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PARENT COMMUNITY
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PARENTS SUMMER SAFETY GUIDE

**Framework for Protecting
Kids & Teens During School
Break**

Tools. Conversations. Confidence



A NOTE TO PARENTS

Summer should be full of joy, rest, growth, and connection.

This guide was not created to make you afraid of summer. It was created to help you prepare for it with wisdom.

When routines change, access changes. Children may spend more time in programs, other homes, public places, online spaces, workplaces, church events, or under the care of adults who are not part of their daily lives.

That does not mean every environment is unsafe.

It means parents should know what questions to ask, what boundaries to set, and how to help their children recognize when something does not feel right.

Use this guide as a conversation starter. Walk through it slowly. Share it with caregivers, grandparents, co-parents, ministry leaders, or anyone helping care for your child this summer.

Protection does not require fear.
It requires clarity, communication, and preparation.

With you in faith, wisdom, and steady confidence,
JBM Parent Community





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SECTION 1

PROGRAMS, CAMPS & SUPERVISION

Camp safety, background checks, supervision questions, hidden risk areas, and special considerations for children with special needs.





SUMMER CHANGES ACCESS

Summer brings freedom.

Less routine. More independence. Expanded social circles. Increased screen time. These shifts are normal, but they also change exposure.

When structure decreases, access often increases.

This guide helps parents think through three key layers of summer safety:

1

ENVIRONMENT

The physical spaces your child moves through: home, programs, public settings, travel, and other households.

2

DIGITAL

The online spaces your child enters: gaming, messaging, social media, video platforms, and private chats.

3

RELATIONSHIPS

The people gaining more access to your child: peers, older teens, seasonal staff, supervisors, coaches, leaders, and extended family.

Every section of this guide fits into one of these layers. Preparation protects summer's joy.



WHEN WE HAND OVER SUPERVISION TO SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer programs can build confidence, faith, skill, and friendships. They can also introduce new adults, new routines, and new levels of independence.

THEY ALSO INTRODUCE:

- Seasonal staff
- Rotating supervision
- Transportation logistics
- Overnight housing
- New authority figures
- Older students or peer leaders

WHY IT MATTERS

Most unsafe situations do not begin dramatically.

They often begin with isolation, blurred boundaries, unclear policies, or adults who have private access without accountability.

THE FIVE QUESTIONS EVERY PARENT SHOULD ASK

1. Are background checks required for all staff and volunteers?
2. Is there a clear two-adult supervision policy?
3. Are private one-on-one meetings ever permitted?
4. Are leaders allowed to text or message students privately?
5. How are safety concerns reported, documented, and escalated?

BOTTOM LINE

A good program will welcome clear questions.

Protective parents are not difficult. They are paying attention.



SUMMER CAMP SAFETY: WHAT PARENTS SHOULD ASK

Most parents assume camps are fully regulated, fully screened, and operating under the same safety standards.

That is not always the case.

Some camps are accredited. Some are licensed. Some are privately run. Some rely heavily on seasonal workers, volunteers, interns, teen helpers, or third-party activity providers.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Camps often create quick trust.

Kids are away from home, parents are not present, routines change, and adults may have access during transportation, activities, meals, cabins, bathrooms, changing areas, or overnight hours.

BACKGROUND CHECKS MATTER

- Background checks are important, but they are not a complete safety plan.
- They only reveal what has already been reported or recorded.
- They do not replace training, supervision, clear boundaries, and strong reporting systems.

BOTTOM LINE

A safe camp should be able to clearly explain who is supervising your child, how staff are screened, and how concerns are handled.

CAMP SAFETY QUESTIONS

EVERY PARENT SHOULD ASK



Before registering or sending your child, ask:

STAFF SCREENING

- Are all staff, volunteers, interns, and teen helpers background checked?
- Are background checks repeated every year?
- My child has multiple accounts, hidden apps, or profiles I am unaware of.
- Are third-party vendors or activity leaders screened?
- Is child sexual abuse prevention training required?

