

Social & Emotional Learning Through Camp: A True Education

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When parents consider sending their children to summer camp, they often weigh the cost of the program against what their child will gain from the experience. At a sports camp, they expect their child's technical skills to improve. An arts camp should result in a finished project that showcases their efforts. A theater camp typically culminates in a performance that parents can watch. But what about day camps? How do parents measure the real value of these programs?

I discovered the true value of camp early in my teaching career. I watched students from different backgrounds, grade levels, and educational experiences come together in ways that extended far beyond the activities themselves. Through careful planning and skillful facilitation, I saw that the greatest benefit of camp wasn't just skill-building or fun—it was the social and emotional growth that took place in each child.

In a camp setting, children learn to collaborate, plan, struggle, negotiate, agree and disagree, resolve conflicts, and support one another. These peer-to-peer interactions naturally strengthen their emotional intelligence, fostering resilience, adaptability, and communication skills that are crucial for success in life.

Traditional schools focus primarily on developing a child's IQ. Camps, however, take on the important role of nurturing social and emotional intelligence—an area often considered secondary in formal education. Emotional intelligence is the ability to identify and manage one's emotions while also recognizing and responding to the emotions of others. Camp provides the perfect environment to cultivate these skills. One key factor? The digital disconnect. By stepping away from screens and social media, children are more present, engaged, and open to forming meaningful connections with their peers.

When choosing a camp for your child, look beyond the daily schedule of activities. Ask camp leaders about the outcomes they strive for. A well-designed program isn't just about keeping kids busy—it's about creating memorable and meaningful moments that shape their personal growth. The true value of camp isn't what children bring home in their hands—it's what they take away in their hearts and minds.



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QUEEN
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ESCAPE ROOM

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ESCAPE ROOM

WINNER WINNER
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Digital disconnect to socially connect