

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: WHEN A CAMPER IS BROUGHT TO THE OFFICE

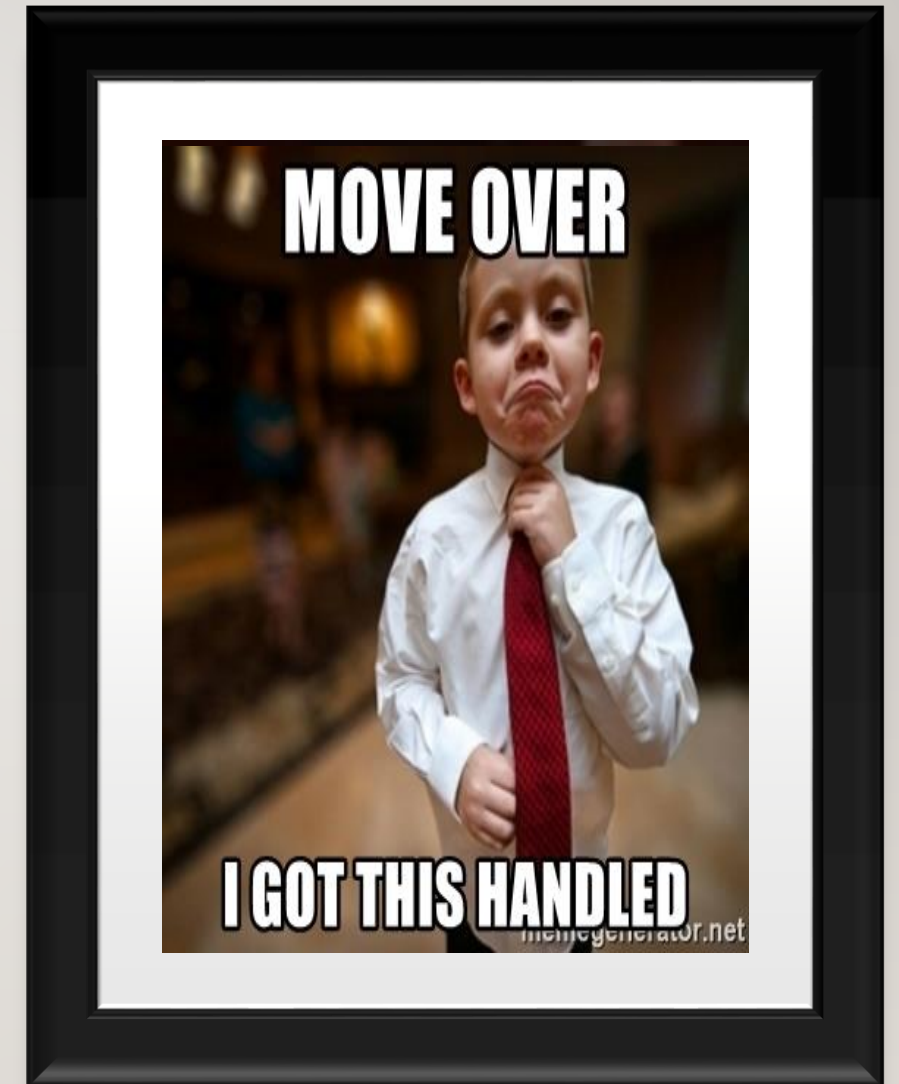
TATE CASTRO

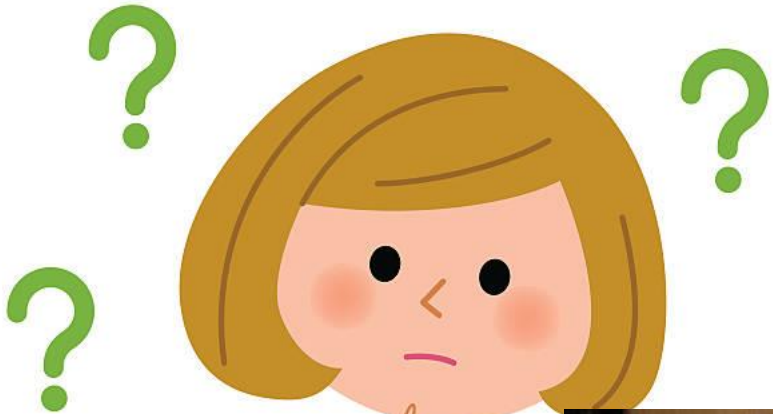
