

TIPS for Separation at Drop-off

1. Build your own confidence in your child's ability to thrive at camp and our ability to support them through this transition. Children use their caregivers' most subtle cues to gauge new situations.
2. In our experience, many students thrive on a **clear, concise, and consistent goodbye**. So you could invent something that's your thing like, one hug, one kiss, and a wave and then I go. And stick to that, even if they cry and we'll let them know it's okay to feel sad and that we are here for them. And try to channel within yourself confidence that they really will be okay so they will absorb that from you.
3. **Let us know your goals**. Are you needing your child to be in our care promptly and hoping to minimize the transition time? Are you hoping that as your child's first experience outside your care, you can be part of the program while your child transitions? Is there a specific farewell routine you like to do, or a specific message we should say to your child about you departing?
4. Let us know **how your child is best comforted**. One of the things that helps many children in this age group is bringing a special familiar object from home, like a favorite stuffed animal. How else can we help comfort your child when they feel challenged, for example if they fall down or if they hear a loud sound? Repeating familiar forms of comforting from home helps the transition to new caretakers.