

**Summer Camps for Children  
with  
Special Health Care Needs  
and/or  
Chronic Health Conditions © 2008**



**Compiled By:  
Susan Franke, RN, BSN, M.Ed,  
Keep In Touch: A Model of Caring**

# Preface

***Keep In Touch: A Model of Caring*** would like to thank all the organizations that provided us with their summer camp information and made this summer camp guide a reality. The summer camp guide was created at the request of parents and providers of services who were seeking a convenient way to locate camp information. There are 130 camps listed in the directory for people of all ages. Two junior nursing students at a local University School of Nursing updated the directory. Every camp was called and the information received from them was placed in the directory as it was given to us. ***Keep In Touch*** has recognized that there are children with special needs living in homeless shelters and there was not a convenient way for staff and parents to obtain this information. The guide also is very appropriate for all organizations that serve children with special needs and/or chronic health conditions.

Please feel free to notify us if there are additional camps to add to this directory.



Susan Franke is a registered nurse and has worked as a public health nurse, staff nurse and supervisor and as director of a statewide help-line for families of children with special health care needs. She is also a licensed PA nursing home administrator. She received a BSN degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and a Master's Degree in Health Education from Penn State University. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist.

In addition, Susan is a Health Education Consultant for several homeless shelters, a member of the Advisory Board of the Burger King Cancer Caring Center where she is a bereavement support group leader and a member of the American School Health Association. Ms. Franke works with local retailers who generously provide merchandise for the homeless. She is also a Teddy Bear Therapist and provides children in need with custom-made plush animals from Build A Bear Workshop.

Susan has over 30 years of experience in health care and community service and has given over 2000 presentations to schools and community groups since 1998. Her children's programs received an award of excellence from the Pittsburgh Public School District. Susan is featured in articles in Gateway Publication's Murrysville Star, the Green Tree Times, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Tribune-Review and two professional journals. Hospital News selected Ms. Franke as a regional nurse leader for 2008. She has been a guest on the KDKA Morning Show with Jon Burnett, where she discussed her Teddy Bear, disability awareness, bully prevention and Hug Therapy programs.

This Camp Guide revision for 2008 was compiled with the assistance of two junior nursing students from a local university school of nursing.

If you are interested in learning more about her wellness programs, please visit her website at [www.hugsandbears.com](http://www.hugsandbears.com). Her email address is [hugbear@frankefamily.us](mailto:hugbear@frankefamily.us).



Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<p><b>AccessAbilities</b>            2904 Seminary Drive            Greensburg, PA 15601            (724) 832-8272</p>	<p>Ages 0-3             Early Intervention</p>	<p>www.accessabilities.org             abilities@accessabilities.org</p>	<p>Call for information             Recreation programs</p>	<p>Autism and Related Disorders            Behavioral, Emotional, or Mental Health Disorder            Blindness or Visual Impairment            Cerebral Palsy and Other Mobility Disorders            Deafness or Hearing Impairment            Developmental Delay            Down Syndrome            Learning Disability            Mental Retardation            Muscular Dystrophy and Other Myopathies            Seizures and Other Neurological Disorders            Speech and Language Disorders            Spina Bifida            Traumatic Brain Injury</p>
<p><b>Allegheny County            Department of Parks            (Parks Dept)</b>            542 Forbes Ave            County Office Bldg Rm 211            Pittsburgh, PA 15219            (412) 350-2455</p>	<p>All ages</p>	<p>Not available</p>	<p>Some activities may have a fee</p>	<p>City/County Parks            Ice Skating            Ice Skating Rinks            Parks/Recreation Areas            Playgrounds with Adaptive Equipment            Swimming Facilities             For all abilities</p>
<p><b>Allegheny YMCA</b>            600 W. North Ave.            Pittsburgh, PA 15212            412-321-8594</p>	<p>Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade</p>	<p>www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org</p>	<p>Self Pay</p>	<p>All conditions</p>

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>American Lung Association</b> 11676 Perry Hwy. Wexford Professional Bldg.II Wexford, PA 15090 724-933-6180	Ages 8-18	dpayerchin@alapa.org www.lungusa.org	Credit card or self pay	Asthma Camp Camps held @: Beechwood Elementary Westwood Elementary Concord Elementary Roosevelt Elementary
<b>ARC Mon Valley Summer Camp</b> c/o Jacky Stark 316 Skyline Drive Belle Vernon, PA 15012 724-872-8422	School age	Not available	Call for info	A summer day camp for school-age special needs individuals that features weekly themes, exercise, arts & crafts, swimming, cooking, functional academics, field trips, sports and on-site special programs and guests. An extended school year qualified, six-week program held at the Mon Valley YMCA, Monday - Friday, from 10:00 am. to 2:30 pm., tentatively June 20 to July 29. Please call. Transportation is not provided. Fees: \$75.00/week. Camperships available to those in need. Pre-registration recommended. Enrollment limited to 35. PLEASE NOTE: In the event that your participant typically needs assistance to function in a group setting or needs individual assistance in the area of self-help skills, you will be required to supply a personal aide.
<b>Camp JRA</b> 100 W. Station Ste 1950 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (412) 566-1645	Ages 8-18	mtiani@arthritis.org www.arthritis.org	\$300.00	Rheumatoid Arthritis

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Best Buddies</b> 226 Paul St Pittsburgh, PA 15211 412-432-5913	Ages 10+ Middle School High School College	<a href="http://www.bestbuddiespennsylv.org">www.bestbuddiespennsylv.org</a>  Clubs at schools with student volunteers 1:1 with clients.	The e-Buddies program pairs one person with an intellectual disability in an e-mail friendship with a volunteer who does not have a disability. e-Buddies participants agree to e-mail each other at least once a week for one year.	Autism and Related Disorders Down Syndrome Intellection Disabilities Mental Retardation
<b>Western PA (BOLD)</b> Box 2574 Pittsburgh, PA 15230 412-882-3965	Ages 18+	<a href="http://www.wpabold.org">www.wpabold.org</a>  <a href="mailto:info@wpabold.org">info@wpabold.org</a>	Call for information	Blindness or Visual Impairment  Recreation & leisure
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Western PA</b> 5432 Butler St Pittsburgh, PA 15201 412-782-5710	Ages 6-13	<a href="mailto:bgcwpa@cs.com">bgcwpa@cs.com</a> <a href="http://www.bgcwpa.org">www.bgcwpa.org</a>	Self Pay	Summer camp @ North Park Call for information on conditions served

