



Template Letter for Families to Share with Camps

For use with general/mainstream camps serving primarily hearing children.

Purpose of This Template: This template is intended for families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children who are enrolling in general or mainstream camps — camps that primarily serve hearing children and are not specifically designed or staffed to provide DHH-specialized services or programming. Because these camps may have little to no prior experience supporting DHH students, this letter provides straightforward, practical guidance to help staff ensure your child can fully participate, communicate safely, and feel included. It is not intended for use with camps that already specialize in DHH education or Deaf culture programming.

Subject: Preparing for Our Child's Camp Experience

Dear [Camp Director/Staff Name] and the [Camp Name] Team,

Thank you for welcoming our child to camp. We are excited about this opportunity and appreciate your partnership in creating a safe, inclusive, and accessible environment.

Communication access is essential for full participation, safety, and belonging. To support a successful experience, we are sharing this brief checklist as you prepare for our child's arrival.

Communication

- ☐ Face our child when speaking or signing.
- ☐ Gain attention visually (wave, gentle tap on shoulder, visual cue).
- ☐ Repeat or rephrase information when needed.
- ☐ Reduce background noise when possible.
- ☐ Confirm understanding during instructions and group activities.

Visual Access

- ☐ Post daily schedules in a visible location.
- ☐ Provide written or visual instructions for activities.
- ☐ Use visual signals for transitions and announcements (not sound-only cues).
- ☐ Caption any videos shown during camp.

Safety & Inclusion

- ☐ Ensure emergency alerts include visual access.
- ☐ Assign a staff member as the point of contact for question of concerns our child might have.
- ☐ Encourage peers to communicate directly with our child.
- ☐ Support and respect self-advocacy if our child asks for clarification.

We are happy to collaborate and answer any questions about our child's communication needs and experiences. With thoughtful preparation, camp can be a positive and empowering experience for everyone.

We look forward to our child attending [Camp Name] and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,
[Family Name]
[Contact Information]