



# A Checklist to Choose a Summer Day Camp



- Is the camp accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA)?**

The ACA accreditation helps to ensure health, safety, program, and camp operation. If not accredited then make sure they practice health and safety policies, and information below.



- How does the day camp hire counselors?**

It should have a hiring process including a biographical background check (age verification), criminal record background clearance, driving record review, and prior employment history.

- How are counselors prepared for injury prevention and emergency protocol?**

The day camp should have a protocol policy to address this. Counselors should have current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate and/or trained in first aid/Basic Life Support. Additionally have first aid kits including Epi-pens (epinephrine) with training on signs or symptoms of life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

- If water-related activities are part of camp, ask about supervision during activity?**

If children are around bodies of water such as a lake, beach, or swimming pools, counselors must be trained as water safety instructors and know how to assess the ability of each camper. Also campers should be required to use the "buddy system".

- Review the day camp's program and be aware of any out-of-camp activity schedule.**

Know each activity to make sure you allow your child to participate. In addition check if any out-of-camp field trips. If so ask they must have: a) a trip leader qualified in First Aid training and CPR; b) the counselor-in-charge to be over a certain age (usually 25); c) approval of parental permission; d) communication devices for counselors; f) use of a buddy system; and e) a lost-camper protocol that is to be followed.

- Are campers grouped by age for activities?**

- What are the hours?** Usually 9am-3pm or half day.

- Is there extended care, before and after camp?** Usually 8-9am and 3-5pm.

- Is lunch included or children bring lunch?**

- Are parent visits encouraged?** Parents should be allowed at any time!



See more summer camp information on "Parent Central" at [www.procarsesatsafety.com](http://www.procarsesatsafety.com)

