



Parent/Guardian Session Letter – Arts Camp CHDRC

Week 3: July 14 – July 18, 2025 “Explore the Outdoors Week”

Welcome to Arts Camp! We are thrilled to have your child 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 Hill Developments Recreation Complex – 1867 Valley Farm Rd, Pickering – O'Brien Rooms B (Back of Building on the arena side)

Meet Your Camp Director

Hello everyone! My name is Aliyah Broomfield, and I am delighted to return for my fourth summer as the director of Arts Camp. I am currently a teacher for the Durham District School Board, and I have a strong passion for working with children and fostering their creativity. My background in education drives my commitment to providing enriching experiences at the City of Pickering's summer programs. I look forward to making this summer an unforgettable and exciting experience for all our campers!

Camper Pick-Up/Drop-Off Procedures

Arts Camp will be held at the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreational Complex, at the O'Brien Rooms, from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. For the safety of all campers, please drop off and pick up your child at O'Brien Rooms. Be sure to check your child in and out with the designated Pick-up/Drop-off counsellor.

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 aliyahbroomfield@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/guardians.

What To Expect

Campers will explore a variety of hands-on activities, including crafts, drawing, painting, dancing, and music. They'll have the chance to express themselves through art while staying active with fun games and challenges. Whether they're creating their own artwork, dancing to music, or playing games, each day offers a new way to discover and let their imaginations flow. This camp also includes daily swims in the CHDRC pool. With a mix of creative activities and fun, this camp is all about self-expression, creativity, and making new friends.

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 (hat, sunscreen).
- **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.

Wristbands

On the first day of camp, each camper will receive a wristband in their camp's designated color. Please help ensure your camper wears their wristband throughout the week. If the wristband is lost or damaged, a replacement will be provided the following day at camp.

Swimming

Campers will swim daily in the indoor pool at the CHDRC from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Please ensure your child brings a towel and bathing suit in a separate bag. Campers who choose not to swim may play games in the O'Brien Rooms under counsellor supervision.

Pool Guidelines:

- **Turtle Pool:** Campers aged 7 and under have priority. If full, they will wear a lifejacket and swim in the shallow end of the large pool. A 2:1 counsellor-to-camper ratio applies to this group.
- **Older Campers (8 years – 12 years):** A 4:1 counsellor-to-camper ratio applies.

Deep End Swim Test:

Campers aged 8 - 9 may take a swim test to swim in the deep end without a life jacket. To pass, they must swim 10 meters and tread water for 30 seconds. If they do not pass the test, they will be required to wear a life jacket for the remainder of the week. Even if they pass, a counselor must accompany them in the deep end to maintain the 4:1 ratio, so access to the deep end may be limited. No exceptions and the lifeguard's decision is final. We also must always adhere to a 4:1 ratio so therefore your child may not be able to swim in the deep end of the large pool at all times.

Special Guest Information

On Thursday, July 17, 2025, we're thrilled to welcome Hands-on Exotic, the wildest, most exciting guest you could imagine! They'll be bringing a whole zoo of incredible animals to camp, from slithering snakes to majestic birds, and maybe even a furry friend or two. But it's not just about meeting these amazing creatures—it's all about learning! The experts from Hands on Exotic will be sharing fun facts, stories, and fascinating insights about the animals, their habitats, and what makes them so special. So, get ready to get up close and personal with the wonders of the animal kingdom while unleashing your creativity!

The following is a list of special theme days at Arts Camp - Explore the Outdoors Week!

Monday, July 14th	Tuesday, July 15th	Wednesday, July 16th	Thursday, July 17th	Friday, July 18th
Orientation Day! Welcome to Camp!	Animal Day Dress up like your favourite animal or wear the colour orange!	Beach Day Dress up like you are going to the beach or wear the colour yellow!	Special Guest! Hands-on Exotics is visiting. Arts Camp with amazing animals you can see up close!	Fun Day! Let's tally up our team points and have a fun movie day to end the week!!

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

Looking forward to enjoying a fantastic week together!

Aliyah Broomfield, Camp Director, Arts Camp CHDRC