TUMBLEWEED DAY CAMP



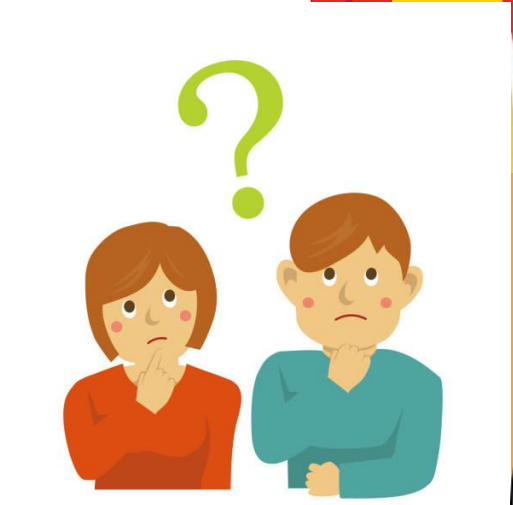
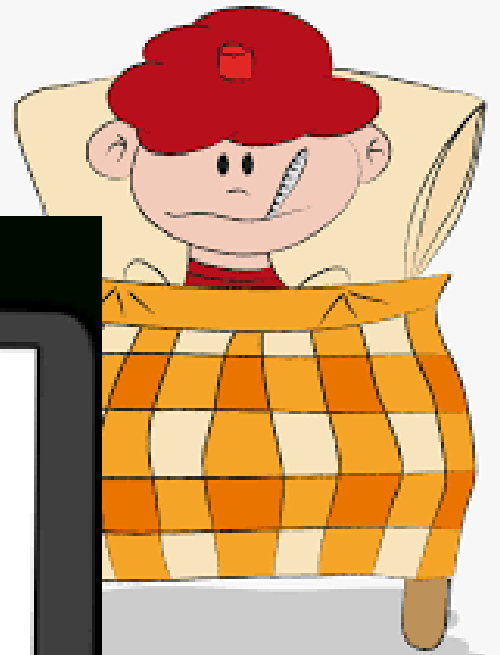
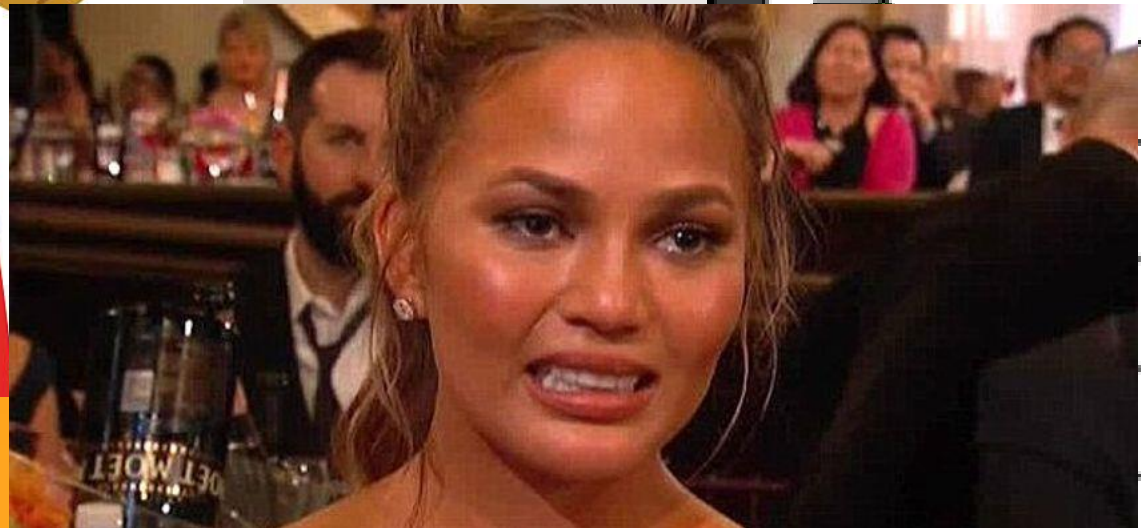
WE HAVE LOTS OF RESPONSIBILITIES!

