

# DEVELOPMENTAL & BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS NEWSLETTER



A monthly newsletter for families and friends of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) at Boston Medical Center

## Happy Autism Acceptance Month!

**It's our favorite month of the year!** Every day, but especially in April, let's celebrate the shining uniqueness, brilliance and contributions of all people with autism and this wonderfully vibrant community of open hearts. The Autism Program will also be spotlighting resources for every day of April, so keep an eye out on our [Instagram page!](#)



### Upcoming Events

#### 4/23 Sensory-friendly Balloon Magic Show 5 - 7pm Needham MA

Hosted by the Bierman Autism Center, join magician Jungle Jim's Balloon and Magic evening show and float into a world of wonder! This event is free, sensory-friendly, and open to all with limited spaces!

**Register for this event here!**

#### 4/27 Miss Amazing for Girls/Women with Disabilities All day Medfield MA

Miss Amazing celebrates the incredible abilities, goals and dreams of girls and women with disabilities! Get a personalized hair & makeup session and enjoy fun activities all day like taking pictures in a photo booth, dancing, games, and more. Participate in the final show along with a "Right-hand man" and have a celebration dinner with everyone afterwards! Quiet rooms will be available for those in need of rest & break.

**Register for this event here!**

The Autism Program  
is hosting a  
**VIRTUAL  
RESOURCE  
FAIR**

4/18  
1pm

and you're invited!

Check Page 6 for  
more information!