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Bright Start Learning Center</b> New Castle, PA 16101 (724) 657-9221	All ages	Not available	Self pay	Playgrounds with Adaptive Equipment Preschools  All abilities
<b>Camp Achieva</b> 711 Bingham St. Pittsburgh, PA 15203 412-995-5000 724-775-1602 (Ray Ann)	Ages 5-59+	rgrivna@achieva.info  www.achieva.info	PO Box 228 Monaca, PA 15061	All conditions
<b>Camp Ace</b>  MAIN - 800-932-0903 FAX - 800-586-4872	Ages 8-12	<a href="#">American Lung Association, PA Chapter</a>  <a href="http://www.lunginfo.org/">http://www.lunginfo.org/</a>	Call for info	Camp held in Mercer county  Contact:  Mrs. Kristin Sides
<b>Camp ArcSpencer</b> P. O. Box 228 Monaca, PA 15061 1-866-462-2267 x 13 or 14	All ages	<a href="http://www.achieva.info">www.achieva.info</a>	. Fees: Vary. Scholarships available.	Residential program serving children and adults with developmental disabilities. Dates: June - August. At least 5 years of age. Contact: Ms. Raeann Grivna
<b>Camp Can' Do</b> PO Box 897 Hershey, PA 17033 717-533-6144	See last column	<a href="http://www.cancer.org">http://www.cancer.org</a>	Contact Ms. Sheryl Johnson	A camp for children who have completed treatment or who are currently being treated for cancer; ages 8 - 17; fees: free; Aug. 1 - 7 and Aug. 8 - 14. The camp is held in Mt. Gretna, Lebanon County, PA.
<b>Camp Huff 'n Puff</b> Cranberry Professional Park 201 Smith Dr. Cranberry Twp. PA 16066 (1-800) 220-1990	Ages 8-13	www.healthylungs.org	\$125 for four days Scholarships available	Asthma and respiratory disorders

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Camp Chipewee</b> Mossie Middle School Monroeville, PA 15146 412-856-1006	Ages 6-21	Not available	Credit card Self pay	Mentally & physically challenged June 16-23 July 7, 14, 21, 28 Monroeville residents: \$11/day Non-residents: \$22/day
<b>Camp Crestfield (Camp)</b> 195 Taggart Rd. Slippery Rock, PA 16057 (1-800) 676-4065 ext.3313	Ages 8-16	www.diabetes.org	Fixed fee Call for details	Diabetes
<b>Camp Deer Creek</b> 109 Eisele Road Cheswick, PA 15024 412-767-5351	Ages 4-15	Not available	Self Pay	Referrals made by agencies that serve children with disabilities such as Watson Institute
<b>Camp High Hopes</b> 30 Pine Creek Rd Wexford PA 15090 Local: (412) 364-3404 Call in March/April	Ages 6-12	ymcaofpittsburgh.org  Held at Marshall Complex	Self Pay	All conditions
<b>Camp Setebaid</b>  570-524-9090 888-342-2383 fax - 717-657-4320	Ages 8-15	<a href="http://www.diabetes.org">http://www.diabetes.org</a>	Contact"  Mark Moyer	Children with diabetes
<b>Camp Catch Your Breath</b> Cranberry Professional Park Jackson Mill Center Weston, WV 1-800-287-8206	Ages 8-14	chantal@alawv.org  www.healthylungs.org	Call for price information and scholarship information	Asthma



<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Camp Outdoor Discovery</b> 614 Dorseyville Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412-963-6100	Ages 6-14	www.aswp.org	Self Pay	Behavior, emotional, mental health disorder, learning disability
<b>Camp Speak</b> 115 Bigham St St Mary of the Mount School Pittsburgh, PA 15211 (412) 856-7223	Ages 5-21	asapgh@aol.com	Call for information	Autism spectrum disorder
<b>Camp Starburst</b> Box 11175 Pine Creek Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15237 Local: (412) 364-3404 Call March/April	Ages 6-15	ymcaofpittsburgh.org	Call for information	Emotional challenges
<b>Camp Success</b> The Children's Institute 1405 Shady Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15217 412-420-2400	6-12 years	Amazingkids.org	Free & free transportati on in limited area	All conditions
<b>Carnegie Science Ctr.</b> One Allegheny Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15212 412-237-3400	Grades K-8	carnegiesciencecenter.org	Credit card or self pay	All conditions Bodies Exhibition-all ages

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Camp Sunrise, Inc</b> United Way of Indiana County PO Box 325 Indiana, PA 15701 724-349-9612	Ages 6-21	<a href="mailto:rjlaska@adelphia.net">rjlaska@adelphia.net</a>		Residential summer camping experience for children and youth ages 6 - 21 with developmental disabilities, from the Indiana County Area only. Camp is held in 2 ten day sessions to meet the needs of the campers. The first session is for campers ages 6 - 12. The second session is for campers ages 13 - 21.
<b>Center for Creative Play</b> 1400 S Braddock Ave Regent Sq Pittsburgh, PA 15218 412-371-1668	Birth to 8	<a href="http://www.center4creativeplay.org">www.center4creativeplay.org</a>	\$9.50/child 1 adult free	All conditions Art Camp Toddler Camp
<b>Center for Theater Arts            Musical Theater Classes</b> 250 Mt. Lebanon Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15234 412-563-5080	4-18 years	<a href="http://www.centerfortheaterarts.org">www.centerfortheaterarts.org</a>	Free	Autism and Related Disorders Behavioral, Emotional, or Mental Health Disorder Blindness or Visual Impairment Cerebral Palsy and Other Mobility Disorders Chronic Medical Disorders Deafness or Hearing Impairment Developmental Delay Down Syndrome Learning Disability Mental Retardation Muscular Dystrophy and Other Myopathies Seizures and Other Neurological Disorders Speech and Language Disorders Spina Bifida Traumatic Brain Injury

