It is still springtime, but when it comes to scheduling summer activities, if your family is like mine, plans for summer have been underway since the winter holidays when we ran into friends and extended family who were eager to think ahead to warm weather. In anticipation of this summer, we have already booked two short vacations, committed to having relatives visit from out of state, and signed up for swimming lessons. Somewhere between these trips and visits, my son expects to go to camp like “all” his friends did last year.

Summer camps for gifted students can be especially beneficial because of their unique learning needs (Olszewski-Kubilius, 2003). In fact, students enrolled in regular education classrooms may have learning needs that teachers are unable to address during the regular school year (Hertberg-Davis, 2009). Children of any age also benefit socially and academically from being around peers on their intellectual level (Kulik, 2003; Silverman, 2000). Thus, finding the right summer camp can appear difficult as the number of choices can seem overwhelming.

For gifted students, a number of camps with a focus on academics are available (see Resources list). NAGC also provides an online resource directory to help in identifying and selecting summer options. A simple Internet search yields numerous options, but parents should be aware of logistical differences such as timing and cost. For instance, consider the following:

- How long does the camp run from start to finish?

We're Going to CAMP
Lastly, parents may wish to inquire further into particular camps or programs in which their children are interested. Safety, camper satisfaction, and family satisfaction with programs are arguably the most important points to consider. Parents may wish to ask about safety and/or emergency procedures, staff background screening, and formal references or word of mouth information from families who have previously attended programming. As for my son, we will have to discover when and where camps in our area are before I contact “all” his friends’ parents for suggestions on the safest and most enjoyable programs that he may want to attend.

References
- Hertberg-Davis, H. (2009). Myth 7: Differentiation in the regular classroom is equivalent to gifted programs and is sufficient: Classroom teachers have the time, the skill, and the will to differentiate adequately. Gifted Child Quarterly, 53, 251–254.

Resources
The following resources are mere starting points for summer programming that may be of interest to families. Parents must still research individual camps to determine features such as the safety and desirability of each camp for themselves.

- **Awesome Summer Camps & Adventures**
  http://www.summer-camps-adventures.com
  Camps can be found based on a child’s interests in categories such as astronomy, dance, SCUBA diving, and tennis. Other camps targeted at those with special needs are also noted, and websites to each camp are given.

- **Concordia Language Villages**
  http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/newsite
  Summer camps are offered in 11 different languages, and students are immersed in the language and culture of their choosing. Because the camps are held in northern Minnesota, sites’ names translate to “Lake of the Woods” as in the French camp Lac du Bois or the Spanish El Lago de Bouque.

- **NAGC Resource Directory**
  http://www.nagc.org/resourcedirectory.aspx
  Families can look for summer camp information using the dropdown box labeled “Service Area.” Searches allow for keywords and can be limited by state.

- **Summer Institute for the Gifted**
  http://www.giftedstudy.org
  According to the website, the Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG) has “well-rounded” programming that addresses more than just academics at colleges and universities around the United States.

Author’s Note
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