



# Is an Inclusive Day Camp the Right Choice for your Child?

All programs offered by the Ballwin, Crestwood, Des Peres, Ellisville, Kirkwood, Manchester, and Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Departments participating in Municipal Partners for Inclusive Recreation (MPIR) are inclusive. This means individuals with disabilities participate in recreation programs alongside their peers without disabilities. We do not offer separate, segregated camps. Reasonable accommodations can be provided to assist the child with a disability to facilitate participation. Some minimum eligibility requirements must be met to participate such as age and space in the program.

A couple examples of reasonable accommodations for a camp program include:

- ✓ Trained inclusion support staff.
- ✓ A lower staff/camper ratio. (Please give at least a two week notice if your camper requires a one-to-one inclusion support person.)
- ✓ Providing a picture schedule.

The minimum requirements for successful inclusion into a camp program include:

- ✓ Meeting the age and registration requirements of the program.
- ✓ Following the Camp Code of Conduct with or without a reasonable accommodation.
- ✓ With or without an accommodation, the camper will engage in the scheduled camp activities for the majority of the program to the best of their ability. Participation will be encouraged and aided, but not forced.
- ✓ Ability to tolerate and function, with assistance as a member of a larger social group (10 or more campers).

## Camp is...

...A program that provides opportunities to create friendships, to enhance social skills and to possibly improve fine and gross motor skills.

...Safe experiences and activities supervised by trained staff.

...Where campers actively participate in a wide variety of activities which typically include games, sports, nature walks and hikes, field trips, swimming, arts and crafts, and much, much more.

...Outside, therefore if it is a typical St. Louis summer it will be hot and humid which may not be suitable for your child. Some departments do not have the ability to bring campers inside if the temperatures get extreme so you may have to decide if your child should attend camp that day.

## Camp is not....

...For your child if they do not like to be outside and/or do not like physical activity.

...A program where camp counselors or support staff create a schedule of activities just for your child.

...A place to have therapists come and do therapy as it is not allowed during camp hours.

...A program where camp staff are available to assist campers with feeding, toileting or changing clothes. If your camper needs this type of help you can hire an individual to take care of those needs.

### **Staff-to-camper ratios**

<b>Camper Description</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Camper</b>
Needing constant and individual assistance or supervision	1	1
Needing close, but not constant assistance or supervision	1	2
Needing occasional assistance	1	3
Needing minimal assistance	1	3

**“One Shoe Can Change Your Life”...Cinderella**