

FIRST STEPS – STARTING A CAMP THAT  
INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES



Welcome to the 2017 FRPA Conference!

## Objectives

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAMPS

Inclusive camps differ from  
Special Needs camps differ from  
Specialized Camps

### DETERMINE THE BOTTOM LINE

What will be the cheapest route?  
Will the cheapest route fill the need?  
Will I create the need?

### TIMELINE

When do I need to set this up?  
When do I hire? Who do I hire?  
When do I tell field trips?  
When do I plan activities?

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## Camps can take many forms...

### SPECIALIZED CAMP

This type of camp focuses on a specific area. It could be paddle boarding, art, computer or it could be likeness of individuals like: Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, physical disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, individuals that use ventilators.

### SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP

This type of camp is a camp that specializes in individuals with special needs but does not decipher the type of disability they individuals can or can't have. It may still take into consideration the limit of ability of staff to take care of items, however we are now going to enter the realm of "what is a reasonable accommodation".

### INCLUSIVE BASED CAMP

This camp includes individuals with and without disabilities in the same setting. It makes reasonable accommodations for those individuals with special needs.

We are going to focus on camps that include. So...what do you need to know:

- 1) Do you need to have a CTRS on staff?
- 2) What can you handle? How many kids? What type of staff?
- 3) Are there things you can't handle?
- 4) What do I charge a child with a disability v. child without?
- 5) What is my cost v recovery?
- 6) What is my professional, ethical, moral obligation?
- 7) How long do I need to set this up?
- 8) What else do I need to think about (transportation, accessibility of field trip sites, accessibility of your site, food grant program)?
- 9) When do I start planning?
- 10) How do I train the staff (come Wednesday)?



For more information about the Florida Recreation and Park Association visit [www.frpa.org](http://www.frpa.org).

Do you need to have a CTRS on staff?

- Being a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, I would say yes...
  - A CTRS has the knowledge to train your staff and help you set up a fun, safe and successful camp
  - A CTRS can make sure that behavior programs and basic medical needs are going to be met.
  - A CTRS should be able to assess a child to see what is the best way to include them in the camp to make it successful for all involved.
  - A CTRS can be a huge help in communicating with parents, teachers and therapists.

Has an inclusive based camp ever been run without having a CTRS on staff...yes

- There are options here...let's talk about this.



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What can you handle? How many kids? What type of staff?

- There are things that some folks are trained to do and some aren't. Let's talk about: EpiPen's, Dias tat, seizure care, oxygen, catheters, ventilators
- Risk Management
- How Many
- Who can I hire to work the inclusion camp?
  - Everyone you hire works inclusion camp
  - Learn from my mistakes (give them one thing you may be stuck with that for a while).



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What is my cost v recovery?

Staff Cost \$10/hr. for 400 hours = \$4000 (based on 40 hours a week for 10 weeks).

Enter 1 child with a disability = Revenue of \$700

Does the child need one on one?

Can the child be included in the group with a buddy?

What are the needs?

60 kids in camp and you need to make up the recovery cost of one additional staff. This is roughly \$67/kid.

What about spreading that out over all programs?



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How long do I need to set this up?

What else do I need to think about (transportation, accessibility of field trip sites, accessibility of your site, food grant program)?

- When you start out your CTRS or person in charge should start planning as soon as you start planning. By involving this person from the beginning they should be able to foresee possible stumbling blocks.
  - Transportation
  - Field trip accessibility
  - Food Grant program

How do I use for staff? How do I train them?

- More on Wednesday about training staff
- Use those that are willing. Don't hire those that are not.



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Resources:

CARD – Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

- Use free resources – if they work for you
- So many people have good ideas but they may not be necessary for what you are doing

KIT – Kids included together

- Great resource, super expensive

ABA – Applied Behavior Analysis

- Most areas have one or more companies that specialize in this type of therapy
- Partner with them

Local Professionals

- Don't forget about people in your area that are doing this well. Let them help. They have made the mistakes, listen to them (but filter out the road blocks).



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**JUST DO IT!**

- No program is going to be perfect. Do it. Learn from it. Make a memory for a kid. Service a family.

I am not the fastest runner in race. In fact if I get an 11 mile minute I am relatively pleased...my co-worker and friend, Kelly Lee, once told me "Lynn, your faster than the guy on the couch." You know, she is correct. Don't be the guy on the couch. Get out there and do it.



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