SUPERVISION

- Is there a two-adult policy?
- Are staff ever allowed to be alone with a child?
- How are cabins, bathrooms, showers, and changing areas monitored?
- Who supervises transportation and off-site activities?

COMMUNICATION

- Can staff text or message campers directly?
- Are parents notified if plans, rooms, transportation, or supervision changes?
- Who should my child go to if something feels uncomfortable?

REPORTING

- How are concerns documented?
- Who receives reports?
- When are parents notified?
- When is law enforcement or child protective services contacted?

BOTTOM LINE

A background check is a starting point, not a safety plan. Strong programs welcome clear questions.



PRACTICAL HIDDEN RISK AREAS

Most unsafe situations develop through gradual boundary shifts.

ISOLATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Closed-door meetings
- Private tutoring, coaching, or counseling
- Being asked to “help” after hours

TRANSPORTATION GAPS

- Private car rides
- Last-minute drop-off changes
- Room or vehicle changes without parent awareness

SPECIAL ATTENTION & EXCLUSIVITY

- Gifts or extra privileges
- Private jokes or emotional favoritism
- Encouraging secrecy

DIGITAL MIGRATION

- Moving from group chats to private messages
- Following students on social media
- Late-night or disappearing messages

BOTTOM LINE:

Access should never depend on secrecy, isolation, or special treatment.



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with developmental, communication, sensory, or learning differences may need additional support when summer routines change.

This does not mean they are fragile.

It means adults must be clear, consistent, and prepared.

WHY SUMMER MAY FEEL DIFFERENT

- New people and environments
- Changes in routine
- More transitions throughout the day
- Less familiar supervision
- Difficulty explaining discomfort or confusion

PARENT CHECKPOINTS

Before your child attends, ask:

- Who will directly supervise my child?
- Are staff trained on my child's needs?
- How are bathroom, changing, or personal-care needs handled?
- What is the communication plan if my child becomes overwhelmed?
- How are concerns documented and shared with parents?

BOTTOM LINE

Protection is strengthened through clarity, not assumption.

SECTION 2

SOCIAL ACCESS, TRAVEL & PUBLIC SPACES

Sleepovers, malls, movies, pools, neighborhoods, airports, hotels, rentals, amusement parks, and public gatherings.





WHEN SOCIAL ACCESS EXPANDS

Summer often gives kids and teens more freedom.

More time with friends. More time in neighborhoods. More time at pools, malls, movies, sleepovers, and public places.

These moments can be good and healthy, but they also require clear expectations.

WHERE VULNERABILITY CAN INCREASE:

- Less adult supervision
- Mixed-age groups
- Older teens or unfamiliar adults nearby
- Private spaces away from the group
- Pressure to keep secrets or “not make it a big deal”

WHAT TO TEACH YOUR CHILD:

Before they go, remind them:

- You never have to stay somewhere you feel uncomfortable.
- You can call me anytime, for any reason.
- No adult or older teen should ask you to keep secrets from your parents.
- If plans change, I need to know before you go.
- Safety matters more than being polite.

BOTTOM LINE

Freedom works best when children know the rules, the exits, and the adults they can trust.



PRACTICAL PROTECTION FOR SOCIAL SETTINGS

Before your child spends time with friends, extended family, or in public spaces, clarify the expectations.

SLEEPOVERS

- Who will be home?
- Where will children sleep?
- Are older siblings or other guests present?
- Are devices allowed in bedrooms?
- Can my child call me anytime?

MALLS, MOVIES, & PUBLIC PLACES

- Who is going?
- What time are they leaving and returning?
- Are they allowed to separate from the group?
- What is the pickup location?
- What should they do if plans change?

NEIGHBORHOOD ROAMING

- What areas are allowed?
- Whose homes are they allowed to enter?
- Are they allowed to ride with anyone?
- When should they check in?

POOLS & PUBLIC GATHERINGS

- Who is supervising?
- Are adults drinking alcohol?
- Are changing areas monitored?
- What is the plan if your child feels uncomfortable?

