disorder, Learning Disabled, etc.,
 - It will then be important to find out the training and/or education that is required of the staff at the camp

3. Would a Day Camp or Overnight Camp be Better?
 - Day camps are usually best for children just beginning the camping experience or for those who have not experienced being away from home
 - Overnight camps run in duration from one week to all summer and should be considered only for children who have had previous away from home experiences

 4. What is the Counselor/Camper Ratio?
 - Look for camps that do not have more than 10 campers per adult counselor
 - For children under 7 years of age, what provisions do they have for providing rest time?
 - If possible meet with the Director of the camp you are considering – it is recommended that the person have at least 4 years of experience in that position
 - What is the percentage of campers that return each year?
- The National Camp Association is a free service that provides you with personalized guidance and referrals to various camps and summer programs worldwide (1-800-966-CAMP). They also publish a pamphlet entitled: “GUIDELINES TO SELECTING A CAMP.”
 - A good camp, whether it be sleep away, travel, day or specialty program has the potential to offer your child many positive and enduring outcomes
 - A camp experience can be fun, healthy, relaxing and an opportunity to develop skills whether they be athletic or interpersonal and it offers youngsters a chance to become more responsible and independent
 - Consequently, because a camp experience may have a significant impact on your child’s life, it is important for parents to learn how to make a well considered decision about choosing a camp program