



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Camp Baker?

Camp Baker is a 6-week day camp specifically designed for children with mild to moderate symptoms of ADHD. We have a fun, structured curriculum that helps set kids with inattention and hyperactivity up for success. Children participate in typical summer camp activities such as swimming, sports, and art. They also engage in two academic periods and daily social skills training.

Who is a successful Camp Baker Kid?

Children who struggle with inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, and social skills deficits thrive at Camp Baker because our approach is tailored to help children with ADHD succeed. One of the primary goals of our program is to increase positive, appropriate behaviors so that children can have fun, successful summers. Throughout the day, campers receive a tremendous amount of positive reinforcement and praise for appropriate, on-task behaviors. This allows children, who have sometimes struggled in more traditional camp settings, to experience success. Another important aspect of the program is clear, consistent limit setting. For instance, children are taught and expected to follow directions, pay attention, help and share with friends, and work with their counselors on accomplishing their individualized goals. Therefore, children who struggle with limits and adult authority, verbally or physically aggressive behaviors, or significant negative peer interactions are not appropriate for Camp Baker.

When is Camp Baker?

Wednesday, July 10th through Friday, August 16th. The exact times of the camp day will be determined closer to the start of the summer but camp will run from approximately 8am-4pm.

How do I enroll my child?

Enrollment in Camp Baker is a multi-step process. First, parents/caregivers complete the Camp Baker application form using our Camp Doc online portal. After that, we will send you standardized questionnaires for parents/caregivers and teachers to complete and mail back to us. Once we receive this initial application, we review materials and schedule a phone conversation. If we (program staff and parents/caregivers) all agree that Camp Baker is a good fit for your child and family, then we complete the registration process and welcome you to the Camp Baker family!

How much does Camp Baker cost?

The cost of Camp Baker is \$5,500. This includes the full 6-week program with a 2:1 ratio of children to highly trained and qualified staff. This cost also covers swimming twice per day, fun sports and art activities, academic instruction, and 16-hours of in-person parent training throughout the summer and school year during which we offer childcare and food. Bus transportation to and from camp is also included in the cost. *Some need-based aid is available.*

Is transportation and food provided?

Bus transportation to Camp Baker is included in the cost of the summer. There will be two stops, one in Boston and one stop in the Westwood-area suburbs. *Please note, parents will only be allowed to drop off and pick up campers at these stops. Parents are not permitted to drive their children directly to Camp Baker at Hale Reservation.* Buses will be staffed with counselors to ensure safety and supervision. If a camper is late, please contact the Director to coordinate drop off.

Food is not provided by Camp Baker. Parents are expected to pack a healthy lunch and ample snacks for their child each day. At parent nights, pizza will be provided for children and caregivers.

Wait, academics in the summer? What is that all about?

Academic regression over the summer is an unfortunately common occurrence for children with ADHD. Additionally, children with ADHD struggle to re-learn the routines of completing and turning in homework, so consistency is of the utmost important. Campers participate in two academic periods during the day. One is focused on helping kids maintain the rhythm of being in a classroom while completing math, reading, writing, and other traditional academic work. Our second academic period is more collaborative and experiential. Children work together to learn about the importance of teamwork, to understand how to celebrate differences, and to practice effective problem-solving strategies.



Camp Baker sounds fun. Can parents/caregivers participate?

Yes! Parental involvement is a crucial component in making Camp Baker successful for all participating children and families. Parents participate in weekly training sessions where they learn the skills we use at camp. Parents then get to practice using the skills, so that they can implement their new strategies at home, at school, and in other settings. Worried you'll miss us when the summer ends? Never fear! Parent nights continue to meet monthly throughout the school year and we offer childcare as well as food to reduce any barriers to attendance.

How does Camp Baker communicate with parents?

At Camp Baker, our Daily Report Cards (DRC's) are the main tool for communication with parents/caregivers. When you go to pick your child up at the bus stop at the end of the camp day, one of your child's counselors will go over their DRC with you, providing you with important information about your child's performance at camp. If your child had a great day, we will work with you to identify a small but meaningful reward for their impressive behavior. Similarly, if your child struggled, we will work together to identify a plan for limiting rewards at home this evening. This way, kids know that counselors and parents communicate, and it makes the program run more smoothly and successfully.

Does my child have to participate for the full 6-weeks?

We strongly recommend that children attend the full 6-week program in order to maximize the benefits of Camp Baker. Our program is very structured and it can take the 1-2 weeks for kids to understand our rules and structure and respond to our limit-setting well. Therefore, in order to see any meaningful gains, we recommend that kids participate in full. That being said, many families choose to miss a few days here and there for vacations or other plans, which is totally understandable. In the event that your child will be absent, we ask that parents communicate any plans to us and that we work together in case transitions in and out of the program might be challenging. We also cannot pro-rate the cost of camp because we have a finite number of spots.

What does it mean to be an Official Partner Camp of Hale?

As an Official Partner Camp of Hale, Camp Baker is able to staff and operate its own summer program on Hale Reservation's 1,137-acre campus in Westwood and Dover, MA. Hale provides facilities, a health center and activity specialists that afford our program opportunities to swim, boat, hike, learn about nature, and climb on its challenge courses.

What should I do if I have more questions?

We are here to help and are happy to speak and answer any more questions you might have about Camp Baker. Please do not hesitate to email (campbaker@jbcc.harvard.edu) or call us (617-278-4286).

We look forward to speaking with you and thank you for your interest in Camp Baker!