How to Find a Great ADHD Summer Camp or Program for Children

By Megan Johnson
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January is the season to choose a summer camp, and parents of children with ADHD face special challenges in finding an ADHD camp or ADHD summer treatment program that's right for their child.

Some ADHD programs are traditional camps that emphasize learning appropriate behavior and social skills. Others are summer treatment programs at university medical centers, geared for children with learning, emotional, or behavior problems. These programs are often modeled after treatment practices designed by William Pelham, a research psychologist at the State University of New York—Buffalo. Here's how to find a great ADHD summer program:

1. **Get good advice.** Ask for recommendations from your pediatrician and local CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) support group.

2. **Use the Web.** Visit the American Camp Association's website and cast a net for accredited camps in your area for kids with ADHD. MySummerCamps.com and other camp sites allow ADHD-specific camp searches.

3. **Find out how the camp handles ADHD-specific issues.** Jar Lampard, a health information leader at CHADD's National Resource Center on ADHD, suggests asking how the camp will help your child manage ADHD. Is there a medical professional, such as a nurse, on staff to administer medications? Is there a behavior plan or a coping strategy to deal with behavior issues? Does their procedure include a parent phone call? If it's a therapeutic program, what is their treatment model?
4. **Don't discount locals.** Targeted programs for ADHD might not be a tailored fit for your child. Consider contacting local private and public schools to see if they offer summer programs for kids with learning disabilities.

Here are some camps and summer treatment programs for kids with ADHD:

*ADHD Summer Camps for Kids, A to Z
*ADHD Summer Camps Near You (listed by region)
*Northeast
*Southeast
*Central
*West
*ADHD Summer Treatment Programs

**Tags:** ADHD | mental health | children's health
ADHD Summer Treatment Programs

Hyperactive children and those with attention deficit disorder can find help at these sites

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Achievement Center
Erie, Pa.
(814) 459-2755

Alternative Community Resource Program
Johnstown, Pa.
(814) 535-2277

Attention and Learning Disability Center
James Madison University
(540) 568-6484

Center for Children and Families
State University of New York at Buffalo
(716) 829-2244, ext.5

Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital
Section of Pediatric Psychology
(216) 444-0075

Community Guidance Center
Indiana, Pa.
(724) 465-5576

Duke Child and Family Study Center
Duke University Medical Center
(919) 416-2096
JCYS Camp STAR
University of Illinois at Chicago
(312) 996-6923

Judge Baker's Children's Center
Boston
(617) 278-4261

NYU Summer Program for Kids
(212) 263-0760

UC Irvine Child Development Center
(949) 824-2343

University of Alabama at Birmingham Sparks Clinics
(205) 934-5471

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