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Children's Summer Camps – Are They Really Good For Our Children?

By Ofer Tirosh

During the school session, schoolteachers are responsible for enriching your kid's life through

various activities and other mental stimulations. But in the summers this responsibility shifts to parents. Summer camps are good for children as well as for parents, as they allow parents to work freely without being worried about their children.

Children summer camps are really good for your children if they provide the following activities for your children.

- 1) Teens summer camps should provide skill activities, which entertain, teach and prepare students for the rest of their lives.
- 2) Youth summer camps should cover topics like note taking, reading, writing, relationships and communication, problem solving and creativity, test taking, memory, and more.
- 3) Unique learning environment with extensive trained counselor will provide supportive environment to enjoy summer camp.
- 4) If your child is interested in music, drama, sports, or computer camps then it is better to send them in day camps.

But it will be better to make an intensive research and questioning before your child attend any camp. You should know what will be the daily schedule of your child, how he or she will enjoy free time, what will be the menu, how often they will be allowed to take food and the ratio of counselor to camper. How you will be informed in case of any emergency and what kind of medical facility and training the camp offers.

The best way to know about any individual camp is just by visiting someone who has had child at the particular camp. The main thing, which should be considered, is the age of your child and his interest. Give your child lifetime memories from children summer camp. Choose the proper summer camp for your child and then send him to have the time of his life without any hesitations. Childrens summer

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camp is a gift any parent would love giving his child.

We have made the most comprehensive research on summer camps. Check it out only on

http://www.leandernet.com/Summer_camps/Summer_camps.php

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Are Your Children Growing Up Too Fast?

By Kimberly Chastain

Each time our children graduate from one stage to another (i.e. crawling – walking, preschool – school, highschool – graduation) we as parents are excited and a little sad as well. We want our children to grow up, but we reminisce about the "good old" days. I think those mixed feelings are normal for all of us. My question for you is – "Are your children growing up too fast emotionally and socially?" We can't stop their physical growth, but we can effect their emotional and social growth.

Our society is compressing childhood more and more to where children are not children for very long. We only have 18 years in our entire life to be children. We struggle as parents to keep our children innocent. Unfortunately, the events of September 11th stole away even more of our children's innocence.

Children are not little adults. Often, children dress like adults in miniature. Children want to emulate their teen or adult heroes in dress and talk. As parents we are fighting a raging river in keeping our children young and innocent. Society, schools, and parents are pushing children to grow up too fast.

Answer the following questions to see if your children are growing up too fast?

1. Do your children want to wear clothing that is designed for much older children?
2. Do your younger children want to watch TV shows designed for teenagers? Do your teenagers want to watch adult TV shows that contain sex and violence?
3. Are the books your children are reading age appropriate?
4. Are your children involved in so many extra-curricular activities they have no down time to just explore or goof off?
5. Are your children losing that wonderful "childish" sense of wonder about the world or do they know it all?

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6. Do you find your children are growing increasingly impatient and have to be entertained? Do they often say I'm bored?
7. Can you remember the last time you told your child you are not old enough to know about a certain topic and we will talk about it when you get older?
8. When was the last time you told your children, "No, you can't do that until your older or that outfit is not acceptable to wear in our family?"
9. Do you monitor what music your children listen to, computer games they play, Internet sites they visit – are they age appropriate?
10. Do your children hang out with much older kids who are not a good influence?

Hopefully, these questions have caused you to stop and think about how quickly your children are growing up. Due to society's pressures you will have to make a concerted effort to keep your children innocent. There will be parent and child peer pressure to force your children to do things early. You may not be a popular parent when you say No to something "everyone else is doing." Parenting is not for the fainthearted or a popularity contest.

In closing, let me relate a recent example. I was watching a morning news show and they were discussing summer camps for kids. The guest said more and more kids are looking for computer and science camps, in order to improve their resumes for college. I found myself yelling at the TV – "Why can't you just enjoy camp, instead of it looking good on a resume. When did camp stop being fun and started being work?"

Remember the wise words of King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:1 – "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." Childhood is a precious time and it is all ready much too short, keep your children innocent and protect their childhood.

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Kimberly M. Chastain, MS, LMFT is the Christian Working Mom Coach and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who specializes in helping Christian women make the most of their lives. She is the author of the on-line course, "I Can't Say No" and Pearls of Encouragement for Christian Working Moms, a free e-book. If you suffer from "I Can't Say `No" Syndrome, visit Kimberly's site today for the details on an exciting email course that's sure to set you free!

<http://www.christianworkingmom.com/online.htm>

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Are Your Children Growing Up Too Fast?

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