

North American Inclusion Month

NAIM

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY

You Have a Hearing-Impaired Camper- What Do You Do Now?

The Do's and Don'ts

DO:

- Explain to the bunkmates that this camper is just like everyone else. He/she just has trouble hearing.
- Establish how the camper communicates (speech, sign, etc.)
- Ask the camper if he/she is hearing the information.
- Encourage the camper to ask the counselor to repeat what he/she has not heard.
- Seat the camper where he/she can see your lips when in groups.
- Use attention-getting signals that have been set up with the hearing-impaired student. Hand signals are effective.
- Set up a buddy system with the other bunkmates taking turns to ensure that the camper is hearing instructions and following directions. This is especially important when the group is moving from activities.
- Set up a buddy system in the pool area. Once the camper has taken off his/her hearing aids, he can no longer hear as well. In the pool, he/she may not hear the whistle for “buddy call” or instructions from the pool staff. Optimally, a shadow counselor should be in the water with the camper.
- Hearing aids must be removed for all water and sand activities. If the water and sand get into the aids, they will destroy them. Once the hearing aids are removed, the camper may have trouble hearing.
- Hearing-impaired children use extra energy to “listen and hear.” They may get very tired as the day progresses. Give them extra time to rest, if necessary. Also, as they get tired, their frustration level may increase. Be very patient with them.



For more information contact:
Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities



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- Hearing-impaired children may take special medication such as eardrops. Check with the camp nurse or mother if your camper needs to go to the infirmary daily.
- Children who wear hearing aids often get wax or debris build-up in their ears. This is especially true in the summer when the camper is swimming and/or sweating. If the camper complains of itching in the ear, take the camper to the infirmary and contact the parents. Many campers need their ears cleaned out on a regular basis. Contact the parent as to how, by whom, and when this should be done. **DO NOT PUT ANYTHING INTO YOUR CAMPERS EARS!!**
- Communicate weekly with the student's parents through phone conversations. This can be done through the camp mother or nurse.

DON'T:

- Speak in an excessively loud voice. Loud speech can be distorted and hard to understand.
- Talk excessively slowly or slur words.
- Talk with your back to the camper or with anything blocking your mouth.
- Call the camper from across the field or from another room. The camper may not hear your call.
- Assume that the hearing-impaired student has heard everything that is communicated to the bunk. Ask frequent questions to verify that the camper is receiving the whole message.
- **PUT ANYTHING INTO YOUR CAMPERS EARS. THIS CAN BREAK THE EARDRUM AND/OR CAUSE SERIOUS INFECTION.** If a problem occurs contact the nurse or camp mother immediately.



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