



## *Choosing Your Child's Summer Camp...*

### *Are You in the Know?*

Did you know that there are two types of summer programs...licensed and exempt?

"Often parents unknowingly make the assumption that all camps are regulated and operating by safety guidelines to protect their children. Unfortunately, many in Georgia are not. Additionally we know from experience that summer time can hold the biggest risk and highest injury rates. It stands to reason that the more active children are, the more vulnerable they are to bumps and bruises.

That's why we believe that parents should be aware that not all camps are licensed child care programs which adhere to state mandated rules for health, safety, and supervision. Hundreds of camps across the state operate without any state oversight by the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) or accreditation from the American Camping Association." ~Georgia Childcare Association

***Choosing the best summer program for your child is a crucial decision, one of the most important a parent can make. Let us help..***

#### ***Licensed Care:***

State Imposed teacher/child ratio

State Imposed water safety; even lower adult/child ratios

Sign-in/sign-out requirements for campers

Criminal background checks and fingerprinting on 100% staff

Required staff CPR/First Aid Training

Mandatory supervision requirements and only positive forms of corrective discipline

Annual vehicle inspections

Set age criteria for staff/care-givers

Education/certification requirement for staff/care-givers

Restricted operating hours

Subject to unannounced DECAL inspection

#### ***Exempt Care:***

DECAL reportedly reviewing 7,000 requests for exemption

Can operate up to twelve hours per day

Not required to meet state rules for disciplining children, proper hygiene, staffer training, serving nutritional food

Not subject to state inspection

Compliance with licensed care requirements is optional

Must prominently display signage indicating exempt status

Parents required to sign release statement acknowledging exempt status

~Ask us about our safe and licensed summer camp!

