



Your Kids and Camp. Is Everyone Ready?

As summer rolls closer... here are questions to consider **before** you sign up for that camp, **before** you hire that nanny, **before** you take that vacation.

- What is the camp's policy on training and screening volunteers and staff?
- Are the counselors and staff trained in CPR?
- Does the camp have a nurse or doctor on staff for emergencies?
- What is the reporting system for employees if something happens (abuse, suspicion or injury)
- What is their policy on how children are picked up and dropped off each day (ensuring the correct person is picking them up)?
- Do they have a policy on prohibiting alone (or closed door) one on one time between adult and child?
- Who will be caring for your child? Take time to **meet** the counselors and staff who will be watching **your** child.
- Ask to tour the facility.
- Check camp references.
- If transportation is provided, make sure the vehicle is properly outfitted with safety belts and up to date car seats.
- Check to see if there have been any complaints or write ups about the facility, from parents or the state agencies.

Red Flags and Warning Signs:

- Camps/daycares that do not have established safety policies in place such as staff screenings and background checks.
- Any signs of disrepair or filth of the facility.
- Anyone who seems to be preoccupied with **your** child.
- Anyone who continually tries to arrange alone time with your child (many camps & Daycares **limit** adult/child one on one alone time).
- Anyone who is being overly physical with your child.
- Anyone who makes inappropriate comments or asks questions about your child's looks, body or development.
- Any organization that is resistant to show you their safety policies or is defensive when you ask.
- Any place that just does not feel "right" to you or your child.
- Any place that does not allow for parents to drop in and visit the facility.

*Remember.... red flag behavior is **not limited to only adults**. If you see red flag behavior in other **children**, you need to step in!*

Is your child ready for overnight camp?

Signs of camp readiness if your child:

- Has had success in spending the night away from home before
- Shows an interest in spending the night away
- Your child can verbalize their needs
- Is able to respect safety rules and boundaries of others?
- Does your child have a clear understanding of your family safety rules?