Kate’s Camp for Kids COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Kate’s Camp for Kids at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center is committed to insuring that your child has a fun and safe summer day camp experience. The COVID-19 pandemic necessitates the implementation of several new health and safety policies that will significantly change the look of camp compared to past years. It is the intention of the camp staff to communicate clearly and effectively all of the ways that we will be following both the CDC’s National Guidelines and the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Guidelines regarding the operation of licensed day camps. We are confident that we can adhere to the following precautions while providing a fun and exciting experience for your child.

Health Screening

1. Ten days before your child is set to begin camp, please take his/her temperature daily. If he/she begins to run a temperature over 100 degrees he/she will need to quarantine for another 14 days before coming to a session of camp. If your child has a serious underlying medical condition that makes her more susceptible to COVID-19, we recommend she does not attend camp this summer.
2. Please notify camp staff if you have travelled outside of CT anytime in the two weeks prior to camp or if your family has had any contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
3. Once camp begins, all staff and campers will be screened daily for any observable illness and temperatures will be taken daily using a contactless infrared thermometer. Staff and campers who have a temperature of greater than 100 degrees are not permitted into the program and are required to be unmedicated fever free for at least 48 hours.
4. If a staff member or camper becomes sick during camp, the expectation is that she will stay home. If a camper begins to run a fever during camp, the child will be isolated, the family will be notified immediately, and camp will be closed for two days in order to thoroughly disinfect the camp space.

Enhanced Safety Precautions

1. Staff and campers will wear facemasks at all times. Staff will wear gloves whenever handling food and when aiding children in arts and crafts projects.
2. Staff will promote healthy hygiene practices and will require regular hand washing for staff and campers throughout the day. Regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds will be done. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer shall be used and will be supervised by adults.
3. Appropriate social distancing strategies will be implemented for all activities, including recess and lunch.
4. Each child will be given her own basic art kit to use during camp to cut down on the need to share materials. Any playground equipment used will be disinfected daily.
5. All of these procedures will be discussed with the campers in an age-appropriate way.
6. Families will be asked to sign a letter of informed consent regarding the known risk surrounding COVID –19 as it relates to camp.
7. The building and camp supplies will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis and between activity groups. The building is well ventilated and there will be extra outdoor activity incorporated into each camp day.

Changes to the Camp Day

1. Registrations will be limited to 30 campers per week and we will keep the children in small groups of no more than 16 in compliance with the State guidelines, and will allow them adequate space for social distancing during theater games, singing, movement, art and outdoor activities.
2. Campers for each session of camp will be divided into groups of no more than 16, roughly by age, and siblings will be placed in the same group. The two groups of children will not intermingle; they will have separate bathrooms and eating spaces as well as playground space.
3. For arrival each day, if your child is in “Group 1” she will enter the theater through the door at the rear of the building. If your child is in “Group 2” she will enter the theater through the door at the front of the building. Cars should be parked and a parent or guardian should stand by the vehicle to alert the staff that a camper has arrived.
4. Each day, a staff member (masked) will approach the car, take your child’s temperature and, if normal, escort them into the building. If you need to drop off medication, an inhaler or EpiPen for your child, you will be asked to wait until all of the campers have checked in to allow you time to speak with the first aider (first day of camp only).
5. Departure will work in reverse. A staff member will be stationed in the parking lot and will identify which camper’s parent has arrived and bring your child to the car.
6. All weekly performances will be filmed and shared with families unless COVID-19 guidelines change and allow for a limited audience.

While a typical camp day may look a bit different again this year, our commitment to fostering a creative environment where all children can discover hidden talents and interests is the same! We will write plays and songs, create beautiful art, move and play – we will be silly and build a community. We look forward to seeing you at Kate’s Camp for Kids!

These policies are subject to change based on further guidance from health professionals. New procedures may be implemented at any time. We will communicate any significant changes in the weeks and days leading up to camp.