



Preparing your child for camp: Dos & Don'ts

1. **Do** involve your child in the decision about camp. Talk about the things you know they will enjoy (making new friends, boating, archery, riflery, horses, etc.)
2. **Do** visit the Homewood website; it will give an idea of the activities and pictures of what our camp looks like. www.camphomewood.com
3. **Do** arrange to have your child attend camp with a friend or sibling! Going with a buddy is more comfortable.
4. **Do** have your child experience success in another type of overnight stay away from you (like a sleep-over) prior to going to camp.
5. **Do** give information to your child's counselor beforehand about what works for your son or daughter.
6. **Do** help your child understand the policy concerning phone calls (i.e. campers do not make calls home) prior to camp so he or she will not be expecting to hear from you.
7. **Don't** linger at camp too long on opening day. Hanging around after registration just delays the transition to new surroundings and can add to your child's anxiety level.
8. **Don't** tell your child they can leave early if they don't like camp: this sets the camper up for failure and they will focus on the "deal" instead of the experience.
9. If, after your best efforts, your child says, "I don't want to go to camp," you might want to look at an alternative for this summer. Hopefully when his or her friends report back on their camp experiences, they will want to be a camper next year.



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