

## **The Lynn Special Needs Camp**

The Lynn Special Needs Camp promotes self-esteem, independence, health, and safety. Its goal is the emotional and psychological well-being of the children who participate in the program. Those who participate are encouraged to grow to the best of their abilities. By giving special needs children an opportunity to interact with their peers and adults on a variety of recreational and social levels, the Camp develops self-confidence, trust, and independence. The Camp tailors the individual programs to fit the needs of each participant. Whenever possible, networking with school and/or physicians is established to further individualize objectives and strategies. The Camp operates a comprehensive program of recreational activities. At the nucleus is the belief that "play" can have a positive, residual impact on human development in the areas of sensory, motor, cognitive, communicative, and social behavior. Children who participate strengthen gross, fine motor skills, daily living skills, as well as sensory, social and academic skills. With proximity to Lynn Woods, the Camp facilitates communal enjoyment of nature. In fine weather, children are guided through a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, apple picking, gardening, swimming, ice skating and sledding. During the summer months, the program is augmented with various field trips to museums, zoos, amusement parks, aquariums, and local sporting events. Respite Care, which is available at the Camp, provides support for parents of disabled/handicapped children by giving those parents some relief from the total care demanded of them. It is a concept based on the realization that the daily stress of life is intensified for parents of handicapped children due to their constant care and attention required for those children.

The Lynn Special Needs Camp provides an opportunity for parents under these demands to find qualified help for their children, and at the same time take advantage of some quality time for themselves. The Respite Care manual elaborates on these points when it states, "Practical help in managing the child, amusing him, training him, and -not at least- enjoying him, is part of the service a respite worker can provide. Further, the respite worker is able to provide help to the parent in those instances when emergencies occur. A caring, generous approach to child care and a recognition of parents needs...gives the parents not only physical relief....but emotional relief as well". The Lynn Special Needs Camp is for kids...very special kids....first and foremost. In the totality of that commitment, we direct a great deal of energy, kindness, and care to the special parents behind those very special kids.

### **AFTERSCHOOL RECREATIONAL PROGRAM:**

Designed to meet the needs of working parents, this program schedules a full complement of individualized recreational activities and field trips for a fee. Transportation to the Camp is provided from all of the Lynn Schools. Parents are responsible for the return trip at the end of the day. A nutritious afternoon snack is provided.

HOURS: Monday-Friday 12:00 Noon-6:00 p.m.

### **SCHOOL VACATION PROGRAM:**

This program highlights a number of recreational activities, including field trips. The trips are scheduled to coincide with school vacations during the months of December, February, and April. Selected transportation is available, as is respite care. Parents are requested to provide lunches. Fees are charged for this program.

SELECTED SCHOOL VACATIONS: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### **SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM:**

The Camp schedules a comprehensive Camp format for children during the summer months. Activities include recreation, swimming, exercise, field trips, special events, cookouts, sleepovers, and end-of-camp show. Enrollment in the program is limited.

Over the years, this has proven to be one of our more popular and successful programs. We expect this summer to be no exception.

Breakfast and lunches are provided for all participants. The program is in session during the months of July and August. A fee is charged for this program.

HOURS: Monday- Friday -9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.