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>InterCare Adventure Camp</b> Hickory Grade Road Pittsburgh, PA 15241 412-257-4238	Ages 6-12	Not available	Self Pay 6-one week sessions Starts July 7 \$300/week	Emotional, social, behavioral conditions
<b>Children's Hospital Sickle Cell Anemia</b> 3705 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-692-6072	Ages 6-16	www.chp.edu	Free	Sickle cell anemia
<b>Children's Institute Kids on the Block</b> 1405 Shady Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15217 412-420-2344	School age  All conditions served	www.amazingkids.org	Minimal	<p>The Kids on the Block is a unique program that teaches children about disabilities through the use of a puppet show. The performances take place at schools and public functions. The goal: focus children's awareness on the person rather than the person's disability.</p> <p>The “Kids” are a group of child-sized puppets that speak, act and dress like real children. Some of the puppets have disabilities, some do not. These characters demonstrate to children what it's like to have a disability and help to alleviate their fears.</p>
<b>Conductive Education of Pittsburgh Tides Center Pennsylvania</b> 6301 Northumberland St The Childrens Institute Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (412) 361-3997	Ages 2-18	info@ce-pgh.org  www.ce-pgh.org	Call for information	Cerebral Palsy & other motor disorders

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Crohn's Colitis Fnd.</b> 580 S Aiken St., Ste 202 Pittsburgh, PA 15232 412-823-8272	Ages 10-17	wpawr@ccfa.org <a href="http://www.ccfa.org">www.ccfa.org</a> 1-888-694-8872	Call for information	Crohn's Disease & Colitis Camp Guts and Glory
<b>DePaul Institute</b> 6202 Alder St. Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412-924-1012	0-8 <sup>th</sup> grade	<a href="http://www.oraldeafed.org">www.oraldeafed.org</a>	Medical Assistance Sliding scale Self pay Private insurance	Deaf and heard of hearing State approved magnet school
<b>Donovan McNabb Camp</b> 1- 800-676-4065 x 4685 fax - 610-828-7969	Ages 8-16	<a href="http://www.diabetes.org">http://www.diabetes.org</a>		Contact: Mr. Randolph E. Richardson, Sr. Camp held at Green Lane Camp in Montgomery county
<b>Kidney Camp</b> 722 Fourth Avenue New Kensington , PA 15068 (724) 339-1772	Ages 6-18	kathym@kidneywp.org	Donation	ESRD, Transplant, Peritoneal Dialysis, Hemodialysis, and pre-dialysis
<b>Duquesne Family Support Ctr.</b> 1 Library Place Duquesne, PA 15110 412-469-9870	Ages 0-5	<a href="http://www.ulpgh.org">www.ulpgh.org</a>	Free	No limitations
<b>East End Cooperative Ministry Camp</b> 250 N Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412-361-5549	Ages 5-16	Eecm.org	Fee varies	Children at risk

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Easter Seals of Western Pennsylvania</b> 2525 Railroad St. Pgh., PA 15222 412-281-7244	Ages 14 & younger	westernpa.easterseals.com	Medical Assistance Self Pay Private Insurance Medicaid	Baseball Music therapy Toy Loan
<b>Education Center at Watson Institute</b> 301 Camp Meeting Rd Sewickley, PA 15143 (412) 741-1800 (866) 893-4751 Carolyn: 412-749-2895	Ages Birth-21	michelem@thewatsoninstitute.org  www.thewatsoninstitute.org	Leslie Corey 412-749-2881	Play therapy Adaptive playground Recreational aids Camp Wispo: 0-15 Camp Stat: 15-21 Serve lower functioning clients
<b>Epilepsy Foundation Camp Frog</b> 1501 Reedsdale St Suite 3002 Pittsburgh, PA 15233 412-322-5880	Grades 4-12	<a href="http://www.efwp.org">www.efwp.org</a>  Kate @ 1-800-361-5885	Fees associated with program but financial help available	Epilepsy/seizure disorders
<b>Focus on Renewal</b> 701 Chartiers Ave. McKees Rocks, PA 15136 412-771-6460	Ages 3-5	3 hrs. a day for 6 weeks	Free	Anyone in the Sto-Rox area
<b>Gemini Theater Company</b> 7501 Penn Avenue (The Factory) Pittsburgh, PA 15208 (412) 243-6464	Ages 4-14	Gemini-theater.org	Call for information	A camp to improve self-image, Asperger's

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Healthsouth Harmarville Rehabilitation Hospital</b> Guys Run Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15238 (412) 828-1300 (800) 624-4673	18+	ann.ciotoli@healthsouth.com  healthsouth.com	Medical Assistance Self Pay Private Insurance Fixed Fee Medicaid	All abilities
<b>Healthsouth Harmarville Rehabilitation Hospital (Pittsburgh Steelwheelers)</b> PO Box 11460 Pittsburgh, PA 15238 (412) 826-2772	All ages	www.steelwheelers.org	Self pay	Basket ball Tennis Golf Skiing Self Defense
<b>Hemophilia Center</b> 3636 Blvd of Allies Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-209-7280	All ages	dstandish@itxm.org	Credit card Self Pay Private Insurance	Hemophilia

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<p><b>HOPE Network</b>  Harmarville Rehab Center  PO Box 11460 Guys Run  Road  Pittsburgh, PA 15238  (412) 826-2772</p>	<p>18+</p>	<p><a href="http://www.hopenetwork-PA.org">www.hopenetwork-PA.org</a></p>	<p>Sliding Fee  Scale  Self Pay</p>	<p>Aerobics  Aquatic Therapy  Archery  Athletics Programs  Basketball  Boating  Canoeing  Cycling  Fishing  Golf  Leisure Activities  Physical Fitness  Racquetball  Recreational Activities  Recreational Activities--Disability Services  Rugby  Scuba Diving  Skiing  Swimming  Swimming--Disability Services  Target Ranges  Tennis  Therapeutic Aquatics  Track and Field  Trapshooting  Water Skiing  Weight Lifting  Weight Training  Wheelchair Sports</p>
<p><b>Hosanna House</b>  807 Wallace Ave  Pittsburgh, PA 15221  412-243-7711</p>	<p>Preschool</p>	<p><a href="http://www.hosannahouse.org">www.hosannahouse.org</a></p>	<p>CHIP  Self pay  Private  insurance  Credit Card</p>	<p>Children in the DART program</p>

