

Benchmark Summer Camp

Where Language Arts is Just the Start



*You promised ...
You delivered.
What a fabulous
summer!
-R.B.*



Since 1971, Benchmark School has provided a Summer camp for students ages 6 to 11 who can benefit from reading and writing instruction beyond the regular school year.

The five-week camp combines Benchmark's internationally recognized language arts instruction with an exciting recreation program filled with a wide range of enjoyable activities. The goal of the camp is to develop confidence and self-esteem, as well as skills and strategies in both language arts and recreation. Our intention is that by the end of the summer, students will have worked (and played) hard, learned a lot, and had fun!

Beyond my expectations! Keep doing what you're doing, because it works!
-K.P.



Our son has had a complete transformation of academic confidence. He is reading, but more importantly, he believes in his abilities.
-ET

The Language Arts Program

Reading Instruction

The goal of the Summer Language Arts Program is to give students a positive school experience. One way this is done is by introducing students to strategies that will help them become more successful readers, writers, and learners. Teachers weave strategy instruction through small group reading instruction, process writing instruction, word-identification instruction, read aloud sessions, and even independent-response-to-reading activities. Since each class is comprised of a teacher and a qualified teaching assistant working with 6 to 9 students, teachers are able to tailor their instruction to students' needs.

Another way we help students have a positive school experience is by creating an environment that facilitates success. The teachers help construct such environments by providing students with lots of support, as well as positive reinforcement. In addition, the texts the students read are at levels at which they can be successful. Not only does this practice help students build confidence in themselves as readers, but it helps them more readily appreciate the joy of reading, which cultivates motivation.

Students who are confident and motivated as readers want to read. It is not unusual for parents of summer camp students to report that their children, who had arrived at camp as

reluctant readers, are choosing to read for much longer than the 20-30 minutes they are asked to read each evening. It is exciting for our teachers to hear such news because they know that progress in reading is directly related to the number of words read. In fact this fundamental research finding is central to the focus of Benchmark's program.

Writing Instruction

While there is strong emphasis on reading instruction during the Language Arts Program, writing development is also a very important component of our program. Just as with reading, we work hard to develop students' confidence, motivation and skill as writers. Experts in process writing suggest that developing these qualities involves providing students with ample time to write, giving them regular responses to their writing, and offering them choices of writing topics. Using these methods, we see our students make positive changes in how they perceive and approach the writing process, even in a few short weeks!

Self Knowledge

In addition to reading and writing instruction, Benchmark places an emphasis on helping students identify and understand those characteristics of their learning styles that either impede or enhance their reading, writing and learning. Explicit instruction, goal setting, and immediate reinforcement of positive actions are ways

teachers help students develop awareness of successful learning strategies. With this focus, students grow in their awareness and control of strategies and personal characteristics that affect their success in the classroom.

Teachers and Supervisors

Benchmark's Summer Language Arts Program is strong because of the knowledge, experience and dedication of the teachers and supervisors who work in the classrooms. All of the teachers take part in an intensive training program designed to give them the background to provide students with a rich and supportive learning environment and effective instruction. In addition, throughout the five-week session, the supervisors teach in the classrooms, observe instruction, and meet with teachers to discuss students' needs.



My child is no longer nervous when opening a book and thinking, 'I cannot do this.' -D.S.

The Recreation Program

Consistent with the Language Arts Program, the emphasis of Benchmark's Summer Recreation Program is on building self-confidence and skills across a wide variety of sports and activities. The program is designed to provide activities that students of all ages and ability levels will consider fun.

Half-Day Program

The half-day program occurs in the mornings and consists of one hour and forty-five minutes of recreation and a language arts session of equal length. During the half-day program children visit two recreation stations each day. Across the week, the children visit each of six recreations stations twice a week. Across the week, the students visit each of six recreations stations twice a week. The stations include arts and crafts, small group games, the Confidence Course, and many other activities.

Full-Day Program

The full-day program includes the half-day language arts and recreation sessions, as well as three and one-half hours of recreation activities in the afternoon. The afternoon recreation program includes new activities in established stations, plus new stations such as swimming and Discovery Club. In Discovery Club students engage in a variety of activities that bring science to life such as creating a model of a coral reef, taking nature hikes and building a room-sized circulatory system.

Recreation Counselors

The recreation counselors are a caring, experienced and dedicated group. The majority of the counselors have been part of the recreation staff for many years and all promote the enthusiasm and care that contributes to the success of the program.

The Confidence Course is designed to increase students' self-confidence and problem-solving skills through participation in a 35-event ropes course. The course is highlighted by the Zip Wire where every student is given the opportunity to ascend to great heights by overcoming a series of obstacles and to complete the event by jumping from a 40-foot high platform and flying down a 250-foot cable safely to the ground. The sense of accomplishment that is gained from this and other events on the course is tremendous.

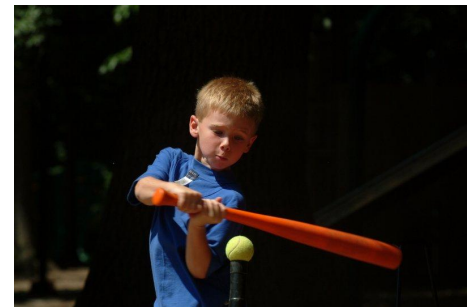
The variety of activities is wonderful. The challenge of the zip wire is super for self-esteem.
-P.E.



A+. Our child learned so much and enjoyed doing it. The counselors were great. -A.H.



Benchmark has been our daughter's favorite camp experience.
-A.V.



Our son loved this program. His self-confidence really soared. This was the best rec program I have ever been involved with. -K.M.





It is a fantastic program. Everything we are told at orientation is taught successfully in the classroom.
-M.R.

A Choice of Three Programs

Language Arts only (2 sessions)

Includes 1 3/4 hours of language arts instruction

Session A: 8:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Session B: 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Half-Day Language Arts & Recreation

Includes 1 3/4 hours of language arts instruction and 1 3/4 hours of recreation

8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Full-Day Recreation & Language Arts

Includes 1 3/4 hours of language arts instruction and a full day of recreational activities

8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

610.565.3741

email: benchmarkinfo@benchmarkschool.org

www.benchmarkschool.org



It was a truly a life-changing experience for both our children.
-L.R.