BOTTOM LINE

Clear rules do not take away freedom. They give children a safe framework to enjoy it.



TRAVEL CHANGES ACCESS

Travel can create some of the best family memories.

It can also change normal routines, supervision, sleeping arrangements, digital access, and who has proximity to your child.

WHY THIS MATTERS

When families travel, everyone is usually moving fast.

Airports, hotels, amusement parks, public bathrooms, pools, vacation rentals, rideshares, and large crowds can create moments where children are separated, distracted, or unsure who is safe to ask for help.

WHERE VULNERABILITY CAN INCREASE

- Crowded public spaces
- Unfamiliar adults nearby
- Shared rooms or sleeping arrangements
- Public bathrooms and changing areas
- Unmonitored devices during downtime
- Photos or location details shared online

BOTTOM LINE

Travel does not create danger. It increases movement, distraction, and access. Preparation helps families enjoy the trip with greater confidence.



PRACTICAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

Before you travel, set clear expectations for movement, communication, and public spaces.

AIRPORTS & TRANSPORTATION

- Stay together through security, baggage claim, and boarding.
- Identify a meeting spot if someone gets separated.
- Do not leave with anyone without parent approval.
- Use rideshares, shuttles, and taxis with clear parent supervision.

HOTELS & VACATION RENTALS

- Review sleeping arrangements before arrival.
- Keep room doors locked.
- Do not open the door without parent permission.
- Set clear rules for elevators, pools, hallways, and lobby areas

AMUSEMENT & WATER PARKS

- Choose a family meeting spot.
- Use buddy systems.
- Set check-in times.
- Talk through bathroom and changing-area safety.

SOCIAL MEDIA WHILE TRAVELING

- Avoid posting real-time locations.
- Do not share hotel names, room numbers, or travel details.
- Review photo privacy before posting.
- Remind kids not to accept messages from strangers.

BOTTOM LINE

A few clear rules before the trip can prevent confusion when everyone is tired, distracted, or moving quickly.

SECTION 3

HOME, CAREGIVERS & CHANGING HOUSEHOLDS

Home-alone safety, shared custody, seasonal households, grandparents, caregivers, drop-ins, service access, and household expectations.





MORE TIME HOME ALONE

Summer often creates more unsupervised time.

Older children may stay home while parents work. Teens may sleep later, spend more time online, have friends over, or move in and out of the house with more independence.

This can be healthy, but independence still needs structure.

WHERE VULNERABILITY CAN INCREASE

- Unmonitored device use
- Friends stopping by without parent awareness
- Older siblings supervising younger children
- Service workers, deliveries, or unfamiliar adults at the door
- Long stretches of boredom, secrecy, or isolation

INDEPENDENCE WITH STRUCTURE

Before summer begins, clarify:

- Who is allowed in the home
- Whether friends can come over
- Which doors should stay locked
- How often your child should check in
- What to do if someone knocks or enters unexpectedly

BOTTOM LINE

Being home alone is not just about age. It is about readiness, communication, and clear household rules



SHARED CUSTODY & SEASONAL HOUSEHOLDS

Summer can mean different homes, different rules, different schedules, and different levels of supervision.

Children may spend more time with extended family, stepfamilies, older siblings, family friends, or caregivers who are not part of their normal routine.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Safety expectations can become unclear when a child moves between households.

What is allowed in one home may not be allowed in another. Digital rules, sleepover rules, supervision, transportation, and discipline may all change.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD CLARIFY

- Who is supervising during work hours?
- Are older siblings responsible for younger children?
- Are friends, partners, or other adults staying in the home?
- What are the rules for devices, bedrooms, sleepovers, and transportation?
- How will concerns be communicated between households?

BOTTOM LINE

Children feel safer when adults communicate clearly, even when households operate differently.



PRACTICAL HOME SUMMER SAFETY CHECKLIST

HOME ALONE

- Are doors and windows locked?
- Who is allowed inside the home?
- What should your child do if someone knocks?
- How often should they check in?

