



MONKEY BUSINESS CAMP

Summer + School Break Day Camps for Kids

Minimum Age Exceptions: If you are wondering about your child joining camp, who will be a younger 5-year-old (between 5 and 5 yrs 3 months) by the time of camp, here are some things to inquire about:

At their age, they usually have had some experience in mixed age groups with older kids, and either:

- really relish being in that environment and have ease with the noise and larger bodies.
- Somewhat struggle to keep up, or scared by older children, or by the noise and energy of a larger group, and it creates anxiety that can be avoided if they can wait and join when they are a bit older.

You, as a parent know your child better than we do regarding above. What we can share is more about our camp, so you can make the most informed decision. Read more about camp in the green boxes below.

More Program Info

It helps to understand more about our program to confirm if it seems like a good fit for your child. The age range for kids at camp is from 5.25 (5 yrs, 3 mos)-10 years. In terms of attention, we have 1 staff for every 9 campers. Each group usually has about 25 people total, which includes 3 staff and 2-4 youth leaders. Our camp day includes times when campers can make choices about their activities, including things like drawing, building, exploring nature, playing a field or board game, climbing, and making art. Camp also includes group activities like circle, meals, walks, and listening to stories, when it is necessary to be a part, a camper cannot just choose to do something else at that time. These times with less choice, usually about 20 minutes long, require some focus, patience, and kindness towards others in the group. We also have about ten transitions each day, including shifting from free choice to more focused activities and vice versa, for washing hands, to lunch, etc. Campers need to move mostly easily with this flow. Camp is 100% of the time outside in summer, and 80% during school breaks.

Sometimes a child may need a program other than ours, with either more structure or less structure, smaller groups, more indoor time, specific activities, or more staff to be comfortable, and to be considerate or safe toward others.

Age Range for Different Programs and Sharing Space with Older Kids

- **Summer in Tilden:** the youngest group is ages 5-6s (younger 6s), meets at the playground by the Little Farm in the morning, then walks to Meadows picnic area for lunch and play there for the afternoon. Once at Meadows, they share the space with another group, the Smoothies, ages 6 (older 6s)-7s. While there are a lot of people, with it being outside, the energy radiates out. Usually once at the end of a two- or three-week session, we combine groups for a larger group activity like carnivals, skits, etc. If there is afternoon extended care and your child joins, that will be in one mixed age group, maybe at a different site.
- **Break camps, at Berkwood Hedge School, e.g Winter, Feb, Spring:** the youngest group usually has 5-6s (with some younger 7s). It has its own classroom and outdoor table space, and shares space with other older campers on our two yards, usually in the morning, and after lunch, for about an hour each day. The yards have a climbing structure and sand box, and hard top for ball play and basketball. We make sure groups have time separately in the yards, too, so they can enjoy it in a way that speaks more to their age.
- **Day longs:** if just one group, they will spend all day together, otherwise, if more than one group, they will each have some time away from the group to explore.

Toileting for Younger Kids

It is important that younger kids have awareness and ease with toileting, even with the stimulation of camp. Staff call out bathroom breaks, usually based on another camper saying they need to go, and staff or youth leaders accompany them, following the rule of 3, so never alone with a camper. Camp has an understanding that there could be an occasional accident, aiming for not more than once a week.

Exception Considerations- We are asking parents to consider what we have shared here, and if you think that it is a good time for your child to start Monkey Business Camp, please go ahead and [register](#). Otherwise, we very much look forward to them joining very soon!

