



Camp Walt Whitman

A photograph of two young girls in an art studio. The girl on the left, with a surprised expression, is wearing a grey and yellow shirt and an orange headband. The girl on the right, wearing glasses and a blue shirt with a cartoon character, is smiling and holding up a small clay figure. They are surrounded by art supplies like paint, brushes, and a newspaper-covered table. The background shows shelves with various art materials.

13 THINGS TO LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING AN OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMP



Choosing just the right overnight summer camp for your youngster is a huge deal. After all, you'll be sending them off, without your care and supervision ...





... for a big piece of the summer, and you'll want to be sure they're safe, happy, having fun and growing in positive ways.



By keeping a few basic must-haves in mind, you can sleep a little easier on those much quieter summer nights.

Safety is key.

It's great when your kids have fun, but, arguably, safety is the most important component of a sleepaway experience.



Are counselors and instructors well-trained and certified?

Are the grounds well-maintained and is all safety equipment routinely inspected?

What kind of training do counselors have?



Counselors and instructors should undergo thorough training.



They should also be background checked, have verifiable references and have had a criminal records search.



A young boy with short dark hair is sitting on a wooden park bench. He is wearing a blue and white striped polo shirt and blue jeans. He is looking down with a sad or thoughtful expression, resting his head on his right hand which is placed on the wooden bench. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a park or garden setting. The entire image is framed by a light blue border.

Is there a program in place to help kids overcome homesickness?

A young boy with short dark hair is sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. He is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and blue jeans. He is looking down with a sad expression, resting his head on his hand. The background is a blurred green field with trees.

Homesickness is a normal part of adjusting to camp for many children and staff should be skilled ...

A young boy with short dark hair is sitting on a wooden park bench. He is wearing a blue, white, and red striped polo shirt and blue jeans. He is looking down with a sad expression, resting his head on his right hand which is placed on the wooden bench rail. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a park or garden setting. The entire image is framed by a light blue border.

... at helping kids overcome this (usually)
temporary sadness.



Is it easy for you to communicate with the camp regarding any concerns with your child?



While many camps allow kids to call home only in emergencies, you should be able to easily get in touch with camp staff if you have any issues you need to discuss.



You should know you'll be immediately contacted if your youngster is sick or injured.



Don't assume the camp is accredited. Do your own background check and make sure the camp is accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA).

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