



Evolved

EDUCATION COMPANY

Deciding whether to bring your child home from sleepaway camp is a deeply personal and emotional decision. We hope these questions help to guide you!

Assess the Reason Behind the Concern

- Is your child in danger? If there's a safety, health, or abuse issue, act immediately and decisively.
 - Is it homesickness? This is common and often resolves itself with support from counselors.
 - Is there a mismatch? Sometimes the camp isn't the right fit—socially, emotionally, or developmentally.
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Gather Information

- Talk to the camp staff. Get honest feedback from your child's counselors or directors. Ask:
 - Are they participating in activities?
 - Are they eating, sleeping, and socially engaging?
 - How often are they upset, and how do they recover?
 - Review letters/emails or phone calls. Look for patterns in what your child is saying: distress, boredom, feeling excluded.
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Talk to Your Child (if permitted)

- Ask open-ended questions if you can speak with them:
 - “What’s been the best part of camp?”
 - “What’s been the hardest part?”
 - “What do you wish was different?”
 - Let them know their feelings are valid—and also remind them of their own strengths and prior growth. Responses such as: “Thank you for sharing this with me.” “You are so strong to handle all of that.”
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Evaluate Short-Term vs. Long-Term Benefit

- Will staying build resilience and confidence?
 - Or is it eroding their sense of self and well-being?
 - Think about who they’ll be when they come home early vs. who they could be after pushing through.
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Know Your Child

- Is your child typically anxious and needs scaffolding?
 - Have they had prior success with short separations?
 - Are they trying to build a skill like independence, social integration, or perseverance—and is this environment truly helping?
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Check Yourself

- Are you reacting from your own discomfort (e.g., guilt, missing them, fear)?
 - Would you feel relief if they were home—or would you worry about the message this sends?
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Create an Action Plan

If you decide to keep them at camp:

- Ask the camp to increase support.
- Set a check-in window.
- Consider sending a letter reminding your child how proud you are of them.

If you decide to bring them home:

- Frame it as a decision made together.
 - Celebrate their effort.
 - Debrief after: what worked, what didn't, and what they'd want next time.
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Bottom Line

You're not failing by bringing them home—and they're not failing by wanting to leave. The goal is to honor the growth that's already happened, be realistic about the setting, and prioritize their emotional well-being.

If you have any questions or wish to have a 1-1 consultation, [please fill out our form:](https://evolvededucationcompany.com/contact-us/) <https://evolvededucationcompany.com/contact-us/>, and we will be sure to connect you to the best-fit consultant to have your service with us.

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