



PIDD Post

Volume: 10

BioRx... Get headed in the right direction.

Camp Edition

It's the middle of winter...Time to plan for summer camp!

For the parent of a child with special medical needs, selecting a camp demands careful consideration. Fortunately, there is a wealth of informed guidance provided by camp websites, support organizations and even the manufacturers of your child's medication.

Most camps that serve the PIDD community are non-profit and staffed by trained professionals who volunteer their time and skills to provide kids with this unique opportunity. These camps will typically have a schedule of weeks dedicated to specific illnesses or conditions, so dates are not always flexible. Many of these camps operate free of charge to campers, and some offer free transportation to and from camp, including air fare!

Camps designed for kids with medical needs will have doctors and nurses on staff around the clock, facilities for medical emergencies as well as routine treatment (including infusions) for your child. The staff will be well-versed in PIDD and have an established working relationship with the nearest hospital, including transport in case of emergency. The goal of these camps is to keep your child well, while keeping the visibility of meeting their medical needs to a minimum.

A few specific things to consider:

- Your child's age
- Sleep-over or day camp
- Length of stay (most will be one week)
- Any special dietary needs
- Accreditation
- Medical staffing and facilities
- Recommendations from others

There are several websites to help you choose a camp, including:

- www.verypecialcamps.com or
- find.acacamps.org/finding_advanced.php.

Once you have narrowed your search to a few camps, it is always wise to contact the camps to discuss your child's "fit." As you will see in your search, there are many camps offering to serve your child, but a few of the most well-established and well-known include:

- www.dreamstreetfoundation.org
- www.holeinthewallcamps.org
- www.thecenterforcourageouskids.org

Camp can be a wonderful, confidence-building experience for both your child and the family. If you start doing your research now, you can embark on this adventure confident, comfortable, and enthusiastic.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT 1-866-442-4679, or visit www.biorx.com

Past issues of the PIDD Post can be found at www.biorx.com/pidd.php