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Human Services Ctr.</b> 519 Penn Ave Turtle Creek, PA 15145 412-829-7112	Ages 5-12	aandrews@hsc-mvpc.org  www.hsc-mvpc.org	Call for information	All conditions, an aide may be needed if child medically fragile  Kids Outgoing, Out Doing, Learning, Kool Summer Programs
<b>Challenge By Choice Adventure Camp</b> 180 Fort Couch Rd., Ste. 304 Pittsburgh, PA 15241 (412) 257-4238	Ages 6-12	Not available	Call for information	Social, emotional & behavior problems
<b>James &amp; Rachel Levenson Day Camp</b> 5738 Forbes Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15217 412-521-8011 ext 852	All 3-grade 5 Different camps for grades 6-9.	Not available	Credit card Self Pay	All conditions Special needs children need to be screened
<b>John Merck Programs</b> 5604 Solway St. Pittsburgh, PA 15217 412-383-2190	All ages	wpic.upmc.com	CHIP MA Private insurance Fixed Fee Medicaid	Behavior, Mental illness, autism Recreational camps
<b>Kiddie Tech</b> 9600 Babcock Blvd. Allison Park, PA 15101 412-366-0930	Ages 6-12	Not available	Self pay	All conditions but an aide may be needed for children who are medically fragile



<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Kidney Kamp</b> 722 Fourth Avenue New Kensington, PA 15068 412-635-0211	All ages	<a href="#">Dialysis Clinic, Inc</a>	Donation	Programs for children of all ages who are dealing with ESRD, Transplant, Peritoneal Dialysis, Hemodialysis, and pre-dialysis accepted. Swimming, archery, crafts, climbing tower, zip line, day at local amusement park (Idlewild) and many other activities. Dialysis nurses on site 24 hours to provide continuous monitoring. Hemodialysis also available nearby at DCI unit. Camp is located in Ligonier.
<b>Kinder Care Learning Ctr.</b> 2630 Pitcairn Rd. Monroeville, PA 15146 412-372-3140	Ages 6-11	<a href="http://www.kindercare.com">www.kindercare.com</a>	Self pay	Call for information
<b>Laser Storm</b> 7715 McKnight Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412-364-3473	8+	<a href="mailto:info@lasertag.com">info@lasertag.com</a> <a href="http://www.lasertag.com">www.lasertag.com</a>	Credit Card Self Pay	All conditions, child may need to be accompanied by an adult
<b>Long Run Children's Learning Ctr.</b> 1109 Long Run Road McKeesport, PA 15132 412-751-9022	Ages 3-6	<a href="mailto:Long_run_childrens@comcast.net">Long_run_childrens@comcast.net</a>	Call for information	They accept many different special needs but call for more specific information
<b>Mainstay Life Services, Summer Program (Camp)</b> 200 Roessler Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15220 (412) 344-3640	Ages 18+	<a href="http://www.mainstaylifeservices.org">www.mainstaylifeservices.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@mainstaylifeservices.org">info@mainstaylifeservices.org</a>	Call for information	Developmental disabilities

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Mt Lebanon Recreation Department (Summer Playground Program)</b> 900 Cedar Blvd 2nd Fl Pittsburgh, PA 15228 (412) 343-4519	Ages 6-9	Not available	Credit Card Self Pay	Mt. Lebanon residents only  All conditions
<b>Mt. Ararat Activity Center</b> 271 Paulson St. Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412-441-1852	K-6 grade	<a href="http://www.macac-inc.org">www.macac-inc.org</a>	Not available	East End of Pittsburgh All conditions
<b>Muscular Dystrophy Association</b> Suite 524 400 Penn Center Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15235 (412) 823-3094	Ages 6-21; registered by MDA	<a href="http://www.caring4u.org">www.caring4u.org</a>	Free	Neuromuscular disease Muscular dystrophy Recreational camps August 10-16 @ Camp Lutherlyn in Butler Cty.
<b>Museum on the Move</b> 4400 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-688-8687	All ages	<a href="http://www.carnegiemnh.org/doi/programs/move.html">www.carnegiemnh.org/doi/programs/move.html</a>	Free	The Museum on the Move program brings natural history programs to children with special needs in schools, institutions, residential treatment facilities, camps, shelters, and acute care hospitals. Trained volunteers present free programs on a variety of natural history and anthropology subjects adapted to the needs of specific audiences. All programs include hands-on activities and crafts. Some of the programs available are: "Amazing Africa", Beautiful Butterflies", and "Discovering Dinosaurs" just to name a few

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>National Aviary in Pittsburgh</b> Allegheny Commons West Pittsburgh, PA 15212 (412) 323-7235	Grades 1-12 Camps for various ages	<a href="http://www.aviary.org">www.aviary.org</a>	Self Pay	All conditions, an aide may be required for some children who need assistance Camp this year is about dinosaurs
<b>North Hills Art Center</b> 3432 Babcock Blvd Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412) 364-3622	8+	<a href="mailto:office@northhillsartcenter.com">office@northhillsartcenter.com</a> <a href="http://www.northhillsartcenter.com">www.northhillsartcenter.com</a>	Credit Card Self Pay	All conditions, call in advance to make arrangements for children with special needs. Art camp

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<p><b>PA Vent Camp</b> Penn State Children's Hospital P.O. Box 850 Hershey, PA 17033 (717) 531-5337</p>	<p>6 months – 18 years</p>	<p><a href="http://www.hmc.psu.edu/ventcamp/aboutus/index.htm">http://www.hmc.psu.edu/ventcamp/aboutus/index.htm</a></p>	<p>Call for details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents and caregivers have an opportunity for respite from the 24 hour / day care responsibilities.</li> <li>• The experience in sharing brings together many professionals who learn about the service provided by the Hershey Department of Pediatrics and refer patients who are vent dependent but, also many other children with other less complex respiratory problems.</li> <li>• The camp experience provides physicians and nurses with a ready made community network of home care providers and respiratory therapists which simplifies and expedites discharge planning.</li> <li>• The camp provides an opportunity for long - term follow-up experience for nurses and therapists who may not care for these children except in the acute setting.</li> <li>• Camp is an educational experience for all professionals in that they have an opportunity to see how patients from other centers are cared for.</li> <li>• The camp provides an excellent learning and service opportunity for Junior Counselors who are high school and college students.</li> <li>• The camp provides the subject matter for TV coverage and newspaper articles each year.</li> <li>• The camp has produced several clinical research projects: Two abstracts and two poster presentations as well as an article for publication in preparation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parents League for Emotional Adjustment (PLEA Summer Camp)</b> 733 South Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15221 (412) 243-3464</p>	<p>Ages 4-20</p>	<p>Not available</p>	<p>Self Pay</p>	<p>Developmentally &amp; behaviorally challenged Camp held in July</p>