FRIENDS & DROP-INS

- Are friends allowed over when no adult is home?
- Can your child go into someone else's home?
- Are older siblings or other adults present?
- Do you know where your child is and who they are with?

GAMING & PRIVATE CHAT

- Are voice chats allowed?
- Can your child message people they do not know in real life?
- Are headphones used in shared spaces or private rooms?
- Are gaming friends ever moving conversations to another app?

WORKERS & SERVICE ACCESS

- Should your child open the door for deliveries or service workers?
- What should they do if someone enters the home unexpectedly?
- Are repair or maintenance visits scheduled when an adult is home?

FAMILY RULE

If plans change, people change, or location changes, parents need to know first.

SECTION 4

TEENS, WORK & FAITH-BASED ENVIRONMENTS

Workplace boundaries, transportation safety, closing shifts, church camps, youth events, retreats, mission trips, and ministry communication.





WHEN TEENS ENTER THE WORKFORCE

Summer jobs can build responsibility, confidence, work ethic, and independence. They can also introduce new authority dynamics

Teens may be working with older coworkers, managers, customers, or supervisors in environments where parents are not present.

WHERE VULNERABILITY CAN INCREASE

- Private training spaces
- Closing shifts or late hours
- One-on-one rides after work
- Walking to cars alone after dark
- Babysitting or nanny jobs inside private homes
- Managers texting outside work needs
- Pressure to ignore discomfort because “it’s a job”

WHAT TO TEACH YOUR TEEN

- Text your parent when your shift starts and when you leave.
- Never walk to your car alone after dark.
- Ask a trusted coworker or manager to walk with you.
- Do not accept rides from coworkers without parent approval.
- A paycheck does not remove your right to speak up.
- A supervisor should not ask for secrecy.
- Work communication should stay work-related.
- You can call home if something feels wrong.
- Respecting authority does not mean ignoring boundaries.

BOTTOM LINE

Work can be a healthy step toward independence, but teens still need clear boundaries, support, and a safe way to report concerns.

NOW HIRING!



WORKPLACE BOUNDARIES FOR TEENS

Before your teen starts a summer job, talk through what a healthy workplace should look like.

HEALTHY WORKPLACES SHOULD:

- Keep communication work-related
- Avoid secrecy or special treatment
- Avoid unnecessary one-on-one isolation
- Provide clear reporting channels
- Respect schedule and transportation boundaries

SAFETY HABITS FOR EVERY SHIFT

- Text when arriving
- Text before leaving
- Keep location sharing on
- Walk out with another employee
- Call home before accepting any schedule, ride, or location change

BEFORE THE FIRST SHIFT, CLARIFY:

- Who is the direct supervisor?
- What time does the shift end?
- Who is approved to give rides?
- Is your teen ever expected to close alone?
- What is the plan for walking to the car?
- Who should your teen call if something feels wrong?

BOTTOM LINE

A teen can be respectful, responsible, and still have firm boundaries.



FAITH-BASED PROGRAMS & MISSION TRIPS

Church camps, youth events, retreats, conferences, and mission trips can be deeply meaningful for children and teens.

They can also create unique trust dynamics because faith, authority, service, and vulnerability often intersect.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Spiritual environments should never be used to bypass safety, silence discomfort, or excuse unclear boundaries.

Healthy ministry protects children while honoring faith.

WHERE VULNERABILITY CAN INCREASE

- Private prayer, counseling, or mentoring
- Overnight lodging or host homes
- Transportation with leaders or volunteers
- Emotional vulnerability during worship or teaching
- Pressure to obey authority without question
- Communication outside official ministry channels

BOTTOM LINE

Faith-based spaces should be among the safest places for children. Clear policies help protect both the child and the ministry



BEFORE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS A FAITH-BASED PROGRAM

Before a church camp, youth event, retreat, conference, or mission trip, ask clear questions.

SUPERVISION

- Who is directly responsible for my child?
- Is there a two-adult policy?
- Are leaders ever alone with students?
- How are overnight rooms, bathrooms, and changing areas supervised?

