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## Start making your summer plans now!

Summer camps and programs fill up quickly and you don't want to be left with no camps or care plans for your loved one! Take a look at the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis' [2020 Summer Opportunities Guide](#)! There are tons of ideas for fun summer activities for all ages and abilities.

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## Ideas for Finding Summer Caregivers and Funding

### *Finding In-Home Providers*

- [care.com](#)
- Special Ed School staff or paraprofessionals looking for summer work – ask to post something in schools/newsletters
- Contact nursing students at local hospitals or schools of nursing or child development majors at nearby colleges.
- Go to your local college departments, such as special education, psychology, social work, Occupational Therapy, etc. and put up a flyer about needing respite or summer childcare.
- Network with contacts in the community such as family, friends, church members, etc. to get ideas on potential caregivers.
- Always do your research when hiring a provider. Investigate if they are licensed and able to do the job. Interview them and do a visit where the care will be provided. Always ask for and check references. Communicate with the provider often and always be on the lookout for any warning signs your child might exhibit that might indicate that things are not working out.

### *Paying for Services/Camps*

- Recreation Council of St. Louis (<http://www.recreationcouncil.org>) has a variety of vouchers that parents can apply for and use for assistance with camps, recreation support at camp, after school care, Summer Socialization Program for working families. This program is for 13-15 year old students whose parents are working outside the home M-F, 9-5ish. Vouchers are limited.
  - Employer dependent care flexible spending account
  - Child and dependent care credit (when completing taxes)
  - Check to see if the camp offers any type of scholarships
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