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Paula Teacher and Associates Incorporated</b> 10700 Frankstown Rd Ste 310 Pittsburgh, PA 15235 (412) 371-4090	Ages 6-12	www.paulateacher.com	Call for information	Autism & related disorders & some rare disorders They are not sure as of January 2008 if they are having a camp, but call in March.
<b>Penn Hills Parks and Recreation (Summer Programs)</b> 12245 Frankstown Rd Municipal Bldg Pittsburgh, PA 15235 (412) 798-2147	Ages 6-12	www.pennhills.org	Call for information	All conditions
<b>Penn Hills Young Mens Christian Association</b> 11817 Frankstown Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15235 Local: (412) 795-2600	All ages	ymcaofpittsburgh.org	Credit Card Cash	All conditions case by case

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Pennsylvania Lions Club Beacon Lodge Camp</b> 114SR 103 South Mt. Union, PA 17066 814-542-2511	Ages 6-18	Beaconlodge.com	Fees vary	Autism and Related Disorders Behavioral, Emotional, or Mental Health Disorder Blindness or Visual Impairment Cerebral Palsy and Other Mobility Disorders Chronic Medical Disorders Deafness or Hearing Impairment Developmental Delay Down Syndrome Learning Disability Mental Retardation Muscular Dystrophy and Other Myopathies Seizures and Other Neurological Disorders Speech and Language Disorders Spina Bifida Traumatic Brain Injury
<b>Pioneer Education Center</b> 775 Dunster St Pittsburgh, PA 15226 (412) 571-7405	Ages 5-21	pioneer@pghboe.net  <a href="http://pioneer.pghboe.net">http://pioneer.pghboe.net</a>	Call for information	Special Olympics Extended school year program
<b>Pittsburgh Center for the Arts School</b> 1047 Shady Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15232 (412) 361-0455	Ages 3-4 w adult 4-14 14 & older may take adult classes	Pittsburgharts.org	Self pay	Call for specific information

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Pittsburgh Voyager (Summer River Adventure Week; Building Pittsburgh; Discovery Days; Fish &amp; Fry; Workshops)</b> Parking Lot Docking Facilities Carnegie Science Ctr. Pittsburgh, PA 15233 (412) 231-2712	Ages 7 +	mmueger@pittsburghvoyager.org  www.riverquest.org	Self pay	All conditions. The best way to participate is with a group.
<b>Pittsburgh Youth Ballet Summer Program</b> 1033 Paxton Dr Bethel Park, PA 15102 (412) 835-1250	Ages 2-19	Not available	Self pay	All conditions First come first served
<b>Pittsburgh Zoo (Animal Adventures One Wild Place)</b> Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (412) 365-2528	All ages	cpfeifer@pittsburghzoo.org  www.pittsburghzoo.org	Free	Children with special needs are admitted free at the zoo.
<b>Pressely Ridge School Center for Autism TLC Time</b> 1450 Ingham Street Pittsburgh PA 15212 412-322-0140	18-36 months	www.pressleyridge.org	Call for information	Autism and Related Disorders

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Pressley Ridge School Center for Autism Circle of Friends</b> 1450 Ingham Street Pittsburgh PA 15212 412-322-0140 x112	School age	www.pressleyridge.org	Fees vary on involvement	Autism and Related Disorders
<b>Pressley Ridge Schools School at Ohiopyle</b> 305 Pressley Ridge Road Ohiopyle, PA 15407 724-329-8300	Males only; ages 9-16	www.pressleyridge.org	No charge	Behavioral, Emotional, or Mental Health Disorder
<b>Rising Star Gymnastics</b> 453 Lowries Run Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412) 364-5125	Ages 3-7 Programs also for older children	Not available	Self Pay	All conditions
<b>Riverview Children's Center</b> 655 Sylvan Way Verona, PA 15147 412-828-2585	5-12 years	<a href="http://www.riverchildren's center.org">www.riverchildren's center.org</a>	Self pay	No limitations but must have aide with child
<b>Safari Sams</b> 8001 Rowan Rd Cranberry Township, PA 16066 (724) 779-1991	All ages	SafariSams.com	Credit Card Self Pay	Adaptive playground for all abilities



Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Salvation Army</b> Divisional Headquarters 424 3rd Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (412) 394-4885 Youth Hotline: 412-394-4840	Ages 6-18	Not available	All services free	Camp Allegheny
<b>Sewickley Valley Young Men's Christian Association</b> 801 Beaver St St Andrews Church Sewickley, PA 15143 (412) 741-9622	Ages 1-5	sewickleymca.org	Self Pay	All conditions

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<p><b>Sharp Visions, Inc.</b>  1425 Forbes Avenue  Pittsburgh, PA 15219  Sharp Visions, Inc.  1425 Forbes Avenue, Suite  301  Pittsburgh, PA 15219  412-456-2144 x 112</p>	<p>Ages 5-21</p>	<p><a href="http://www.sharpvisions.org">http://www.sharpvisions.org</a></p>	<p>Private insurance</p>	<p>SharpVisions' camps are designed to foster social development by integrating participants into community activities and including typical children in the camp environment (e.g., siblings, friends, and SharpVisions employees' own children). The camps, currently offered in two locations (Pittsburgh and Mars), provide individualized, child-centered programs. Offers arts, music, dance and multiple field trips. Primarily for individuals with mental retardation, some with the dual diagnosis of mental illness and mental retardation and some with mental illness only. Staff/child ratio: 1/2. Ages 5 - 21. Session 1: June 18 - June 29, 2007; Session 2: July 9 - July 20; Session 3: July 30 - August 10. ESY accredited program. Extended hours/fees: 8:00-10:00 a.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.,</p>
<p><b>Shining Arrow Association</b>  PO Box 17297  Penn Hills Park  Pittsburgh, PA 15235  (412) 241-0866</p>	<p>Ages 6-25</p>	<p>Not available</p>	<p>CHIP  (Children's Health Insurance Program)  Self Pay  Private Insurance</p>	<p>Developmental disabilities</p>

