



Parent/Guardian Session Letter – Youth Exceptionalities Camp

March Break: March 10, 2025 – March 14, 2025

Welcome to Youth Exceptionalities Camp! We are thrilled to have you join us for an exciting, active, and engaging camp experience. Whether it's their first time at camp or they're returning for another adventure, we are dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and memorable environment for all campers. Please read the attached information carefully and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Camp Details

The camp day runs from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (daily).

Location: Chestnut Hills Developments Recreation Complex – 1867 Valley Farm Rd, Pickering - Meeting Room 4.

Meet Your Camp Director

Hi my name is Sricka, and I will be your March Break Camp Director! I have now worked for City of Pickering Camps for three years. During my free time I enjoy taking my dog out on nature walks and reading. This March break, I'm thrilled to create a lively and enjoyable environment focused on fostering meaningful friendships and delivering an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Camper Pick-Up/Drop-Off Procedures

Youth Exceptionalities Camp place at Meeting Room 4, inside the **Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex**, running **Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**.

To ensure a safe and smooth experience for all campers, please **drop off and pick up your child at the Creative Center**. Remember to **check in and out with our designated Pick-up/Drop-off counselor** each day.

*For safety reasons, any alternate pick-up person you designate will be required to show **photo ID** to camp staff before your child is released into their care. Please make sure they are aware of this protocol and that your child is picked up **on time**.*

Absenteeism / Safe Arrivals

If you know in advance that your child will be absent or late, please email us at camps@pickering.ca. If a camper is absent without prior notification, we will attempt to contact the parents.

What To Expect

This program is tailored for youth with disabilities who are seeking an active, engaging, and social camp experience. It's a fun-filled week packed with recreational, social, and physical activities (including daily swimming) designed to inspire and connect campers. Hands on Exotic will be joining the camp as a special guest on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, bringing a diverse collection of animals and reptiles. They will be presenting an interactive show that educates children about a variety of animals! Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities in a supportive and inclusive environment.

What to Bring to Camp

- **Clothing:** Campers should wear comfortable clothes suitable for activities. Please do not send valuables, as campers are responsible for their own belongings. Remember to label all items (e.g., lunch bags, extra clothes, coats) to help prevent mix-ups. Indoor shoes (running shoes are recommended) are also required.
- Campers may be outside during the camp day so please pack appropriate clothing for outside play.
- **Lunch and Snacks:** Campers must bring a **nut-free** lunch each day. Please pack lunch in non-breakable containers (no glass). Campers will have two snack breaks and lunchtime, so extra snacks are encouraged.

Allergy Notice:

Please be sensitive to any food allergies that may be brought to your attention (i.e. tree nut allergies that can be life threatening). For this reason, please do not pack tree nuts, tree nut products, or any products containing traces of nuts in your child's lunch for camp. If staff are unsure of snacks (i.e. granola bars), Campers will be asked not to eat them at camp. Fruit is always a healthy and allergy safe snack! Please feel free to send a copy of the ingredients of any items we may be unsure of (i.e. cookies). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- **Water Bottle:** Please pack a **reusable water bottle**. There are water fill stations available at camp to keep your child hydrated throughout the day, as they may be outside.

Swimming

Campers will be swimming daily in the pool at CHDRC. Please ensure to bring bathing suit, towel and any other items needed for swimming.

Special Guest Information

On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, we're thrilled to welcome Hands on Exotic, the wildest, most exciting guest you could imagine! They'll be bringing a whole zoo of incredible animals to camp, from slithering snakes to majestic birds, and maybe even a furry friend or two. But it's not just about meeting these amazing creatures—it's all about learning! The experts from Hands on Exotic will be sharing fun facts, stories, and fascinating insights about the animals, their habitats, and what makes them so special. So, get ready to get up close and personal with the wonders of the animal kingdom while unleashing your creativity!

The following is a list of the special theme days at Youth Exceptionalities Camp Camp:

Monday, March 10	Tuesday, March 11	Wednesday, March 12	Thursday, March 13	Friday, July March 14
Orientation Day! Welcome to Camp!	Superhero Day <i>Dress up as your favorite superhero and unleash your super powers!</i>	Crazy Hat/Hair Day <i>Get wild with the wackiest hats or hairstyles you can imagine!</i>	Disney Day <i>Step into a magical world by dressing as your favorite Disney character!</i>	PJ and Stuffie Day <i>Get cozy in your comfiest pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal!</i>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly via email at camps@pickering.ca

Looking forward to enjoying a fantastic week together!

Sricka Rasathurai, YEC Camp Director