



Family Voices of Illinois

The Arc of Illinois

Family to Family Health Information Center

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Summer Memo – Get Ready Now!

- ❖ Check the Illinois Life Span Project website at www.illinoislifespan.org for resources in your area for summer camps and other special recreation activities. Call providers for registration details.
- ❖ Think about your child's summer education and therapy needs and work with your child's team at school to develop an Extended School Year (ESY) plan to include in the IEP if needed. Information about ESY is available on the Illinois State Board of Education website at: http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/pdfs/memo_esy_01.pdf.
- ❖ Check with your school about any available summer programming. Your child may not need additional support to participate in available activities. Another important point to remember is that high-quality options may be available that will not be required to be written into the IEP.
- ❖ Local park districts and special recreation programs, where available, are a great resource for summer activities. For more information on special recreation in Illinois, please go to the website for Special Recreation Association Network of Illinois at <http://specialrecreation.org>.
- ❖ If you need child care for the summer, contact area resources now to gather information and make arrangements. Statewide child care information is available through the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. <http://www.inccrra.org>.
- ❖ If your child receives funding through the Children's Home-Based Support Services Waiver, contact your Service Facilitator to learn about changes that may allow you to adjust your yearly budget to help cover the need for additional summer services. A budget minder to help you plan for this is available on the Family Support Network website at <http://familysupportnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/FSN-Budget-Minder.xls>.
- ❖ NICHCY has a full page of summer camp resources including links to camps for children with specific disabilities at <http://nichcy.org/publications/camps>.

- ❖ Another comprehensive resource for families considering camp is the following website from the American Camp Association: <http://www.campparents.org>.
- ❖ For information about DFI Title XX scholarships for children in TANF recipient families: <http://www.acail.org/GuidelinesFY12n%20FY13TitleXX.pdf>.
- ❖ Day camp (not overnight camp) fees and/or caregiver fees MAY be tax deductible if these fees are incurred to enable parent to work: <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc602.html>.
- ❖ Participation in a therapeutic treatment program (which happens to take place in the summer), and is prescribed by the child's physician MAY be deductible as a medical expense: http://www.irs.gov/publications/p907/ar02.html#en_US_2012_publink10008644
- ❖ A toolkit designed to provide easy-to-use tips and strategies to help people to find, choose and keep high quality Direct Support Professionals is available for free online from the Illinois Direct Support Professional Workforce Initiative. Look for "Find, Choose, and Keep Great Direct Support Professionals" at <http://www.ildspinitiative.com>.
- ❖ Make appointments for school physicals and dental checkups during the summer months when children won't miss valuable learning time. Information about these important appointments is available on the Family to Family Health Information Center website under **Tools for School**. <http://familyvoicesillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Tools-for-School-Brochure.pdf>

If you have questions or need additional resources, please contact us at:

Illinois Life Span Project: 1-800-588-7002 or

Family to Family Health Information Center:

1-866-931-1110 or 815-464-8247