



# 5 Ways to Tell if Your Child is Ready for an Overnight Camp

## 1. They Want to Attend Camp

Sometimes it's best to let your kids judge when the timing is right. If they show interest in camp or ask to attend Camp UMM, it's a good sign that they are ready to pack their bag and head off for their first overnight at Camp.

## 2. They Can Get Ready for the Day

All they need is the basics: brushing teeth, getting dressed and bathing. That sort of thing. If the answer is yes, your child can probably do fine in an overnight camp. If not, it may be too soon.

## 3. They've Slept Away from Home

Making the decision to send your child away overnight can be worrisome for parents. But if your child is willing to sleep over at friends, at grandma's house, or with cousins, it means your child has a willingness to leave home. Every child is different, but the average age range, according to the American Camp Association, is between the ages of seven and nine.

## 4. They are Ready for an Adventure

Camp is an adventure. Is your child excited to meet new kids their age? Can they successfully interact with kids their age for extended periods of time? Your child will get to try out many new activities like kayaking, nature activities and sitting by the campfire. If you think your child will be successful on this kind of adventure, they are probably ready for camp.

## 5. Your Child is Becoming More Independent in Everyday Tasks.

Children should be able to follow directions and ask questions. Will they be able to choose from oatmeal or pancakes at breakfast? Will they know to ask for help if they need it? These can be helpful skills to have when kids attend camp for the first time.