

# Handy Handouts®

Free informational handouts for educators, parents, and students

## Camps for Children with Disabilities

by Summer Stanley

It's that time of year—time to sign up for summer camps! For parents of children with disabilities, it might be a bit more difficult to find the right program.



### According to Care.com, there are a few different types of camps:



- Camps for children with specific disabilities, such as autism, Down syndrome, or diabetes, allow kids to befriend others with similar abilities and to learn specific skills and coping strategies.



- Camps for children with any disability offer a diverse environment while still meeting the needs of each individual.



- Inclusive camps serve children with and without disabilities. This type of camp may be a good fit for kids who participate in the general education curriculum.

### When looking for a camp for your child, consider the following factors:



- **Is the camp accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA)?** Camps that are accredited by the ACA have met certain standards for camp operation, program quality, and health and safety.



- **Who is organizing and running the camp?** Make sure you approve of their philosophy and activities.



- **How long is the camp?** Lengths can vary from one day to several weeks.



- **Are the grounds accessible for your child?** This can include community buildings, cabins, trails, bathrooms, pools, lakes, and transportation.



- **Is the staff trained for your child's needs?** What is the ratio of counselors to campers?



- **Is the camp equipped to handle a variety of medical and behavioral issues?**

No matter what type of camp you choose, if your child has fun, stays safe, and has an enriching experience, you can consider summer camp a success! Visit [VerySpecialCamps.com](http://VerySpecialCamps.com) for a comprehensive list of camps for children with disabilities throughout the country with links to each camp's website.

#### Resources:

"Summer Camps for Kids With Special Needs," accessed Feb. 11, 2019, from <https://www.care.com/c/stories/6617/summer-camps-for-kids-with-special-needs/>

"Summer Camps & Programs for Individuals With Special Needs," accessed Feb. 11, 2019, from <https://www.verypecialcamps.com/>

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