



Specialized Recreation Day Camp Aide Policy

The City of Walnut Creek's Specialized Recreation Day Camp Program provides a safe and fun environment for campers with various adaptive needs and levels of independence in a group setting. The purpose of the program is based in recreation and play, and while learning will occur, the camp experience is not a licensed education focused program. Our camp is staffed at a 3:1, 4:1, or 5:1 ratio depending on the age group and the identified level of supports needed. Every effort will be made to maintain as low a ratio of campers to staff as possible but, this is a group program, and campers must be able to maintain a level of independent functioning. Employees are not authorized to offer one-on-one assistance with toileting, dressing, feeding, or extreme behavior control. We understand that determining if your camper requires a 1:1 aide during their camp experience can be difficult; please refer to the guidance below to assist you in this process.

What support camp staff *cannot* provide:

- Entering the restroom stall with a camper to assist with wiping or pulling up pants after using the restroom.
- Providing physical assistance with eating or drinking.
- Assist with undressing or changing into a different pair of clothes or swimsuit.
- Provide continual 1:1 support with implementing coping skills or emotional regulation throughout the day that impacts the supervision of other campers.
- Provide continual 1:1 intervention to ensure that the camper is not violating the behavior contract, thus impacting the supervision of other campers.
- Provide continual 1:1 support to ensure that the camper does not elope from camp.
- Provide continual 1:1 support and continued redirection of camper that would impact staff's ability to effectively lead programs and supervise the safety of other campers.
- Physical intervention or restraints to decrease self-injurious behaviors or aggressive behaviors towards other campers and staff.

What supports camp staff *are expected* to provide:

- Prompting/scheduling campers to use the restroom, escorting them to and from the restroom, and prompting them to wash their hands afterwards.
- Prompting/scheduling campers to eat their food, reminders to eat more slowly, and providing physical assistance with opening packaging.
- Prompt campers to change into different clothing as needed and assist with flipping or turning clothing in the appropriate direction. Staff will be supervising campers in the locker room at the pool to ensure safety.
- Provide sensory areas and tools to assist the camper with emotional regulation. Staff may provide occasional, additional support to de-escalate situations as needed as long as the camper can be redirected within 20 minutes.
- Provide longer transition times between activities.
- Structure activities and supervision of campers in a manner that decreases the likelihood of elopement.
- Provide private areas with appropriate supervision from senior staff for campers experiencing crises.

A busy camp atmosphere combined with new staff and an unfamiliar environment can sometimes be overwhelming for campers and result in behaviors that are not seen in the home or at school. Every effort will be made to support your individual camper and provide for the best experience for all but, safety and providing a whole program environment is of utmost priority. Camp staff is committed to communicating any concerns with care providers and cultivating a collaborative relationship with our campers' care teams to ensure their success in camp. We ask that care providers participate in open conversations as needed and encourage you to reach out to senior staff with any questions or concerns.

For more information on our aide policy, email Program Coordinator Kyra Dixon at dixon@walnut-creek.org or via telephone at (925) 943-5899 ext. 2439.