



Camp Shalom



a program of
Jewish Federation
of Madison

Updated For Summer 2026

FAQs - Support At Camp

Campers with disabilities or special needs may require more supervision and support than our group counselors can provide, as ongoing 1:1 supervision and individualized support cannot be provided by counselors. We ask that families clearly indicate camper support needs on all registration materials so that we may talk directly to determine the best route for support and if our camp is a good fit for your child. Failure to provide accurate information may result in our being unable to serve your child when camp begins. Depending on your camper's needs, they may be eligible to utilize Camp Shalom Inclusion Aide services or will be best supported by UCP Dane or another third-party support.

Does My Camper Need Extra Support At Camp?

- Does my camper have paraeducator support, part- or full-time, at school?
- Does my camper receive additional support at extracurricular activities?
- Does my camper need assistance to make safe choices?
- Does my camper need support to stay with a group of peers?
- Does my camper need assistance with toileting, eating, mobility, or other personal care tasks?
- Does my camper benefit from regular breaks during the school day?

If the answer to questions like this is yes, your camper will need extra support at camp. Now, the question is - who will provide this support?

Camp Shalom Inclusion Aides

Primary Purpose:

- Help meet the emotional, behavioral, and physical needs of campers with identified support needs including disabilities. Assist during the camp day to encourage and support camper inclusion in programming, including self-help, behavior management, and 1:1 assistance with modifying camp activities to facilitate integration and participation with peers.

Specific Duties:

- Help support campers with injuries and physical disabilities (ex: walking on an alternative path if a camper has crutches, pushing a wheelchair, etc).
- Recognize differences in each camper's special medical, physical, communicative, and emotional needs and adapt methods and interactions accordingly.
- Work with individual campers to modify camp activities to encourage and facilitate participation (ex: taking campers for breaks if activities are overwhelming, providing physical assistance or verbal cueing with fine or gross motor activities).
- Participate in staff development training programs and meetings.
- Help campers access tools (ex: noise-canceling headphones, fidgets) to support participation.
- Work with the camper's support team to support growth towards camper-specific goals.
- Assist campers with making good choices during Chugim based on their interests and needs.

Our Inclusion Aides:

- Are 18+, and are typically university students with experience in childcare, who work with individuals with special needs, and are interested in related fields for their careers.
- Hiring is dependent on successfully completing respite provider training prior to the camp season, if not already certified. Training topics include:
 - Disability basics, client care, medication awareness, safety procedures, caring for challenging moments, professional ethics, interpersonal skills



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- Are Camp Shalom staff members, participate in general camp staff training, and have current CPR and First-Aid certifications.

Beyond Our Scope:

- Camp Shalom Inclusion Aides are not trained to support campers who display physical aggression.
- Camp Shalom Inclusion Aides are not trained in IBI (intensive behaviour intervention) or ABA (applied behaviour analysis).
- Camp Shalom Inclusion Aides are not certified to administer personal care for campers with MFTD (medically fragile and technologically dependent) needs.

Support Procedure

Camp Shalom Inclusion Aides

- Support is assigned on a first-come, best-served basis. We have a limited number of Camp Inclusion Aides. Families interested in utilizing Camp Inclusion Aide services should:
 - [Register for camp as early as possible.](#) For summer 2026, registration opens for returning campers, siblings of returning or former campers, children of camp alumni, and 2026 Gan HaYeled Preschool graduates, on March 2, 2026. New camper registration opens on March 3, 2026.
 - The CLTS code may be used when registering, if CLTS funds will be used to pay for camp tuition. There is no additional cost to receive Camp Inclusion Aide services.
 - **Turn in the Camp Inclusion Aide Support Service Request form as soon as possible.** This form is available through the registration system, Active. We ask that families clearly indicate camper support needs on all registration materials so that we may talk directly to determine the best route for support and if our camp is a good fit for your child. Failure to provide accurate information may result in our being unable to serve your child when camp begins.
 - Camp Shalom administrative staff will review request forms and follow up with families. Camp Inclusion Aide support will be confirmed, or further recommendations given for outside support or alternatives, after follow up meetings.

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Dane County

- We are grateful for our partnership of many years with [UCP Dane](#), and their support of our campers and camp. Families interested in utilizing UCP services should:
 - Go through the CLTS eligibility process, confirmation of which is necessary for a child to be eligible and receive services from UCP. To start this process, contact Dane County at 608-242-6226 or cltsintake@danecounty.gov.
 - [Register for camp as early as possible.](#) For summer 2026, registration opens for returning campers, siblings of returning or former campers, children of camp alumni, and 2026 Gan HaYeled Preschool graduates, on March 2, 2026. New camper registration opens on March 3, 2026.
 - The CLTS code may be used when registering, if CLTS funds will be used to pay for camp tuition.
 - When camp registration is confirmed, the family may apply for service by following the steps in the UCP Service Request Form, via UCP.

Privately Hired 1:1 Support

- If your camper will utilize a privately hired respite provider, please let camp administration know as soon as possible.

If 1:1 support is needed for your camper to be at camp and support cannot be secured, unfortunately, your camper will not be able to attend. Camp will fully refund all payments sent during registration.