

EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPS at the Katz JCC

2019 EC Camps Parent Information Guide

YOUR CHILD AT KINDERCAMP / TODDLER CAMP

Early childhood Camps at the JCC is an age appropriate camp for pre-school children. They will learn many new skills, develop socially and enhance their Jewish identity, all while having a great time. Your child's summer at KinderCamp/Toddler Camp will be an enriching experience.

STAFF

Our camps are staffed with experienced counselors. Most head counselors are Early Childhood teachers with camping experience; group counselors are often college students and junior counselors are high school & college students.

HOW WE SPEND OUR TIME AT KINDERCAMP / TODDLER CAMP

Camp officially begins at 9:30 a.m. Each child will be housed in a bunk. The children put their camp bags in cubbies and their day begins. A typical day will include swimming in our pools (we also have sprinklers, and water play), art, music, nature, sports and games.

At KinderCamp/Toddler Camp, the theme this summer will be *Enchanted Forest Fairy Tales* and there will be special activities, such as petting zoo, moon bounce and indoor carnival, Purim in July and much more. Shabbat is observed every Friday and Jewish identity is encouraged through special activities that are both meaningful and enjoyable.

SNACK

A nut aware snack will be provided each day. Please remember to speak to the head counselor if your child has any allergies.

FOOD

KinderCampers / Toddler Campers are provided with a kosher lunch each camp day. Fruit and snacks are also provided. Please do not send food into camp. You will receive a camp menu before camp starts. Please be aware that we are a nut aware camp. In addition, we are aware that some children may have other allergies. Please let us know if your child is allergic to any other foods, or if other accommodations are needed. If you need further arrangements, please contact the Early Childhood Camp office. *Lunch is subject to change.*

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR CAMP

Most children adjust to camp very quickly and easily. In fact, they look forward to it. Occasionally the experience may be questioned by the child, especially if it is a first-time experience, and they are very young. The camp suggests the following ways to help your child get ready for their summer experience:

- Talk about camp as a place where children go to have fun.
- Please attend Meet & Greet on the Sunday prior to the first day of Camp. If you cannot attend, we can arrange for you to visit the facility at another time before camp begins. Arrangements may be made by calling (856) 4244444, ext. 1242.
- Keep the night before the opening day as calm and restful as possible.
- Your child may want to skip breakfast on the first day of camp. We suggest that you not force the issue and let them go without breakfast that day.
- Bring your child to camp even if you sense some fear of separation. We have a very experienced staff and usually children will adjust and begin to enjoy the program very quickly.
- Try to avoid a long list of instructions, do's and don'ts, etc. Trust the camp staff to exercise their judgment as to the welfare of your child.
- Give your camper a warm send-off assuring them that you or someone they know will be picking them up.

CLOTHING / SUNSCREEN

Please dress your child for camp with sneakers on as well as a bathing suit under their clothes (rain or shine). A backpack should come to camp daily with the following items: underwear, and or swimmy diaper, towel, and pool shoes.

The following items should be brought in the first day and left in the bunk: extra underwear/ and or diapers, socks, extra clothes, and an extra bathing suit for splash days.

Parents should apply sunscreen prior to arrival, and the counselors will reapply as needed.

Please fill out the sunscreen form that you can pick up from the office or your child's counselor.

Diaper Policy: Please be aware that if your child is not trained they must wear disposable Swim Diapers. The counselors will put these on at swim time. The Aquatic Department will not allow your child in the pool unless they are wearing this diaper.

RAINY DAYS

Do not let a rainy day deter you from sending your child to camp. Please have your child bring a bathing suit anyway, as we usually use the indoor pool.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Arrival time is 9:30 a.m. Please pick up your child at your scheduled pick up time. On the first day, we will be available to help find your child's bunk. We will also be sending you a form to fill out letting us know the names of the people other than the parents who can pick up your child.

DAY CARE

Please be aware that camp care is available beginning at 6:45 a.m. and again after camp until 6:15 p.m. (6:00 p.m. on Fridays). You will be receiving information the week before camp regarding the bunk your child will be assigned.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our camp is set up to provide maximum safety precautions in all areas of activity. Please do not send your child to camp sick. If for some reason other than sickness your child cannot go swimming, please send a note to that effect.

JCC Membership or Caregiver Card with Photo Required

The procedure for entering the Early Childhood facility is as follows: your PURPLE JCC membership card must be scanned at the door. If you have a Caregiver – nanny, grandparent, etc. - they must have a current CAREGIVER card with PHOTO and swipe. You may request a card at the Membership desk in the JCC lobby.

Our goal for KinderCamp/Toddler Camp is for every child to have a great time and that parents feel secure in knowing that their children are loved and cared for. If you have any questions, please call the camp office at (856) 4244444 ext. 1242