

SELECTING A *Summer Camp* FOR YOUR SCHOOL AGE CHILD

When selecting summer care for your school age child, there are many options to consider. Use this checklist as a guide to help you make a choice that is safe and fun for your child.

- Application, fees and schedule**

Ask about the deadlines for submitting applications and fees, if there are any scholarships available and the refund policies if a child is unable to attend. What is the program's schedule such as opening and closing dates or drop-off and pick-up times? What activities are available and is there a daily schedule or lesson plan?
- Health and safety**

Ask questions about background screenings of staff and volunteers as required by Florida law. Does the program provide nutritious meals and/or snacks? What are the camp's medication policies? If transportation for field trips is provided, have the vehicles been inspected? Staff should be certified in CPR and First Aid, and be trained for any provided transportation. If children participate in water activities, there should be clear water safety policies and certified lifeguards.
- Environment**

Is the facility clean and adequate for the number of children in the program? Ask about the security of the facility, from strangers entering or children leaving. What are the sign-in and sign-out policies? Outdoor programs should include indoor or sheltered areas for resting or respite from the sun or bad weather. You can also ask if there is an electronics policy.
- Child supervision & support**

Are the children supervised at all times? What are the systems used for keeping track of the children each day? Is there a discipline policy? Are staff trained in school-age care and children with special needs? Get details on new camper orientation.
- Family engagement**

How does the program communicate with families? Ask if families are welcome to the program at any time and if there are opportunities to get involved if interested.

CHILD CARE *Resources*

Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R)

Helps families find local, quality child care programs that fit their unique needs, community resources and financial assistance options.

1-866-357-3239 (Toll-free), (TTY:711)
www.floridaearlylearning.com/ccrr.aspx

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Responsible for child care program licensing and training throughout Florida and administers programs addressing issues such as background screening, adult and child protective services, homelessness, food stamps, and adoption and foster care.

1-866-762-2237
www.myflfamilies.com/childcare

Florida Abuse Hotline

Handles reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of children and vulnerable adults (the elderly or adults with disabilities).

1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)
www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline

