



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

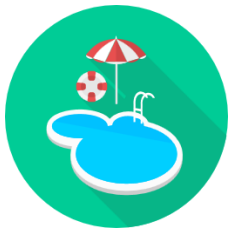
>>> SUMMER 2018

An effective family engagement system builds connections between home and school and is an essential component to meeting the needs of each child in your program.

TIP#1 SUNSCREEN POLICIES



With the weather warming and the sun shining, sunscreen is important to protect young children because they are very susceptible to sunburn. Yet applying sunscreen to children in a child care program requires thought and careful planning. Sunscreen is considered a non-prescription medication and should be administered only if the parents give written consent. Consider and review your sunscreen policies. Here are some [guidelines](#) related to using sunscreen in child care. Also see some great and helpful [resources](#) from SunSmart.



TIP#2 WATER PLAY SAFETY

Nice weather brings many opportunities for fun and learning through water play. Puddles, spray bottles, garden sprinklers, water tables, and wading pools naturally fascinate young children, and water is one of the basic raw materials for learning mathematics and science, developing language, and fostering social skills. While playing with water is developmentally appropriate regardless of the child's age or abilities, family members and staff should always consider safety factors when children are anywhere near water. See ODJFS for [guidelines](#).

TIP#3 HYDRATION TIPS



Skies are clear and the sun is shining, which can only mean one thing: It's time to play outside. But all that fun doesn't come without risk. Children don't always recognize signs of thirst or take the time to get a drink of water, which puts them at greater risk for dehydration—especially in hot and humid summer conditions. Use these [tips](#) and share with parents to make sure the kids stay healthy and hydrated all summer long at the Center and at home.



TIP#4 FAMILY SUMMER BUCKET LIST

Encouraging your families to spend time together by creating a Summer Family Bucket List. Besides spending quality time together during the Summer months, the act of even writing a bucket list emphasizes the small but meaningful activities they already do as a family. Plus it encourages families to try new adventures. By writing a bucket list families may reflect on their own family traditions that they already participate in each season, but provides moments to think of new ideas and new things to try. New adventures and exploring encourages families to be in wonder of the world around them...together. See an example [here](#).

TIP#5 SUMMER PROGRAMS/CAMPS



If your Center accommodates school-aged children you might want to consider holding summer camps and programs. A busy summer is a fun summer, so develop camps and programs that are filled with creative and fun learning opportunities. Host summer camps and programs to bring in extra income in the summer and to foster play-based learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom by incorporating STEAM or science-based activities. Plan ahead of time to accommodate staffing schedules and enough time to advertise the event.

TIP#6 BACK TO SCHOOL



Sadly Summer has to end. Help the parents to assist their children in preparing to going back to school. Many children find the back-to-school transition difficult. Reminding parents that maintaining a consistent schedule during the summer can help reduce the stress of going back to school. In addition, make sure children have an advanced notice about what to expect when starting school again. Host an open house to introduce the children to their new teacher while visiting their classroom. This gives the children time to become familiar with new surroundings and schedules. Consider making and reading a back-to school picture story so he/she can practice and plan for this new school year. See article [here](#).