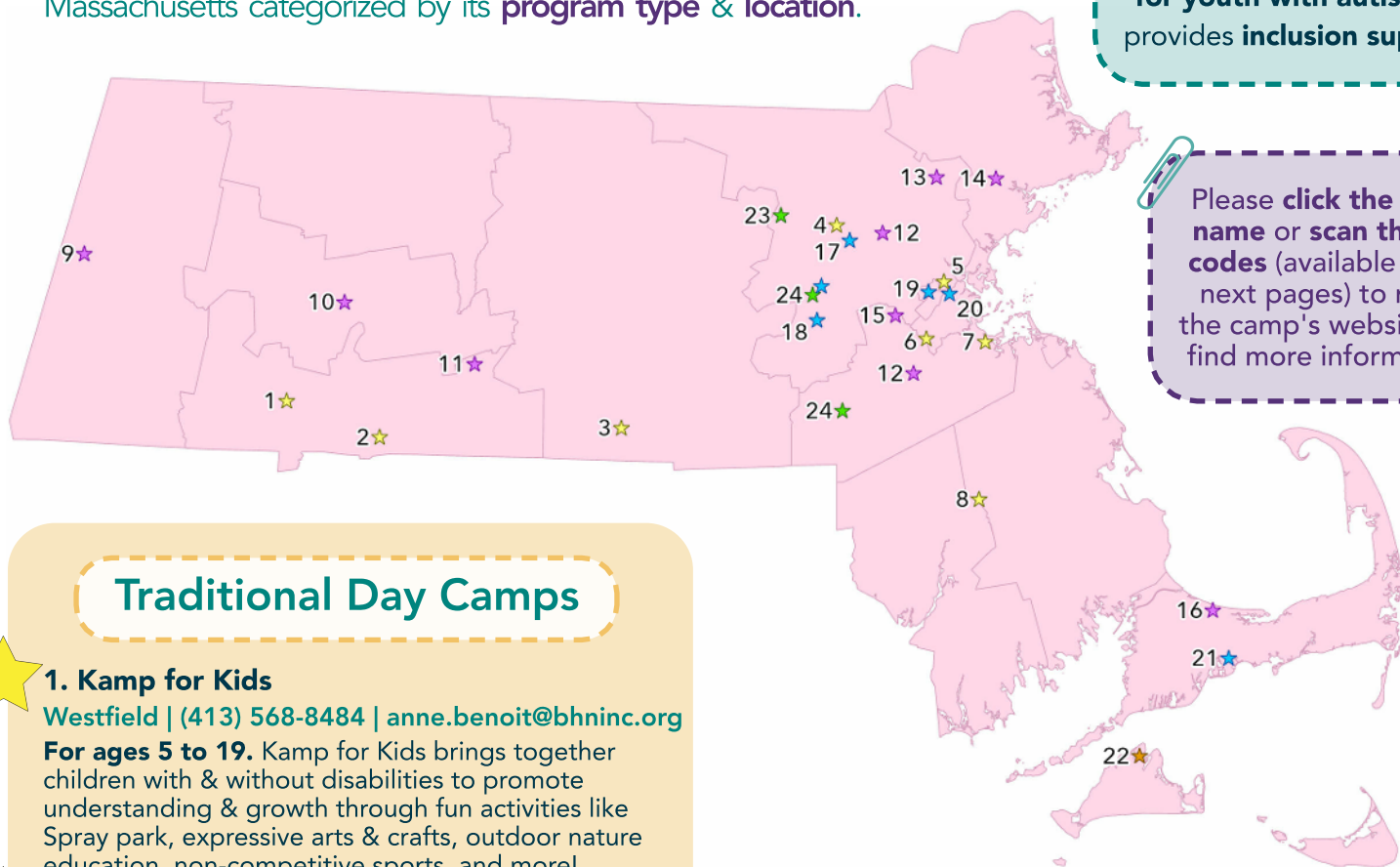


# 24 Summer Programs for 2024

If you are looking for a **special-needs summer camp** for your child this summer, look no further! Here are **24 options** across Massachusetts categorized by its **program type & location**.

All camps listed below are **for youth with autism OR provides inclusion support!**

Please **click the camp name** or **scan the QR codes** (available in the next pages) to reach the camp's website and find more information!



## Traditional Day Camps

### 1. Kamp for Kids

Westfield | (413) 568-8484 | [anne.benoit@bhninc.org](mailto:anne.benoit@bhninc.org)

**For ages 5 to 19.** Kamp for Kids brings together children with & without disabilities to promote understanding & growth through fun activities like Spray park, expressive arts & crafts, outdoor nature education, non-competitive sports, and more!

### 2. JCC Springfield Inclusion Camp

Springfield | (413) 739-4715 | [info@springfieldjcc.org](mailto:info@springfieldjcc.org)

**For ages 5 to 16.** This traditional camp is packed with fun summer experiences along with the support of a Special Needs Inclusion Counselor for children with social, emotional & behavior support needs. **Can offer 1:1 or 2:1 support.**

### 3. Camp Hope

Charlton | (508) 764-4085  
[rthompson@thecenterofhope.org](mailto:rthompson@thecenterofhope.org)

**For ages 6 to 21.** This is an inclusive day camp with a traditional summer camp experience for all, where campers can have fun playing games, arts & crafts, activities and aquatics, and much more! **1:1 staffing can be arranged.**

### 4. Daybreak Day Camp

Concord | (617) 864-0960 | [Program Director's online contact form](#)

**For ages 6 to 12.** This 6-week program provides affordable, meaningful and fun camp experiences to youngsters with special needs. **Transportation, breakfast and lunch will be provided!**

### 5. Camp Rainbow

Cambridge | (617) 892-5478  
[CampRainbow@cambridgema.gov](mailto:CampRainbow@cambridgema.gov)

**For ages 6 to 22.** This one is for Cambridge residents with disabilities looking for affordable summer camps! Campers will enjoy fun outdoor activities, swimming, field trips to local attractions, arts & crafts, and cooking, and much more.

### 6. Camp Joy

Boston | (617) 961-6952 | [roberta.smalls@boston.gov](mailto:roberta.smalls@boston.gov)

**For ages 3 to 15.** Created by the Boston Center for Youth & Families (BCYF), Camp Joy is for Boston residents with disabilities and their siblings (ages 3-7). **Provides 4:1 child to staff ratio, breakfast/lunch and door-to-door transportation!**

### 7. Camp Quirk

Quincy | (857) 403-4744 | [campquirk@ssymca.org](mailto:campquirk@ssymca.org)

**For ages 4 to 16.** Enjoy the outdoors and build lifelong memories & friendships with Camp Quirk! All staff are inclusion-trained & **collaborates with families to provide specific inclusive supports.**

## 24 Summer Programs for 2024



### 8. Easterseals Summer Camp

Bridgewater | (617) 737-6658  
[tbc@eastersealsma.org](mailto:tbc@eastersealsma.org)

**For ages 7 to 22.** This camp provides youth with unforgettable summer experiences from indoors to outdoors, including arts & crafts, adaptive biking, cooking, interacting with small animals and nature trails, water play and more!

## Therapeutic/Academic



### 9. BGC Berkshires Recreational Therapy Camp

Pittsfield | (413) 448-8258 | [info@bgcberkshires.org](mailto:info@bgcberkshires.org)

**For ages 6 to 22.** This program emphasizes the continuation of school IEP objectives to prevent regression & encourage the development of positive self esteem and age appropriate social skills. Any individual with an Independent Education Program (IEP) are eligible!



### 10. Camp Commūnicāre

Northampton | (413) 374-3056  
[hall@AACcommunicare.com](mailto:hall@AACcommunicare.com)

This is a 5-week immersive summer camp for individuals using AAC and total communication. Enjoy music therapy, movement groups, science experiments, cooking, swimming, and much more!



