



Camp Kaleidoscope

2017

“Here is a short testimonial of what Camp Kaleidoscope has given my family. In a word, Hope. The Hope that my daughter can go to camp just like all the other kids her age and play outside and make new friends. The Hope that she doesn't have to feel different for not always responding when someone says her name or asks her a question. The Hope that I feel as a mom for getting to spend some quality time with my other child, who isn't on the spectrum, while knowing that my daughter is in qualified and capable hands. And the Hope of seeing her smile every day after I picked her up from camp! It was truly a wonderful experience for our family and I *hope* that Camp Kaleidoscope continues to be offered as a yearly place for my daughter to grow and play without prejudice. Thank you for everything that you do!” Jessica

“My daughter, Ferne, was enrolled in two weeks of camp Kaleidoscope this summer. During the two weeks of camp my daughter was taken on outings in the community, spent time at the park, made crafts, prepared snacks, swam, met new friends and had a blast! Ferne had excellent support while at camp. Her camp counsellors were energetic, positive, caring and very attentive to Ferne's individual needs. Camp Kaleidoscope is a wonderful camp that provides children with autism a "day camp" experience in a safe and inclusive environment. Communication between staff and parents is excellent. Thank you Children at Risk for your hard work, dedication and the love you give our kids! I am looking forward to next year!” Joanne

“Wow! Year 2 of Camp K for my son - and we can't thank you enough! Alex had a terrific time! It was great to have him with some of the same friends. He had the same group lead, Jasmine. He got to spend time with his Buddy from last year, Sabreen, and to bond with a new Buddy, Cedric. A lot of time and planning goes into group formation and buddy matching and it is greatly appreciated! I am always impressed by the compassion, the caring and the professionalism of the youth employed in this program. What a skill set they will have upon entering their future careers! Alex had a great opportunity to work on his coping skills and his social skills, while having a super time in a safe environment! Every success builds his self-esteem and self-confidence! He is more open to trying new things and he is already asking about Saturday Fun Club! What I am trying to say in a roundabout way, is that Camp Kaleidoscope provides so much more than just a much needed service in the present. It is also building a much needed foundation for the future. An Autism-friendly future. Thank you again for EVERYTHING you do!” Julie

“My son is 7 years old and recently diagnosed with Aspergers. His whole life we tried to sign him up for daycares, camps and other programs, we found this very challenging. He did not enjoy any of them due to the loud noises, the bright sounds and the chaos that comes with many children in one group. My son would cry and scream and beg us not to let him go, he was sent home many times and punished for his melt downs. Meltdowns that were caused by a lack of understanding his diagnosis. This all started at the age of 3 when he was in childcare. I wanted him to feel included and I wanted my son to experience camp the way all children should. The first day I brought my son to Camp Kaleidoscope I knew he was in good hands. At the end of his first day he ran to me with excitement, he gave me a strong hug and told me how much he loved his new camp. Every morning was amazing because we would be very cooperative with getting ready for camp. I will always be very grateful that my son and I had the opportunity to experience Camp Kaleidoscope. I think that all children should feel included no matter what their disability or financial status!” Lyn



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“Camp Kaleidoscope has become indispensable for us. It has provided us much needed respite over the summer months and given our child happiness and entertainment as well as valuable social interaction and education. We try to sign up for as many weeks as we can be given every year!” Jack

“There has not been ONE place that I have gone to that offers Logan the safe, fun atmosphere and 1:1 care that you guys do and there is nothing else like this. We - like most families - are tight on funds and have had funding cuts but when we prioritize things – Camp K is #1.” Marta

“Jocelyne thoroughly enjoyed Camp Kaleidoscope once again this year. She thrives in this camp and we can't imagine a summer without it. In the mornings she would stand by the door holding her backpack pining to go. The high caliber of staff with their boundless energy and patience is what truly sets this camp apart. Jocelyne gets to truly enjoy summer thanks to Camp Kaleidoscope! Keep up the great work!!” Pierre and Deb

