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"Building Better Kids" Since 1986

7 Keys To Transformed Kids

KEY ONE – Strong Relationships

As it has been stated often, rules without relationships lead to rebellion. We start with the heart! Kids listen most to the friends they love most...so we make sure they love us!

Virtually every kid has the same three questions. The answer to all three questions must be 'yes' in order for them to truly connect with you and be significantly influenced by you:

"Are you for real?" Our answer is, "Yes!" We have no hidden agenda. Serving kids is what we do.

"Do you see anything special in me?" Our answer is, "Absolutely!" There is a leader in every girl and every boy.

"Are you committed to me long-term?" Our answer is, "A thousand times, yes!" Our track record is over 30 years and growing. We are not finished until the last child is smiling with confidence.



Starting with the heart means using the right people. Our counselors are selected from a waiting list of talented individuals who feel honored to shape the future through molding children.

- We screen, interview and validate the background of every adult.
- We mandate child protection training and certification for every adult (and the great majority of our adults are CPR/Bloodborne Pathogen certified as well).
- We select adults who are seeking not just to serve, but to sacrifice.
- We select adults who have a sense of humor, a nature of gentleness, a spirit of compassionate non-judgmentalism and a heart of unconditional love for children.

KEY TWO – Skilled Adult Modeling

Character is contagious—it is better "caught" than taught. In fact, effective teaching of any life skill must begin with role modeling. Children are naturally wired to imitate the adults who care for them. Our counselors are hand-picked heroes who model key character traits that prepare children for success. There is always a good number of returning campers who are eager to model what they have learned in previous camps and training sessions. From start to finish, your child will be surrounded by positive adult influences.

KEY THREE – Positive Peers

If you want to know who your kid is becoming, just take a look at his or her close friends. At Character Camp retreats and activities, there is always a good number of returning campers who are eager to model what they have learned in previous camps and training sessions. Rather than having a ton of rules, we opt instead to create a high-expectation environment where behavior is managed by our culture. We clearly communicate our core values every child is expected to uphold and we find creative ways of rewarding and reinforcing good character. This allows our environment to be free of tension and focused on constructive activities. From start to finish, you can be assured your child will be surrounded by positive influences. From the

very first moment with us, kids get the message they are in a safe place, both physically and emotionally. We will never allow them to be bullied, criticized, neglected, shunned or abused in any way.

KEY FOUR - Strategic Outside Voice

As children grow, they become more independent, especially in their thinking. They know what their parents believe and value, but they want to explore what other respected figures believe and value. This is one of the things that make Character Camp a parent's best friend! We are the outside voice who affirms parents' values and reinforces their positive image in the eyes of their children. We stay current with youth culture, social trends, technology and developments in character education. We are experts at building better kids. We strongly support a dynamic bond between children and their parents.

KEY FIVE - Quality Teaching

Our certified teachers are masters in their profession. They are skilled at developing age-appropriate curriculum and presenting interesting lessons with memorable illustrations and props. Creative character-building games are always a part of the rich experience. We make learning enjoyable – we blur the lines between learning and playing.

Over many years of working with children of all ages, Character Camp has developed and refined the **I C-A-N** Learning System. It is simple yet profoundly effective.

It stands for: **I**nteractive **C**oaching **A**nd **N**etworking

Interactive – Students are drawn into the learning experience and become effective collaborators in the educational process. To make learning engaging and interesting, Character Camp creates a climate for continuous confident participation. Every session begins with energetic discussions and debates that are “owned” by the students as much as by the instructors. Student input is celebrated and rewarded.

Coaching – Teaching focuses more on developing the intellect while coaching focuses more on developing the whole person. The

Character Camp learning environment is kept free of academic tension. The constant message to students is, “Let me show you how easy this is. You’re going to love this!”

And – Most importantly...

Networking – Character Camp creates an environment of ‘supportive accountability’. Students learn to function as a team. Different students excel in different areas and learn to reinforce each other’s learning. Students supportively hold each other accountable for conduct and performance, creating a self-correcting culture of excellence.

KEY SIX - Rewards and Affirmation

At Character Camp, the kids are the center of the universe. Every child is the favorite! Every child is honored, affirmed and a special person. We don’t have a ton of rules. We clearly communicate our core values that every child is expected to uphold. From counselors to campers, good character defines us.

KEY SEVEN - Paying it Forward

As soon as children begin modeling the desired character traits, they are encouraged to share those traits and model them for other children. Over time, the children are developed into influential leaders. Character Camp is a structured, supportive environment that nurtures youth leadership in advanced children who are seeking to broaden their abilities and lead the way for others. We find stars and help them shine!