### 11. Camp Ramah

Palmer | (781) 400-0204 | [bonnies@campramahne.org](mailto:bonnies@campramahne.org)

**For ages 7 to 16.** Camp Ramah is for Jewish campers with a wide range of differences, including learning disabilities, ADHD, autism, and other developmental/intellectual disabilities. **Various levels of support are available including Individualized Support Plans!**



### 12. F.U.S.E Summer Program

Lexington & Norwood | (781) 658-3009  
[lauren@fuseprogram.com](mailto:lauren@fuseprogram.com)

**For ages 18 months to 8.** This camp will be 7 weeks of fun themes and indoor/outdoor activities! **Provides small group structure of 5 to 7 kids with 2 teachers.**



### 13. Camp Triumph

North Reading | (781) 942-0277  
[triumphcenter@verizon.net](mailto:triumphcenter@verizon.net)

**For ages 6 to 16.** This is for youth with disabilities to build confidence and self-esteem! Enjoy fun and therapeutic group activities along with discussions in a 3:1 small group structure.



### 14. The Spotlight Program

Danvers | (978) 924-5843 | [ccurtin@ne-arc.org](mailto:ccurtin@ne-arc.org)

**For ages 6 to 22.** This program utilizes ABA to bring meaningful change to social behaviors. Your child will be taught social skills and demonstrate within groups using role play and games!



### 15. Confidence Connections

Needham | (781) 433-9890  
[info@confidenceconnection.org](mailto:info@confidenceconnection.org)

**For ages 3 to 8.** This is a 9-week summer program designed for children with autism. Programming includes social pragmatic groups, music and speech therapy, KidFit, yoga, cooking classes and more!



### 16. Riverview's Summer Program

East Sandwich | (508) 888-0489 |  
[admissions@riverviewschool.org](mailto:admissions@riverviewschool.org)

**For ages 11 to 21.** This is an ideal opportunity for students to maintain academics, improve independent living skills while enjoying the beautiful Cape Cod with concerts, kayaking, whale watching and much more!

## Sport/Music Programs



### 17. Diamond Physical Therapy Associates, PC

Concord/Sudbury | (857) 299-4732  
[megan@diamondphyscaltherapy.org](mailto:megan@diamondphyscaltherapy.org)

This organization provides 1:1 aquatic physical therapy and adaptive swimming lessons for children with autism. Diamond PTs Laura and Megan work very closely with every child's unique profile to provide quality experiences that are therapeutic, empowering and fun for the child! Initial evaluation is performed on land in Sudbury, followed by water sessions in the Concord pool.



### 18. Performing Arts Center (PAC) Summer Program

Framingham | (508) 875-5554  
[pac@pacmetrowest.org](mailto:pac@pacmetrowest.org)

**For ages 8 to 14.** Calling all music and theater lovers! Enjoy various small group programmings such as Choral Intensive for ages 8-10, Audition Bootcamp for ages 10-14, and Camp for Young Actors for ages 8-10. Any skill level is welcome. If your child loves to sing or act, this program is perfect!

# 24 Summer Programs for 2024



## 19. Adaptive Sports Camp

Brighton | (617) 254-3800 x5475  
[paward@franciscanchildrens.org](mailto:paward@franciscanchildrens.org)

**For ages 5 to 21.** This adaptive sports camp by Franciscan Children's run for 2-3 hours/day for 2 weeks in August. Children (grouped according to their age and abilities) have fun participating in a variety of adaptive sports Morning and afternoons sessions available.



## 20. ABLE Music Program

Boston | (617) 747-2760 | [rbernard@berklee.edu](mailto:rbernard@berklee.edu)

This program is for musicians with disabilities! Participate in group lessons, collaborate with other musicians in an ensemble and perform with your ensemble at the end of the camp! **To participate, Campers must have at least 6 months of playing/singing experience.**



## 21. Cape Cod Challenger Summer Program

Osterville | (508) 420-6950 x.1 | [kelvin@capecodchallenger.org](mailto:kelvin@capecodchallenger.org)

This program is for musicians with disabilities! Participate in group lessons, collaborate with other musicians in an ensemble and perform with your ensemble at the end of the camp! **To participate, Campers must have at least 6 months of playing/singing experience.**

**If any of these programs sound interesting,** make sure to click its name and visit their website! There you will find a lot more information from camp dates, how to register, to what types of individualized supports can be arranged for your child. Camps/programs also often provide **financial assistance** in the form of **scholarships** or **sliding scales**, so make sure to reach out to them directly (of course, earlier the better) to find out what's available!

