INCLUSION TRAINING GUIDE
FOR JEWISH SUMMER CAMPS

A PROJECT OF

In Partnership with

Generous funding for this guide has been provided by:

To download the complete guide: Jewishcamp.org/InclusionResources
INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends and Colleagues in the Jewish Disabilities Inclusion Field,

The Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) and the National Ramah Tikvah Network (NRTN) are receiving an unprecedented number of calls and emails from camps wishing to start programs for people with disabilities, expand services, or become more inclusive. Camp directors and staff members are actively seeking guidance, support, and resources.

Proudly, we see that attention to including campers with disabilities is exploding as a priority across movements, and organizations with interest in overnight camping, day camping, vocational training programs, family camps, and more! We therefore welcome you to this Resource Guide, which we hope will evolve through use and feedback, as a regularly updated, hands-on, online resource assisting you in all aspects of your work with campers with disabilities.

FJC is grateful for the generous support of UJA-Federation of New York – Neshamot Fund, and our partner, NRTN on development of this Guide. Through the collaborative efforts of Lisa Tobin, Director of the Disabilities Initiatives at the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) and Howard Blas, Director of the National Ramah Tikvah Network, this co-branded resource has emerged. In an effort to get useful training material in the hands of camp personnel in time for the 2015 camp season, Lisa and Howard, their teams at FJC and NRTN, and many helpful colleagues in the disabilities camping field have worked tirelessly to collect, organize, and bring online the many useful resources in this guide.

Whether you are a camp director, inclusion specialist, director of a disabilities camping program, counselor, or activity specialist, there is something here for you! We see this project growing and expanding over time. This first version offers basic information on the history of disabilities camping, models of camping for people with disabilities, benefits of camping for both campers with disabilities and the typical camp community, overviews of various disabilities, and many useful tools for day to day work with campers.

You will read materials designed by FJC, you will “hear” the voice of Tikvah, the pioneers in the field of disabilities camping since 1970, and you will see forms and resources which have been contributed by several partners in the field. For this reason, some terms and names of programs or divisions (for example zimkudia or solelim) may sound camp- or movement-specific.

This guide is designed to be used optimally by various camp stakeholders. Feel free to go directly to the section most useful by clicking through to what you need immediately, on the chart of Links by Use/Stakeholder, just above the complete Table of Contents.
USERS’ GUIDE

We have created this online resource guide to share information and resources which will help you feel more confident in your work with children with disabilities.

- Camp directors may want to take a look at sections pertaining to inclusive camping for people with disabilities, successful inclusion in Jewish summer camp, inclusive camps, specific disabilities and related activities, communicating with parents, staff training, and people first language.

- Inclusion Coordinators will find it particularly useful to access certain materials like intake forms, people first language and general information on inclusive camping before the summer, while other materials like staff training (role-plays, sensitivity activities, values based on Jewish texts, and people first language) may be useful while camp is in session.

- Counselors, division heads, inclusion coordinators, program directors and camper care teams may find such tools as social stories, visual schedules, and tips on managing camper behavior, and speaking to the bunk about inclusion and disabilities to be particularly useful.

It is our hope that this guide will continue to evolve, and that we will continue to update the guide and add new resources. We welcome your feedback and encourage you to share new materials with us.

As this resource guide expands, we would like to offer an updated list of all Jewish camp programs in the US and Canada serving campers with disabilities. In addition, we would like to offer a list of professionals and other organizations in the field serving people with disabilities. In order to offer the most comprehensive list, we ask you to complete the form below so we can include you and your organization in future updates to this guide.

We wish all of you a successful 2015 camping season and offer our support in your work. If you would like to contact Lisa or Howard, our contact information is below:

Lisa Tobin
lisa@jewishcamp.org
646-278-4515

Howard Blas
howardb@campramahne.org
413-374-7210

In addition, we would like to offer a list of professionals and other organizations in the field serving people with disabilities. In order to offer the most comprehensive list, we ask you to email your contact information to inclusionresourceguide@jewishcamp.org so we can include you and your organization in future updates.
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