

2023 Summer and Beyond script for video

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Hi! My name is Terri McIntee, and I am a Family Engagement Specialist at the State Support Team for Region 3. I am joined by my colleagues, Bob Ross, a Post-Secondary and Career Tech Education Consultant, and Candace Muetzel, an Early Childhood Consultant. Together we will walk you through the different sections you will find in your Summer and Beyond Directory. Then we will show you how to use the sections in looking for resources that might benefit your child or student with a disability during the summer and throughout the year.

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As you read through the online directory you will notice some of the vendors shared a short video to help bring to life their camp or organization. Many of these organizations offer more than summer camps and activities. Imagine the possibilities for your child or student for community living, self-determination, and independence! Use this directory as a starting point to engage and empower!

Let's listen to Candace who will talk about the setup of the directory and some of the extending opportunities available.

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As you look through our **Table of Contents** you will notice it is also broken up into 6 major sections:

- Academic
- Arts and Therapeutic
- Day Camps
- Residential Camps
- Social and Recreational
- General Information

Remember many programs offered range from Early Childhood through Adulthood fostering lifelong interests and possibilities. The camps and organizations are then listed alphabetically within each section.

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The right column of this chart lists the **13 Exceptionalities Definitions** a student may be identified under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). The left column has a code you will notice later along the top of each entry listed in the directory.

Please take the time to look through this chart and become familiar with the codes. This will guide you in understanding which camps and organizations support which student categories.

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In the **Academic Programs** section, you will find programs that support academic learning and/or academic learning environments.

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In the **Arts and Therapeutic Programs** section you will find the following:

Art programs have the potential to help improve a student's memory and concentration skills, develop decision-making and critical thinking skills, enhance communication and listening skills, but also encourage focus and discipline.

Also, there are:

Therapeutic programs cover a wide range of supports and activities like communication, music, art, counseling, and the use of technology.

Let's listen to Bob as he explains the camps and general information sections

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Day Camp Programs meet during the day and the child returns home daily. Camps foster children's emotional, social, physical, and creative growth through various interactive activities and relationships.

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Residential Camp Programs offer overnight accommodations. These extended environments assist children in developing their independent living skills, communication, and interpersonal skills. There are local, statewide, and international camps listed within the Summer and Beyond Directory.

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Within the **Social and Recreational Programming** section you will find support and personal growth opportunities through:

- Perceived sense of freedom,
- Independence and autonomy,

- Enhanced self-competence through self-worth, self-reliance, and self-confidence, and
- Better ability to socialize with others, including greater tolerance, understanding, and enriched capabilities for team membership.

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The **General Information** section includes many of the specific disability organizations, public agencies, and community partners. Take your time looking through this section to find out what is available in your neighborhood. Also included in this section are the names and contact information for local Parent Mentors. The organizations and groups in this section support children and youth with disabilities throughout the year both directly and indirectly.

Terri, is there anything else you would like to share?

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Thanks, Bob and Candace for breaking down how to use this directory. The Summer and Beyond Directory helps you understand that extended learning opportunities or community support at any stage of the child's educational career from early childhood through transition helps prepare them for being an active participant in their community wherever they learn, work, or engage.

We hope that you find a favorite activity to return to or a new one that will open new opportunities for your child or student. Until then, have a great Summer, learn a new skill, make a new friend, and imagine all the possibilities ahead for you, your child, or your student.

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If you have a question, please contact us, or check out the Summer and Beyond 2023 section of our website for more information.

Thanks!