



Parent/Guardian Session Letter – Youth Exceptionalities Camp

Week 2: July 7, 2025 – July 11, 2025 “YEC at the Zoo Week”

Welcome to Youth Exceptionalities Camp, YEC at the Zoo Week! We are thrilled to have you join us for an exciting, active, and engaging camp experience. Whether it's their first time at camp or they're returning for another adventure, we are dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and memorable environment for all campers. Please read the attached information carefully and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Camp Details

The camp day runs from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (daily).

Location: Chestnut Hills Developments Recreation Complex – 1867 Valley Farm Rd, Pickering – Program Room C

Meet Your Camp Director

Hi there, I'm Kendal. I have been the Director of Youth Exceptionalities Camp for four years now, and it has been an absolute blast. I'm thrilled for what this summer has in store. We've put together a super exciting schedule packed with fun activities, ensuring every camper has an unforgettable experience. When I am not at camp, I am completing my Bachelor's degree at the University of Toronto. Being a student at the University of Toronto has been a great learning experience, teaching me valuable skills such as time management and organization. Additionally, during the school year, I also serve as a Preschool Instructor, and this position makes a significant contribution to camp through organizing activities, leadership, and having a positive impact on young minds. I look forward to meeting every camper this summer, and having a summer full of laughter, smiles and endless fun.

Camper Pick-Up/Drop-Off Procedures

Youth Exceptionalities Camp place at Meeting Room 4, inside the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex, running Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

To ensure a safe and smooth experience for all campers, please drop off and pick up your child at Program Room C. Remember to check in and out with our designated Pick-up/Drop-off counselor each day.

Program C is located between the fitness studios and squash courts on the bottom floor of CHDRC. Please see a front desk staff to allow access through the gates to get to Program Room C. A staff member will be around to help guide.

For safety reasons, any alternate pick-up person you designate will be required to show photo ID to camp staff before your child is released into their care. Please make sure they are aware of this protocol and that your child is picked up on time.

Absenteeism / Safe Arrivals

If you know in advance that your child will be absent or late, please email us at kwilliams@pickering.ca or camps@pickering.ca. If you would rather leave a voicemail, please call 905.420.4660 ext. 3246. If a camper is absent without prior notification, we will attempt to contact the parents.

What To Expect

This program is tailored for youth with disabilities who are seeking an active, engaging, and social camp experience. It's a fun-filled week packed with recreational, social, and physical activities (including daily swimming) designed to inspire and connect campers. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities in a supportive and inclusive environment.

What to Bring to Camp

- **Clothing:** Campers should wear comfortable clothes suitable for activities. Please do not send valuables, as campers are responsible for their own belongings. Remember to label all items (e.g., lunch bags, extra clothes, coats) to help prevent mix-ups. Indoor shoes (running shoes are recommended) are also required.
- Campers may be outside during the camp day so please pack appropriate clothing for outside play.
- **Lunch and Snacks:** Campers must bring a nut-free lunch each day. Please pack lunch in non-breakable containers (no glass). Campers will have two snack breaks and lunchtime, so extra snacks are encouraged.

Allergy Notice:

Please be sensitive to any food allergies that may be brought to your attention (i.e. tree nut allergies that can be life threatening). For this reason, please do not pack tree nuts,

tree nut products, or any products containing traces of nuts in your child's lunch for camp. If staff are unsure of snacks (i.e. granola bars), Campers will be asked not to eat them at camp. Fruit is always a healthy and allergy safe snack! Please feel free to send a copy of the ingredients of any items we may be unsure of (i.e. cookies). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- **Water Bottle:** Please pack a reusable water bottle. There are water fill stations available at camp to keep your child hydrated throughout the day, as they may be outside.

Swimming

Campers will be swimming daily in the pool at CHDRC. Please ensure to bring bathing suit, towel and any other items needed for swimming. Campers who decide not to swim will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of different activities!

Trip Information

This Friday, Youth Exceptionalities Camp will be taking trip to the Amberlea Splash Pad located at 510 Braeburn Crescent, Pickering, ON. Campers and staff members will be taking a school bus to and from this location. This trip will run from 9:15 am to 11:45 pm. Please remember to pack regular water and snacks for your child, as well as a bathing suit, towel, and change of clothes. Please also consider packing water shoes (or crocs, sandals, etc.). Please note, the bus will be departing at 9:15 am, please ensure you are arriving on time. In the event that a camper misses the bus, parents/guardians will be responsible for dropping off their camper at the trip location.

Farmers Market

On Tuesday, the Youth Exceptionalities Camp will have the opportunity to visit the Farmers Market located in the CHDRC parking lot. During this outing, campers will be able to explore a variety of vendor offerings and participate in free, engaging activities. If you would like your camper to make any purchases during the visit, please send money in a zip-locked bag and inform the Camp Director at drop off. Please note that making purchases is entirely optional.

The following is a list of the special theme days at YEC at the Zoo Week

Monday, July 7	Tuesday, July 8	Wednesday, July 9	Thursday, July 10	Friday, July 11
Orientation Day! Welcome to Camp!	Animal Day! Today, we get to create our own animals during art class!	Animal Bingo! During our theme day activity, we will play bingo that includes a variety of animals!	Animal Yoga! Campers will recreate animal shapes through yoga poses	Safari Day! YEC's very own safari! Dress up day! Dress up as an animal or a safari tour guide.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly via email at camps@pickering.ca

Looking forward to enjoying a fantastic week together!

Kendal Williams, YEC Camp Director