- Staff supervision
- Special Events
- Hanging out with campers
- Parent communications
- Putting out “fires”
- So much more!





SCENE:



WHAT WE SHOULD DO: PRE-CONVERSATION

- Read the situation
 - Who is the counselor?
 - How serious is the issue?
 - Gather information from the adult (send them away)
- Make sure the scene is safe
 - NEVER be alone with a camper
 - Separate from all activities
 - Make sure you and the camper are ready to have a conversation

WHAT WE SHOULD DO: THE CONVERSATION

- Get the camper's side of the story
 - Let them feel heard
 - Position you as a 3rd party
- Get to the bottom of the problem
 - Understand why camper is making that choice
 - Do not bend on camp's values
- Come up with a plan moving forward
 - Reminders, contracts, check-ins, reward systems, etc.
 - Follow up with both the counselor and the camper

WHAT WE SHOULD DO: POST-CONVERSATION

- Walk the camper back to the group
 - Talk about something positive
 - Discuss the plan with the counselor
- Make the phone call
 - Let the parents know what is happening at camp
 - Partner with them for solutions
 - Commit to following up
- Document what happened
 - Behavior patterns
 - Following camp policies

SCENARIO #1:

- Ella is a 5th grade camper who has a few close friends in her activity group. Her counselor, Bobby, has brought her to you and says that when she is excited about an activity, she participates positively and enthusiastically. However, at some activities, she becomes negative, refuses to participate, and sometimes tries to wander away from the group. Bobby has tried talking to Ella a few times about participating, but hasn't made much headway. He is worried that he is spending too much time with Ella and not enough time supervising the rest of the campers.

SCENARIO #1 CONT'D:

- Ella's perspective: you are really excited to do the activities you know how to do, like swimming and field games, but you don't know how to do certain activities like archery and rock climbing. You are worried that your friends will make fun of you if you are bad at those activities, but don't know how to ask Bobby for help. Instead, you try to distract your friends by wandering to different activities that you are more comfortable with.

SCENARIO I DEBRIEF:

- Was everyone ready to talk?
- What was the root of the problem?
- What was the camp rule/value that needs to be upheld?
- What solution did you come up with?
- What are the next steps?

SCENARIO #2

- Chris is a 1st grade camper who sometimes struggles to make meaningful connections in his activity group. His counselor, Jamie, has brought him to you and says that it is not uncommon to see Chris throwing a temper tantrum when he doesn't get his way. Recently, he has been lashing out physically at other campers when he is upset. Jamie has tried talking to Chris during these flare ups, but cannot communicate with him when he is upset.

SCENARIO #2 CONT'D:

- Chris' perspective: Currently, you are upset and do not want to talk to anyone until you have had a moment to calm down. You feel like you don't know what the schedule is during the day, and you have a hard time with the abrupt changes in activities. You don't mean to be physical with others in your group, but you don't like it when they don't give you the physical space you need when you are upset.

SCENARIO 2 DEBRIEF:

- Was everyone ready to talk?
- What was the root of the problem?
- What was the camp rule/value that needs to be upheld?
- What solution did you come up with?
- What are the next steps?

SCENARIO #3

- Dylan is a 3rd grade camper who is extremely energetic. His counselor, Justin, has brought him to you and says that he is very enthusiastic about being at camp and all the activities, but he consistently does not follow the rules of the area, which sometimes results in a dangerous situation for the other campers. Other campers in his group are starting to think that they can choose to not follow the rules, as well. Justin has spoken to Dylan about following the rules on multiple occasions, but Dylan continues to be overly physical and unsafe.

SCENARIO #3 CONT'D:

- Dylan's perspective: You love being at camp because you get to run and play all day. Sometimes, you get so excited about the activities that you forget about being safe. You don't do any of these things intentionally, and you feel very bad when you break the rules, but you have a hard time remembering what you should be doing at each activity the whole time.

SCENARIO 3 DEBRIEF:

- Was everyone ready to talk?
- What was the root of the problem?
- What was the camp rule/value that needs to be upheld?
- What solution did you come up with?
- What are the next steps?

WRAP UP:

1. Read the situation
2. Make sure the scene is safe
3. Listen to the camper
4. Get to the bottom of the problem
5. Come up with a plan
6. Walk back to the group
7. Make the phone call
8. Write it down

Questions?