

*"I will personally go with you . . .
Everything will be fine for you."*

Exodus 33:14

OUR POLICY

1. At the first sign of homesickness our counselors inform the coordinator of the program and keep the camper active.
2. The next step is to encourage the camper to write a letter home about the good experiences that they have had. This helps the camper to focus on fun times and new friends.
3. If the child is still homesick the Program Director, Camp Director or Nurse is brought in to talk with the camper and assess the situation. At this point they will most likely call the parents to inform them of the situation.
4. After talking with the camper and his/her parents the decision is then made about sending the camper home or staying at camp. If a child goes home it just means that this isn't the right time for them to go away to camp. The time that they have spent away is a great accomplishment, however. We want to send the camper home knowing that when they are ready to try again we are willing to help in any way that we can.

For more information check these out:

- www.CampAdvisors.com/articles.html
- www.parentstalk.com/expertsadvice/ea_st_0016.html
- www.ACACamps.org
- "The Summer Camp Handbook" by Christopher A. Thurber. PhD and Jon C. Malinowski. PhD, Perspective Publishing, Inc. 800-330-5851
- <http://familyeducation.com/article/0,1120,64-7515,00.html>
- www.kidscamps.com/press/parenthood.html



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HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR CAMP

Help Prevent Homesickness



PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR CAMP

Overnight camps are a great way to help children gain independence. After camp, children are usually bursting with self-confidence. Here are some ways to help with your child's transition to camp.

1. Pack a personal item from home such as a stuffed animal.
2. Send a letter or two before camp starts so they will have mail when they arrive. Make sure that the letters are upbeat and positive. It is fine to let them know they are missed but do not dwell on it. Although you don't want them to think they are missing all the fun back home. **Note:** Your child may receive E-Mail and faxes at camp; however we ask that you send no more than one per day since our resources to handle faxes and e-mail are limited. Due to our limited resources, the number of campers we serve and the daily camp schedule these means of communication are not available for the use of campers.
3. Be prepared for the possibility that you may receive a sad letter from your child. If this should happen it is important to resist the temptation to run to the camp and rescue your child. Call the Camp Director or Program Director for more information. By the time you receive the letter your child may already have gone past those feelings of homesickness.
4. Make sure that you fill out the camper information form thoroughly. This gives our coordinators and counselors the information they need to better meet the needs of your child.
5. Many children find it easier to go away to camp for the first time by bringing a friend with them.
6. Please do not tell your children to call you if they are homesick. The majority of homesick campers will overcome any homesickness if they get involved with camp. Those who call home usually end up going home. In addition, because of the limited resources of camp and the community goals of camp, campers do not have access to telephones.
7. Try a sleep-over at a friend or family member's house so your child will get used to staying away from home.
8. Send your child only when he/she is ready, not when cousins or friends are ready.
9. Try our New Friends, Grandparent/Grandchild and Family Camp programs. This allows a stay away from home with family support.
10. Finally, don't forget to be at the camp on time to pick up your child. Plan to have the whole day with your child so they can share their experiences with you.

*"Weeping may endure for a night
but joy cometh in the morning"*

Psalm 30:5