COMMUNICATION

- Can leaders text or message students privately?
- Are group chats monitored?
- Are parents included in communication?
- Who do students contact if they feel uncomfortable?

REPORTING

- How are concerns reported?
- Who receives reports?
- When are parents notified?
- When is law enforcement or child protective services contacted?

BOTTOM LINE

Faith and safety are not in conflict. Clear boundaries protect both.

SECTION 5

DIGITAL SAFETY & SUMMER FAMILY PLAN

Private messaging, gaming, group chats, location sharing, social media, disappearing messages, digital reset conversations, and a simple family plan to set expectations before summer begins.





THE DIGITAL OVERLAY

Digital access follows children everywhere.

Even when the risk begins in a physical space, it often continues through a screen.

MOST RISK ESCALATION NOW INCLUDES:

- Private messaging
- Group chats
- Gaming platforms
- Social media follows
- Disappearing messages
- Photo or video sharing
- Moving conversations to a second app

SUMMER DIGITAL RESET

Before summer begins, review:

- Who can message your child
- Which apps allow private chat
- Whether location sharing is on
- Whether devices are allowed in bedrooms
- Whether your child knows how to block and report
- What your child should do if someone asks for secrecy, photos, or private conversations

BOTTOM LINE

Screens are not separate from summer safety. They are often the bridge between access, secrecy, and escalation.



IF SOMETHING FEELS WRONG

Parents do not need proof before they pay attention.

If your child becomes uncomfortable, withdrawn, unusually attached to an adult, secretive, fearful, or resistant to a specific person or place, slow down and ask questions.

START WITH YOUR CHILD

Stay calm.

- Listen more than you speak.
- Do not shame, blame, or overreact.
- Ask open-ended questions: “Can you tell me more about that?”
- Reassure them: “You are not in trouble.”

DOCUMENT CONCERNS

- Write down dates, names, locations, and exact words used.
- Save messages, screenshots, or call logs.
- Do not delete communication.

TAKE ACTION

- Remove your child from the situation if needed.
- Contact the organization’s leadership if appropriate.
- Report immediate danger to law enforcement.
- Contact child protective services when abuse, exploitation, or neglect is suspected.

BOTTOM LINE

You do not have to prove everything before you protect your child. Clarity, documentation, and quick action matter.



THE SUMMER FAMILY PLAN

Before summer begins, sit down as a family and talk through the places, people, and digital spaces your child may encounter.

REVIEW TOGETHER

- Where your child will spend time
- Who will supervise them
- What rules apply to devices and private messages
- What to do if plans change
- Who your child can call for help
- What situations require immediate parent contact

FAMILY SAFETY AGREEMENTS

- If the location changes, parents need to know.
- If the people change, parents need to know.
- If transportation changes, parents need to know.
- If someone asks for secrecy, parents need to know.
- If something feels wrong, your child can call anytime.

BOTTOM LINE

Use this guide as a starting point for real conversations in your home, with your child's caregivers, and with the people who help supervise them.

Talk through the questions. Set clear expectations. Share it with another parent who may need it.



GRANDPARENT & EXTENDED CAREGIVER SAFETY CHECKLIST

WHY THIS MATTERS

Grandparents bring love, wisdom, and stability. But supervision standards can unintentionally shift when routines change. Boundaries should travel with the child.

ALIGN ON THESE BEFORE A STAY

DEVICE EXPECTATIONS

- Where are devices charged overnight?
- Are location settings reviewed?

OPEN DOOR POLICY

- Are one-on-one private spaces limited?
- Are sleep arrangements clearly defined?

TRANSPORTATION RULES

- No ride changes without parent confirmation
- No unscheduled visits from neighbors or friends

ROLE-SPECIFIC TRAINING

- Provide training specific to the new hire's role and responsibilities.
- Monitor training progress and provide additional support if needed.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- No posting grandchildren's location in real time
- Avoid sharing school names or daily routines

THE NO-SECRET RULE

- Remind your child and grandparent: "No adult should ever ask you to keep a secret from your parents."