



Kids @ Play

Parents Guide

2021

Thank you for choosing Upton Recreation's popular Kids @ Play program for your child this summer! We are looking forward to an exciting time of sports, arts & crafts, and crazy summer fun! This short guide will set you up to know what to expect and let you know the ins and outs of the Kids @ Play program.

There are many new families this year, and we are very excited to have the opportunity to have new friends! While we had a great summer last year despite COVID, we are incredibly excited about a return to normal this year. We have made some improvements this year that will help with growing numbers, including breaking up into 2 large groups, the first group will be kids going into K-3rd grade and the second will be kids going into 4th-6th grade. Each group will have the same types of activities (and often the exact same games/crafts/etc.) but will basically stay with their age group.

Drop off occurs between 8:00am—9:00 am at 99 Kiwanis Beach Road. There will be a couple staff sitting at a table to sign your child in. We can also handle all registration questions or concerns there. We do not require any specific documentation requiring physicals, but we do ask that you make us aware of any allergies and provide any relevant documentation when epipens or other medications get involved.

Welcome

The big question on everyone's mind is how we are handling COVID this year. At this point, the state has lifted the requirements that we were under last year. There are some "best practices" and guidelines that the Department of Public Health has provided. Some of those include trying to utilize groups to minimize the number of people in 1 place, which we are doing this year. Also, we request that if your child or someone in your home is sick, that you do not send them to Kids @ Play for the day. This is pretty much a standard policy, but becomes more important in light of recent events. We are NOT requiring masks. We ask that parents make the best decision for their children and their families. If you request that your child wears a mask, we will do our best to enforce that during the day, but obviously, they can't wear a mask swimming, boating, eating, or drinking, so there will be times they don't wear it, even if you ask them to. It is always possible that these policies may change and adapt as guidance changes, and you can always come to us with concerns!

Water Safety is of critical importance to us. Before we have any swim time, your Kids will take a swim test. The result of this test will dictate what they can do in the swim area. The lifeguards who administer the test will base the swim level on the child's performance on the swim tests. Kids can always retest over the summer as they gain skill and confidence. At a parent's request, we can move a swimmer down to a lower level, but we will NEVER move a swimmer up unless they demonstrate appropriate skills for a level. Again, feel free to reach out with questions on this!

What do we hope to accomplish this summer?

One definition of "Play" is "activity engaged in for enjoyment and recreation." The activity is general freely chosen and is participated in for its own enjoyment. This is something that all too often is overlooked in children's lives now in the era of competitive youth sports, 5 extracurricular classes a week, and structured play dates. There are a lot of benefits to children being free to choose what they want to do and adjust themselves to the group and activity they are involved in. This is a critical skill in life as it helps them to relate to others in various situations. Our goal is to provide that sort of experience to your children. Obviously, that doesn't mean they will run wild and do whatever they want, but each day, there will be a variety of activities going on and the kids will be free to choose their schedule for the day based on the planned activities. The goal of this is to give them the freedom of choice, but still providing a structure to their day. We will also always take suggestions for activities. Some of my favorite games over the years have been ones that kids suggested to me!

Andrew St. George

Andrew St. George, CPRP
Recreation Director

What to Bring



• Bag Lunch	This does not have to be disposable (ie Tupperware/reusable bags are fine).
• Snack	Please try to make the snack a fairly healthy snack as the kids are running around outside and need proper nutrition to stay healthy!
• Refillable Water Bottle	We have water filling stations on site, but please send them with a bottle, pre filled for the day. It gets hot and hydration is critical!
• Swimsuit	Most days, they will have the option to swim. While we will never force a child to go in the water, please make sure they have a swim suit in case they decide they want to swim.
• Towel	We have a very limited supply of spare towels, so please be sure to send your child with a towel.
• Life Jacket (optional)	We have life jackets available, but if your child feels more comfortable with their own, feel free to send it. All flotation devices MUST be USCG Approved (ie, no “water wings” or tubes)
• Spare Clothes	It’s always a good idea to have a change of clothes, we have all kinds of crazy fun and you never know when you might get dirty or wet!
• Sunscreen	Any sunscreen is fine, but if your child need assistance to put it on, we ask that you send the spray type that doesn’t have to be rubbed into the skin.
• Bug Spray	Any bug spray is acceptable if you feel your child needs it. Be mindful that there are people with allergies to some of the harsher chemicals.

What NOT to Bring



Toys	Electronics	Tools/Knives	Glass Bottles
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Upton Rec is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. Any items with value, be it monetary or sentimental should be left at home. At the discretion of staff, any item may be held in the office until the end of the day at which point it will be sent home with the child. For any items that present a safety risk, staff will only return it directly to parents or other authorized adult to pick up the child. If we request any items to specifically be brought, we will send home a flyer making the request. An example of this may be “Wear a costume for Halloween day.”