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Special Olympics of Allegheny County</b> 404 First St Carnegie, PA 15106 (412) 279-5450	Ages 7-71	<a href="http://www.so-ac.org">www.so-ac.org</a> <a href="http://www.so-ac.org">www.so-ac.org</a>	Call for information	Special Olympics
<b>Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania</b> 134 Shenot Road Wexford, PA 15090 (724) 934-9600 (800) 243-5787	All ages	<a href="mailto:into@sbawp.org">into@sbawp.org</a> <a href="http://www.sbawp.org">www.sbawp.org</a>	Sliding Fee Scale Self Pay	Spina bifida
<b>Sports Vision Incorporated</b> PO Box 23053 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-429-1996	Ages 4+	<a href="mailto:info@mysportsvision.org">info@mysportsvision.org</a> <a href="http://www.mysportsvision.org">www.mysportsvision.org</a>	Self pay	Visual & limited physical disabilities
<b>St Edmunds Academy Summer Program (Summer SEA)</b> 5705 Darlington Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (412) 521-1907	Ages 3-8	Not available Contact: Amber Scalise	Self pay	All conditions
<b>Summer Art Connection</b> 4400 Forbes Ave Carnegie Museum of Art Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (412) 622-3214	Ages 4-15	Not available	Self Pay	All conditions

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Sweetwater Center for the Arts</b> 200 Broad St Old Sewickley Post Office Sewickley, PA 15143 (412) 741-4405	All ages	mpeters@ sweetwaterartcenter.org  www.sweetwaterartcenter.org	Credit Card Self Pay	All conditions
<b>Tech Link Program of Pittsburgh</b> 5045 Forbes Tower Rm 5039 Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412) 383-6797	Ages 10-22	sab992@pitt.edu  www.tech-link.org	Call for information	Sensory & physical disabilities
<b>The Childrens Institute of Pittsburgh</b> 6301 Northumberland Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (412) 420-2400	All ages	Amazingkids.org	Medical Assistance Credit Card Self Pay Private Insurance Medicaid	Adaptive playground for all abilities

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<p><b>The Early Learning Institute (Preschool Program \ Infant Toddler Program)</b>            2510 Baldwick Rd            Central Office            Pittsburgh, PA 15205            (412) 922-8322</p>	<p>Ages birth-5</p>	<p>natalie@earlylearninginstitute.org             earlylearninginstitute.org</p>	<p>Call for information</p>	<p>Adaptive playground            Recreation programs            Abuse/Neglect            Autism and Related Disorders            Behavioral, Emotional, or Mental Health Disorder            Blindness or Visual Impairment            Cerebral Palsy and Other Mobility Disorders            Chronic Medical Disorders            Deafness or Hearing Impairment            Developmental Delay            Down Syndrome            Learning Disability            Mental Retardation            Muscular Dystrophy and Other Myopathies            Seizures and Other Neurological Disorders            Speech and Language Disorders            Spina Bifida            Traumatic Brain Injury</p>
<p><b>Therapeutic Specialists, Inc. - Ready To Write Handwriting Camp</b>            110 Fort Couch Rd.            Pittsburgh, PA 15241            (412) 833-6663</p>	<p>Ages 5-10</p>	<p>info@tsiot.com             www.tsiot.com</p>	<p>Call for information</p>	<p>Children who are having difficulty handwriting            Developmental delays            Mental illness</p>
<p><b>Three Rivers Adaptive Sports</b>            PO Box 38235            Pittsburgh, PA 15238            (412) 848-8896</p>	<p>16+</p>	<p>www.traspa.org</p>	<p>Self pay</p>	<p>All physical challenges</p>
<p><b>Three Rivers Rowing Association</b>            300 Waterfront Dr            Pittsburgh, PA 15222            (412) 231-8772</p>	<p>8+</p>	<p>threeriversrowing.org</p>	<p>Credit Card            Self Pay            Scholarships &amp; grants available</p>	<p>All conditions            Special Olympics</p>

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Together for Retarded Youth Incorporated</b> PO Box 40 Wexford PA 15090 (724) 935-4910	Ages 13 +	Togetherforretardedyouth.org	All services free	Mental retardation, mobility impairment, orthopedic conditions
<b>Total Learning Centers</b> 12045 Perry Hwy Pine Tree Shoppes Wexford, PA 15090 (724) 940-1090	Pre-school on up	info@totallearningcenter.com  www.totallearningcenter.com	Medical Assistance Credit Card Self Pay Private Insurance Fixed Fee Medicaid	All conditions including ADHD

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<p><b>Touch, Feel, Heal (TFH)</b>  <b>Adaptive Toys</b>            4537 Gibsonia Road            Gibsonia, PA 15044            800-467-6222</p>	<p>All ages</p>	<p>tffusa.com</p>	<p>Fees vary            Their recreational products are specifically designed for individuals with physical handicaps. TFH also specializes in multi-sensory environments . These environments are an innovative learning aid for those with severe learning difficulties, and a wonderfully relaxing place for the anxious. Many of TFH's products are suggested and designed by occupational therapists and teachers for individuals with mental retardation or</p>	<p>Autism and Related Disorders            Behavioral, Emotional, or Mental Health Disorder            Blindness or Visual Impairment            Cerebral Palsy and Other Mobility Disorders            Chronic Medical Disorders            Deafness or Hearing Impairment            Developmental Delay            Down Syndrome            Learning Disability            Mental Retardation            Muscular Dystrophy and Other Myopathies            Seizures and Other Neurological Disorders            Speech and Language Disorders            Spina Bifida            Traumatic Brain Injury</p>

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Turtle Creek Valley MH MR, Inc.</b> 1705 Maple Street Suite B 3 Homestead, PA 15120 (412) 461-1004	Ages 6-12	www.tcv.net	CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Medical Assistance Credit Card Sliding Fee Scale Self Pay Private Insurance Medicaid	All conditions
<b>University of Pittsburgh (Kinder Kinetics)</b> 160 Trees Hall Dept of HPRED Pittsburgh, PA 15261 (412) 648-8266	Ages 3-12	www.education.pitt.edu/kinderkinetics	Medical Assistance Self Pay Private Insurance Medicaid	All conditions Inclusive day camp
<b>Valley Community Services (Child Development Ctr.)</b> Cheswick Shopping Ctr. Cheswick, PA 15024 (724) 274-4450	Ages 6-12	<a href="mailto:valleychilddev@hotmail.com">valleychilddev@hotmail.com</a> Call in March/April	Self pay Sliding scale	All conditions Day & recreational camp



