

Countdown to Camp



Getting ready throughout the year will help your child have a fantastic summer.

Kids go to camp in the summer, but selecting a camp and getting your child excited for it are tasks that should be on your radar during the entire year. Take these simple steps recommended by Renee Flax, director of camper placement for the American Camp Association, NYNJ:

July

- Tour prospective camps.
- See if your child can attend a "rookie day" or overnight visit at each camp.

August

- Assess whether your child's current camp is still the right fit. What did she like and dislike?

September

- Fill out any surveys your child's camp sends.
- Share problems with the camp director and brainstorm solutions.

October

- Attend camp fairs and open houses if you're thinking about switching camps.
- Ask about early-bird discounts or payment plans.

November

- Go to late-fall camp festivals and open houses.
- If you've decided on a camp for your child, begin talking it up to build excitement.

December

- Start attending local indoor camp fairs.

January

- Attend local indoor camp fairs.
- Review camp brochures, DVDs, or other informational materials from fairs.

February

- Continue reviewing informational materials.
- Get camp recommendations from other families.

March

- Schedule a home visit from prospective camps' directors.
- Schedule your child's annual physical exam

April

- Attend camps' spring festivals.
- If your child will attend overnight camp, have him practice "sleeping out" at friends' and relatives' houses.

May

- Attend welcome events for new and returning campers.
- For overnight camp, make sure your child can wash his own hair, brush his teeth consistently, and make his bed.
- Order camp merchandise.
- Pack overnight camp trunks.

June

- Pack day-camp backpacks.
- Get your child a haircut.
- Have your child checked for lice
- Let her start wearing her camp T-shirt to help her get excited.
- Put camp decals on your car to show your pride.



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