**If you would like more summer camp options,** SPED Child Mass offers a great list that can help. You can find here camps not only in MA, but also NH, ME, VT, and RI!

[SPED Child Mass: Summer Camps](#)



## Residential Camp



## 22. Camp Jabberwocky

Vineyard Haven | (508) 693-2339 | [info@campjabberwocky.org](mailto:info@campjabberwocky.org)

Camp Jabberwocky is a **free** residential summer camp for children with disabilities to live together in a beautiful, wooded campus and enjoy jam-packed days with adventurous and fun activities like island trips, arts and crafts, barbecues, biking, horseback riding, boating, beach days and so much more!



## Nature-Oriented

## 23. Peter Pan Summer Program

Boxborough | (978) 413-1965  
[dshea.peterpancenter@gmail.com](mailto:dshea.peterpancenter@gmail.com)

This is an 8-week summer program held in an antique farmhouse where kids can "go out and play" in their own sensory profile while receiving 9 hours of social skills support & coaching each week! Led by Donna Shea, Social-Emotional Learning Specialist.



## 24. TimberNook Summer Camp

Sudbury | (978) 287-7878 | [sherry.kenin@timbernook.com](mailto:sherry.kenin@timbernook.com)

**For ages 1.5 to 12.** This camp offers many nature and play-based summer programs for kids with developmental disabilities. Located at the beautiful Nobscot Reservation where children can enjoy rock scrambling, mud stomping, frog finding and more!



## 24. TimberNook Summer Camp

Norfolk | (617) 669-4366 | [megan.devendorf@timbernook.com](mailto:megan.devendorf@timbernook.com)

**For ages 1.5 to 10.** This camp offers many nature and play-based summer programs for kids with developmental disabilities. Located at the beautiful Leland Wild - a habitat for many species of butterflies, grassland birds, mammals and small creatures!

**AS ALWAYS, DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO US WITH ANY QUESTIONS!**



1. Kamp for Kids



2. JCC Springfield



3. Camp Hope



4. Daybreak Camp



5. Camp Rainbow



6. Camp Joy



7. Camp Quirk



8. Easterseals



9. BGC Berkshires



10. Communicare



11. Camp Ramah



12. F.U.S.E



13. Camp Triumph



14. Spotlight



15. Confidence



16. Riverview



17. Diamond PT



18. PAC



19. Franciscan



20. ABLE



21. Challenger



22. Jabberwocky



23. Peter Pan



24. TimberNook

Special-needs Summer Camps 2024 QR codes



# Virtual Resource Fair

## For families, friends and professionals!

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2024**  
**1:00pm -2:30pm EST**

**Via Zoom**

**Please RSVP to**  
**[autismprogram@bmc.org](mailto:autismprogram@bmc.org)**

**to receive the zoom link**

- AANE
- Arc of Greater Brockton
- Autism Alliance
- Autism Insurance Resource Center of Massachusetts
- BILT Inc.
- The Circle of Vietnamese Parents and Friends
- Vinfen

**and more!**



The Autism Program



## Resources



The Autism Program is continuing to support families in many ways both inside and outside of Boston Medical Center. Check out our website to learn more about the services, supports and programs we offer including our Autism Friendly Hospital Initiative, Teens Engaged as Mentors (TEAM) program, and our training offerings. We also have a huge resource library where you can access free information on a variety of topics such as safety, behavioral support, transition to adulthood, insurance and more!

<https://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-autism-program>

**Do you have an idea for a future newsletter? Email us at.**

**[autismprogram@bmc.org](mailto:autismprogram@bmc.org)**

**with suggestions.**

## Clinic

Our clinicians are available for developmental evaluations, assessments and follow up. To connect with the clinical team, please call 617-414-4841 and follow the prompts for Developmental Pediatrics.



### Our Clinicians

Marilyn Augustyn, MD

Arathi Reddy, DO

Rachel Amgott, NP

Christina Lazdowsky, NP

Mei Elensary, MD

Audrey Christiansen, MD

Sarah Canale, MD

Britany Weissman, MD

Mary Ellen Killion, NP

Arielle Spellun, MD

Bridget Poznanski, PhD

Rachel Vuolo, MD

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is brought to you by the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center, a family support program of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. We are committed to supporting any family of DBP during this time, regardless of diagnosis. Please don't hesitate to reach out, and follow us on social media for more tips and information! **To unsubscribe, please reply by email with the word "stop!"**



[BMC.org/autism](https://BMC.org/autism)  
[Autismprogram@bmc.org](mailto:Autismprogram@bmc.org)



The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center



@BMCAutismProgram