<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Variety the Children's Charity (Kids on the GO! Program)</b> Penn Ctr. West One Ste 411 Pittsburgh, PA 15276 Local: (412) 747-2680 TTY: (412) 747-2681	Ages 6-18	Varietypittsburgh.org	Call for information	All conditions Day & recreational camp
<b>Waldorf School of Pittsburgh</b> 201 S Winebiddle St Pittsburgh, PA 15224 (412) 441-5792 x 22	Grades 1-5	waldorf@yahoo.com  info@waldorfpittsburgh.org	Self pay	All conditions Day & recreational camp
<b>Watson Institute</b> 301 Camp Meeting Rd Sewickley, PA 15143 Local: (412) 741-1800 Toll Free: 1-866-893-4751	Ages 6-12 & 13-19	www.dtwatson.org	Self Pay Private Insurance	All conditions Day & recreational camp
<b>Wesley Highland Services (Extended School Year Program)</b> 243 Johnstown Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15241 412-831-9390	Ages 6-18	www.wesleyspectrum.org	Call for information	Adaptive playground Therapeutic camp for autism, behavior/MH, neglect, speech impairments, partial psychiatric hospitalization
<b>Western PA School for the Deaf, Kris Brown Summer (Camp)</b> 300 East Swissvale Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15218 1-800-624-3323	Ages 7-18	rgarrity@wpsd.org  www.wpsd.org	\$75.00 a week	Hearing impairment

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children</b> 201 N Bellefield Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (412) 621-0100	All ages	www.wpsbc.org	Call for information	Adaptive playground
<b>Western PA Conference of United Methodist Church, Camp Allegheny</b> 100 Camp Allegheny Drive Stoystown, PA 15563 888-251-0771	Ages 6-18	<a href="http://www.campallegheny.org">http://www.campallegheny.org</a>	FEES: Vary between \$150-\$425.	Member of Christian Camping International; featuring a variety of camps for families (all ages), children (ages 6 - 12) and youth (ages 13 - 18) from June 12 to Aug. 19. Also offered, a week of camp for mentally challenged adults without emotional problems. All camps include Bible Study, worship, swimming, games, singing and campfires. Specialty programs offered for special interests include horses, ponies, music, drama, sailing, biking, canoeing, rock climbing, rappelling, hiking, sports, strategy, games, model building, field trips and more. Campership money available for campers with financial need. Campers welcome regardless of church affiliation
<b>Wilkinsburg Community Ministry (Summer Reading Camp)</b> 702/708 Wood St Pittsburgh, PA 15221 (412) 241-8072	Ages 6-18	caring@wcm15221.org	Self pay	All conditions Summer reading camp Recreational camp
<b>Windwood Day Camp</b> 121 Neely School Road Wexford, PA 15090 (724) 935-6880	Ages 4-14	Not available	Self pay	All conditions

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>Woodlands Foundation Incorporated</b> 134 Shenot Road Wexford, PA 15090 Local: (724) 935-6533	Ages 8-18	info@woodlandsfoundation.org www.woodlandsfoundation.org	Sliding Fee Scale Self Pay	Spina Bifida/neural tube defect, physical disabilities/chronic illness
<b>Woodlands Foundation Incorporated (The Summer Prelude)</b> 134 Shenot Rd Wexford, PA 15090 (724) 35-6533	Ages 8-18	www.woodlandsfoundation.org	Self pay	Spina Bifida/neural tube defect, physical disabilities/chronic illness Music camp
<b>Woodlands Foundation, Mazerowski Sports Camp</b> 134 Shenot Road Wexford, PA 15090 724) 935-5470	Ages 8-18	info@woodlandsfoundation.org www.woodlandsfoundation.org	\$100.00 per week	Diagnosed disability, chronic health condition or special need.  Sports camp
<b>YMCA</b> 330 Blvd of the Allies Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-227-6420	All ages	www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org	Credit card or self pay	All conditions
<b>YMCA : Western Area Young Men's Christian Association</b> 195 Montour Run Rd Coraopolis, PA 15108 (412) 787-9622	All ages	www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org	Credit Card Self Pay	All conditions
<b>YMCA : Young Men's Christian Association of Sewickley Valley</b> 625 Blackburn Rd Sewickley, PA 15143 (412) 741-9622	Preschool on up	www.sewickleymca.org	Credit Card Self Pay	All conditions

<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Ages Served</b>	<b>Email/Web Site</b>	<b>Payment Options</b>	<b>Conditions Served</b>
<b>YMCA: Young Men's Christian Association of McKeesport</b> 523 Sinclair St McKeesport, PA 15132 (412) 664-9168	Preschool on up		Credit Card Self Pay Private Insurance	All conditions
<b>Young Men's Christian Association (Camp AIM)</b> 51 McMurray Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15241 (412) 833-5600	Preschool on up	<a href="http://www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org">www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org</a>	Self pay	All conditions
<b>Young Men's Christian Association (Camp)</b> 5021 Freeport Rd Natrona Heights, PA 15065 (724) 224-9500	Preschool on up	<a href="mailto:ymcamom@microconnect.net">ymcamom@microconnect.net</a>  <a href="http://www.avymca.org">www.avymca.org</a>	Self pay	All conditions
<b>Young Men's Christian Association (Camp)</b> 2200 Rt 286 Pittsburgh, PA 15239 (724) 327-4667	Preschool on up	<a href="http://www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org">www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org</a>	Self pay	All conditions
<b>Young Men's Christian Association Cloverleaf Area Branch</b> 425 Bliss Dr Pittsburgh, PA 15236 412) 653-7115	Ages 6-12	<a href="http://www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org">www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org</a>	Credit Card Self Pay	All conditions

