

SUMMER CAMPS AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

May 2022

Summer Fun for Children of All Abilities

Children with learning, mental health, or physical disabilities have the same rights to attend summer camp as their non-disabled peers and cannot be denied admission due to their disability.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that summer camps (both private and those run by towns or municipalities) must provide reasonable modifications of their policies, practices, and procedures when necessary to enable campers with disabilities to participate fully in camp programs, unless the camp can demonstrate that the necessary modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the services and activities offered by the camp.

Helpful tips for summer camps:

- *Camps must evaluate each child on an individual basis.*
- *Parents cannot be required to pay the cost of the reasonable modifications necessary for their child to fully participate in all camp activities.*
- *Camps should train staff in the requirements of the ADA.*
- *Camps must train staff to administer daily medicines required by campers with disabilities, such as insulin (via pump or shots) and emergency medications, such as glucagon and Diastat®, just as they do for the proper use of Epi-Pens.*

The ADA and Children with Diabetes

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- A summer camp must make reasonable modifications for children with diabetes, including those who are insulin-dependent.
- Camps must train staff to monitor and supervise campers with disabilities like diabetes, just as they do for children with severe allergies.

The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio are committed to enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act. This bulletin contains only a short summary of legal rights and obligations under the ADA.

For more information, check out www.ada.gov or contact:

Department of Justice: ADA Information Line: 800-514-0301 (voice); 800-514-0383 (TTY)
Or email the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio at USAOHS.CivilRights@usdoj.gov