



# *PLANNING YOUR CHILD'S SUMMER*



April is just around the corner, and May and the end of another school year will soon follow. Now is the time that many parents with young children are starting to make plans for the summer. Parents with younger children need to explore daycare options, while parents of older children may be thinking about summer camps or jobs. One of the keys to having a successful, stress free summer is to plan ahead. If it is daycare that is needed, there are many options to consider such as home care-givers, friends, relatives or older children in the area. If it is camp you are interested in for your child there are many options such as day programs, overnight camps and longer extended church and private camps. Finally, if your summer is to include a vacation or even a stay-cation, planning is important. As you plan the summer, here are some tips to consider:

- ⌚ Begin your planning early. Daycares and summer programs fill up quickly.
- ⌚ Visit with other parents and use them as resources for ideas and programs.
- ⌚ Make vacation reservations early and have your trips planned out.
- ⌚ Start gathering items now that you will need for the summer, such as swim suits, water bottles, and sunscreen.
- ⌚ Make sure you have emergency and safety items available, such as flashlights, first-aid kits, and lists of emergency contacts.
- ⌚ Whether staying home or traveling, plan activities that are age appropriate and properly supervised.
- ⌚ Take some stress off yourself in planning for the summer by getting your children involved in the planning.
- ⌚ To get your children excited, have a calendar posted with events for the summer highlighted on it.

Summer is traditionally the favorite time of the year for most children. Once school gets out, they see summer as a time to play and have fun. You can help your children to enjoy their summers by planning ahead and having plenty of activities for them to do. With the right planning, you and your family can make great memories this summer that will last a lifetime.

## **For further Information:**

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