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Young Women' Christian Association (Teens After School Club Program)</b> 6907 Frankstown Ave YWCA Homewood Brushton Branch Pittsburgh, PA 15208 (412) 361-6433	Ages 13-19	www.ywcaofpittsburgh.org	Self pay	All conditions
<b>YMCA South Hills Area, Camp Aim</b> 51 McMurray Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15241 412-833-5600	Call for specific camp ages	<a href="http://www.campaim.org">www.campaim.org</a>	\$130/two week session, \$380/six week session, transportation not included.	Camp Aim has provided nearly 4,000 youth and adult who have physical, mental, emotional and social disabilities with a chance to Achieve, become Independent and to be Motivated (AIM). This unique six-week summer program(three two-week sessions) includes aquatics, physical education, music and life skills. Campers have opportunities for social interaction with peers, activities that enhance and improve both small and large muscle skills, projects that build upon vocational education and training, program areas that encourage expression through the arts and countless ways to have fun! Our program is a sanctioned Extended School Year provider for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Pittsburgh School District.
<b>Young World</b> 2281 Rochester Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (412) 367-2212	Ages 6-12	youngworld@yworldinc.com  www.yworldinc.com	Self pay	All conditions Recreational & day camps

Camp Name	Ages Served	Email/Web Site	Payment Options	Conditions Served
<b>Young Writers Institute</b> 526 Cathedral of Learning Univ. of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412) 624-6557	Grades 4-12	<a href="http://www.wpawritingproject.org">www.wpawritingproject.org</a>	Self pay	All conditions Writing day camp
<b>YWCA Homewood-Brushton</b> 6907 Frankstown Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15208 Phone: 412-361-6433	Ages 5-12	<a href="http://www.ywcapgh.org">www.ywcapgh.org</a>	Call for information	All conditions
<b>YWCA-Camp Smart</b> 305 Wood St. Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-391-5100	Ages 10-16	<a href="http://www.ywcapgh.org">www.ywcapgh.org</a>	Call for information	All conditions

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## **Sending Your Child With Special Needs to Camp**

You've done it - you've taken the plunge and decided to send your child to camp this summer. There are many types of camps to choose from, including camps intended just for your child's special needs to mainstream camps where your child will be with kids who have no special needs. You've done your research, and now that you and your child have made up your minds, what can you do to get ready?

### **Preparing Your Child - and Yourself**

If you and your child haven't had the opportunity to visit the camp, make sure you get as much literature about the camp as possible, including a description of the layout and a video if the camp has one. You and your child should go over these materials together. Tell your child that you'll be checking in regularly with the camp staff and stress that he or she can always let the staff know if his or her needs aren't being met.

Talk to your child about his or her feelings. Find out if your child has any concerns, and do your best to reassure him or her that you and the camp staff will take every precaution to make sure he or she stays safe. You might find it helpful to talk about why your child is attending camp and what some of his or her goals might be, such as to try a new sport, to make new friends, or to just enjoy a break from doctors' appointments and therapy sessions.

If your child is intimidated by the thought of attending a residential camp or an inclusionary camp, you might consider starting him or her off in a day camp or a sports team for kids with special needs. This step can give your child the skills and confidence he or she needs to feel comfortable about going to a residential camp. Start with regular sports activities and day camp. Then use a special-needs camp to get your child used to being away before sending your child to an inclusionary camp.

Another option you might consider is sending your child to camp with a friend or a sibling. If your child is attending an inclusionary or mainstream camp, the buddy doesn't have to have a special need. Going with a friend can reduce stress for both you and your child, since your child and his or her camp buddy will be looking out for each other.

### **Sharing Information With Camp Staff**

Some parents are reluctant to share too much information with camp staff for fear it will have negative repercussions for their child (for example, they may wonder if the camp will still take their child or if they're setting their child up for failure). But good camps will want and need to know as much as possible - the more information they have, the better.

Consult with your child's doctor and other specialists, such as a physical therapist, to make sure you provide the camp director and staff with all the necessary information, and check with the camp staff to make sure they know everything they need to.

**You can help educate the staff by spending time with them and answering and asking questions before you drop off your child. This can be critical. For example, if your child will be attending a mainstream camp, you'll want to make sure that everything is accessible for your child and that the staff understands your child's needs.**

Many camps have paperwork you can fill out to share information as well, including information about dietary and medical needs. And regardless of whether your child is going to a day or residential camp, you should give the staff a list of emergency phone numbers and email addresses, and make sure they know how to reach you at all times during your child's camp stay.

If your child takes any medication, include the phone number of your child's doctor, in the event the prescription is lost and needs to be refilled by camp staff. Check whether the camp infirmary stocks your child's medication, too. If it doesn't, make sure you send extra medicine with your child in case of an emergency.

### **What to Pack**

Try to limit the special equipment your child brings, especially if it's expensive or breakable. If your child is attending a mainstream camp, he or she is likely to want to be like all the other kids, so do what you can to accommodate that desire. And mark or label **everything** with your child's name to make it easier to keep track of his or her belongings - that goes for everything from crutches to a retainer case.

If the camp hasn't sent you one, you should call ahead for a list of recommended items. Every camp has different requirements.

You also have the option to provide any support staff your child needs. If your child needs a therapist, you can have that person come in on a predetermined basis to provide care for your child. Or maybe your child needs more intensive, round-the-clock care - ask the camp director what you can do to accommodate these special needs.

Remember, however, that you may want to let your child have a vacation from therapy or other treatments. Before you decide to postpone any treatments, though, you should consult with your child's doctor.

### **Dealing With Anxiety and Homesickness**

Many camps don't allow direct contact between parent and child while the camp is in session - they do this to help the campers stay focused on their activities. This can be a daunting prospect for parents of children with special needs, which is why it's important that you figure out, ahead of time, how you'll get information about your child's status. Will the camp call you with updates, or you can call on a regular basis to speak to the supervisor and camp staff regarding your child's performance?

Like any parent of a camper, though, parents of children with special needs can write letters to remind their kids that they're loved and missed, and that they can't wait to hear all about their campers' many experiences.

And just like any other child, your kid probably won't want you to cramp his or her style while away at camp. The best thing you can do is respect your camper's need for freedom and independence while he or she is in a safe camp environment.

Reviewed by: Steven Bachrach, MD

Date reviewed: May 2004



Note: All information on KidsHealth is for educational purposes only. For specific medical advice, diagnoses, and treatment, consult your doctor.  
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**Everyone's Unique  
&  
Th-Th-That's Good Folks!**



