

Issue Brief: Camp Guidelines for Parents

14 June 2018

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CAMP

- **Where is the camp located?** Ensure the camp has a suitable building provided as a base.
- **Who are the staff operating the camp?** Background checks, staff be trained in CPR/First Aid/SCARS trained?
- **What are the camp's values and programme focus?** Activities should be age and developmentally appropriate, what does the day look like, hours in the sun?
- **What is the behaviour and disciplinary policy?** There should be rules and consequences. The camp should have a policy about contacting parents.
- **What is the counsellor-to-camper ratio?** See the ratio below.
- **What is the transportation/excursion policy?** Do they use vans or buses? What condition are they in?
- **What is the water safety policy?** Children must be supervised at all times.
- **What is the true cost of the camp?** Are there other activity costs?
- **Is the camp registered with Environmental Health?**
- **What is the policy on visitors and communicating concerns?** How are visitors screened?

FAST FACTS

Operators of a summer camp should:

- Be 21-years or older
- Have 2-years experience working with children

Staff should be:

- 18-years or older.
- Younger persons must work under direct supervision of qualified staff.
- Trained in Pediatric First-Aid and CPR
- Have a valid Bermuda driving licence if providing transportation.

Operators should have policies on:

- Discipline
- Emergency Procedures
- Bullying
- Field Trip/Outings
- Water safety
- Visitors and complaints



CHILD TO STAFF RATIOS

For Camp Activities (no water)

Ages	Child:Staff	Max Group
5-8	10:1	20
9-12	12:1	24

For Camp Activities (w/water)

Ages	Child:Staff
5 +	6:1


SAFETY & HEALTH POINTS

- All premises and activities must be operated in safe and sanitary manner e.g. no unsafe fencing, dogs, unsafe steps, unsafe electric cords and outlets.
- All camps should provide access to clean, safe drinking water. Sweetened drinks are discouraged.
- Tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited during camp hours
- Abuse or neglect must be reported to the Dept. of Child and Family Services at 278-9111.
- Children must not play around any body of water without constant supervision (see ratios of child to staff for activities around the water)


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