

Questions to ask

OUR KIDS GO TO CAMP

1. **Camp's philosophy or vision:** How does this translate into the day-to-day life of the camp?
2. **Camp leadership and governance:** What is the director's background? How long has he or she been involved with the camp? Is the camp governed by a board or an owner-operator?
3. **Staff qualifications:** What kind of training do counsellors receive? Do any have certification in specialty areas?
4. **Camp environment:** What is the "feel" of the camp? Is it a welcoming place? Is it well maintained and secure?
4. **Facilities and equipment:** Is there a main dining hall, nurse's office, cabins or tents in the case of a residential camp? Are there appropriate activity areas at day camps? Is there a playing field, waterfront or swimming pool? Special equipment—canoes, easels? Special facilities—ball courts, rock climbing wall, performance space, horse stables? What is the overall condition?
5. **Program:** What activities are available? What is a typical day's schedule? You can search for camps that offer specific activities using the Advanced Search tool.
6. **Activity time:** How do campers interact with their counsellors and other staff? What is the camper-to-counsellor ratio?
7. **Age-appropriateness:** Given your child's age and stage of development, what programs would be good choices? Is there a range of ages among campers in each session and how is that handled?
8. **Health, safety and well-being:** What medical staff is on-site? What is the camp's policy on prescription medications? What emergency policies and procedures are in place? How does the camp deal with homesickness? How are behaviour and discipline issues handled?
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10. **Fee:** What's included and what's extra? Learn more about paying for camp in Money Matters.

11. **Camp life:** Do campers seem engaged and happy? Can you picture your child in the setting's on your visit, also be sure to:

- Ask for an outline of the camp's program and of any special learning opportunities offered campers.
- Ask if they can refer you to parents of previous campers.
- Try to speak with the director and counsellors.
- Ask if your child can meet other campers. Ask for a camper or counsellor to take your child on a tour of the camp.
- Ask to observe an activity.
- Ask for any helpful resources, for example, packing lists.
- Ask what bursaries or other financial support may be available.

Notes
