



Parent/Guardian Session Letter – Arts Camp

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

Welcome to Arts Camp! We are thrilled to have your child 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, O'Brien Rooms A& B – back of CHDRC).

Meet Your Camp Director

Hello everyone! My name is Aliyah Broomfield, and I am delighted to return for my fourth year as the Arts Camp Director. I recently graduated from the University of Toronto with a Master of Teaching degree, and I have a strong passion for working with children and fostering their creativity. My background in education drives my commitment to providing enriching experiences at the City of Pickering's children's programs. I look forward to making this summer an unforgettable and exciting experience for all our campers!

Camper Pick-Up/Drop-Off Procedures

Arts Camp takes place in **O'Brien Rooms A & B** at **Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex (CHDRC)**, located at the **back of the building**.

For the safety of all campers, please **drop off and pick up your child at O'Brien Rooms A & B**. Be sure to **check in and out with our designated Pick-up/Drop-off counsellor** 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

Campers will dive into a variety of hands-on activities, including crafts, drawing, painting, dancing, and music. They'll express themselves through art while staying active with fun games and exciting challenges. Whether they're creating their own masterpieces, dancing to the beat, or playing games, every day is an opportunity to discover something new and let their imaginations run wild. This camp also swims daily. Hands on Exotic will be joining Arts 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! With a mix of artistic exploration and fun-filled activities, this camp is all about creativity, self-expression, and making new friends!

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 swim daily in the indoor pool at the CHDRC from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Please ensure your child brings a towel and bathing suit in a separate bag. Campers who choose not to swim may play games in the East and West Salons under counsellor supervision.

Pool Guidelines:

- **Turtle Pool:** Campers aged 7 and under have priority. If full, they will wear a life jacket and swim in the shallow end of the large pool. **A 2:1 counsellor-to-camper ratio** applies to this group.
- **Older Campers (8 years – 12 years):** **A 4:1 counsellor-to-camper ratio** applies to campers.

Deep End Swim Test:

Campers aged 8 - 9 may take a swim test to swim in the deep end without a life jacket. To pass, they must swim 10 meters and tread water for 30 seconds. If they do not pass the test, they will be required to wear a life jacket for the remainder of the week. Even if they pass, a counselor must accompany them in the deep end to maintain the 4:1 ratio, so access to the deep end may be limited. No exceptions and the lifeguard's decision is final. We also must always adhere to a 4:1 ratio so therefore your child may not be able to swim in the deep end of the large pool at all times.

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 Arts Camp:

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

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!

Aliyah Broomfield, Arts Camp Director