



Our Approach Toward Behavior At Brave Kids

We've run camps for a lot of summers - this will be Collin's 8th! - and in that time we've solved lots and lots of issues. We've had upwards of 1,300 families and 2,000 kids come through our camp in a *single summer*. All this experience means we have seen thousands of interactions with thousands of kids. We've learned lots of strategies, tactics, and solutions to make camp great. We've also seen what just doesn't work.

Brave Kids uses the following **Four Responsibilities** at camp to help everyone - staff, campers, and parents - understand what works and what doesn't at Brave Kids.

Be Safe

We ask kids to be responsible for an age-appropriate level of safety-consciousness. Obviously "safe" is relative - that's why we have staff to provide guidance. The big one here is that kids can onboard that guidance and stick with it over time.

Fun For Everyone

We expect kids to have fun at camp! Accordingly, we strive to always have at least one other option when we do group activities, so that no child feels forced to do something where they just aren't having fun.

We also explain to campers that their fun can't be at the expense of someone else, e.g. playing "keep away" with someone else's lunch box, or not sharing an activity with others.

Be Respectful

Our camp is a group of great staff and great kids coming together to have tons of fun. If we all treat each other with respect, just about any conflicts or problems that arise can be worked out with relative ease.

Be A Caretaker

This one is simple - take care of the cool stuff at camp so we can continue to use it. Also, take care of:

- Each other
- The building
- The outdoor space

We strive to be a place kids are excited to be. That's why so many kids love our camp. We understand that sometimes everyone gets tired, or hungry, or disappointed, and that's no problem. We can help! We talk with kids in age appropriate ways. We earn and keep trust. We mediate. We find solutions.

However, we are not a school or daycare. We don't want any child to feel stuck at camp if it just isn't working. Here's our process when there is a pattern that develops of not following one or more of the Four Responsibilities:

- Our staff will problem-solve creatively, starting with talking, listening, and understanding. From there, as mentioned above, we've got lots of tools in our bag.
- If a staff member isn't able to find a *sustainable* solution, the camper and the director (Collin) will have a conversation. He's a wiz at finding even more ways to make things work!
- If a camper and Collin just can't work things out, we'll require that the child be picked up that day and have a conversation with a parent to get everyone on the same page. (Everyone has a rough day sometimes!)
- When the child returns, we'll clean the slate and hope for the best. If we start running into the same issue(s), we'll ask the camper to take a break for a more extended period. We need to be sure everyone is on the same page about what fits at camp, and what doesn't.
- In rare cases, we'll need to make the call that things just aren't working out this year. ("This year" isn't rhetoric - we've seen cases where a child comes back the following year and does just fine.)

A couple of further notes:

- We've never seen a child who generally is having a good experience at school, daycare, and other group activities have any behavior issues at camp that we couldn't creatively solve.
- If you're concerned about whether our camp is a fit for your child, talk with us before purchasing Day Passes. Because we offer more flexibility than any other camp in the Treasure Valley, we don't offer refunds.

Our mission at Brave Kids Summer Camp is to be a safe, fun, and encouraging place for kids each summer. We work hard to ensure staff, kids, and parents have an excellent experience. Reach out to us with your questions or concerns - we'll respond with honesty and care!