“This is Iris's parents. My husband and I are so thrilled that Iris had such a wonderful experience at Children at Risk's Camp Kaleidoscope. Firstly, we want to thank Children at Risk for providing this precious chance for children like Iris. As far as we know, Camp Kaleidoscope is the only one-on-one summer camp for children with autism in Ottawa. It was Iris's first full day summer camp, however, the transition was very smooth – we believe that is attributable to the trust and bond established in her previous participation in your Saturday Fun Club program and March Break camp. Although she was not able to tell us verbally, we could tell that she had a great time every day in the camp from her interactions with her counselors and from her mood when we picked her up. She will enter full day kindergarten at school in September; her positive experience in the summer camp has increased our confidence for another smooth transition. It was truly a wonderful experience for her and for us knowing she was having fun in a safe and fun filled environment. We 100% want to let her come back next summer!” Lilou & Hui

“Erik has been attending Camp Kaleidoscope since he was three and half years old. The first day I took him to camp he had tears running down his face because Mom was leaving him with strangers. (Erik never had a baby sitter.) The next morning at Camp K while saying hello to counsellors and signing Erik in; he ran straight into the camp without even saying goodbye to me! My son loves going to Camp K. He thinks it is the best. He also considers the people at Camp K “family”. We live in Kanata and it is a long trip to camp with it being in the East end this year, but Erik who hates long car trips & traffic will sit quietly in the car because it means having fun and being at camp!” Rose

“My son Myles has been attending Camp Kaleidoscope for at least a few years and he loves the camp. This year we had an incident at another camp that only confirmed our reasons for sending Myles to Camp K. He got upset and ran away, into traffic. This would not happen at Camp K and I feel so confident that I can send him to a safe, happy and friendly place where he fits in and feels at home. The staff are wonderful and everyone knows him and I just feel a part of the CAR family. We all love Camp K, so much so that our daughter worked there this past summer and also had a blast. Camp K rocks!” Cindy



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2017

“What an amazing experience! My family has been very fortunate to have connected with Children at Risk! Camp Kaleidoscope has truly blessed my family in many ways over the last few years. My nephew is now 19 years old, has limited abilities, is non-verbal and faces many challenges.... he has been kicked out of the summer learning program, requires too much assistance to participate in any city camps, and gets sent home on a regular basis from school. He suffers from extreme anxiety but loves interactions with people of all ages. He uses an iPad to communicate and can become frustrated and hit or run away. He requires a worker to go into the community and to partake in activities that we can enjoy anytime without a one to one support. Camp K provides a fun and safe program that allows him to be a kid!! They take the time to get to know each camper and pair counsellors appropriately. All of their staff are trained and really seem to enjoy what they do (have fun and help the campers) so that they too can enjoy their camp experience! The field trips are great and camp activities are planned accordingly taking into account the needs and wants of the kids 😊 My daughter has also had the opportunity to volunteer and now work as a peer buddy(counsellor) and can't wait to do it again! We all look forward to Camp K!!!! 😊 So many thanks to Children at Risk!” Tracy

“My son Ryan has been going to Camp Kaleidoscope for the past 5 years and he loved every minute of it. He always has a big smile on his face when he goes and when we pick him up. I never have to worry about him because I know he's in good hands with the amazing camp counselors. I would recommend Camp Kaleidoscope to anyone who's looking for a camp for their special needs child(ren).” Julian

“I want to thank you for the exceptional Camp Experience my son has enjoyed this summer! It is so difficult for me to maintain the high energy level dictated by my sons varied medical exceptionalities while keeping him safe and engaged, but somehow you manage to deliver superior programming with joyous attentive staff. This was our second year with your camp. I do not trust my son's care to many people. His behaviours need to be constructively handled while supporting his individuality; a skill very few trained personnel possess (in my opinion over 19 years in the biz). The fact that this guy jumps out of bed every morning because it is a "Camp Day" and hustles ME out to the car is a very loud way for my non-verbal son to say I LOVE THIS! I applaud his Camp Counsellor - Jennifer is gold! I am so grateful for your organization and hope we can access your summer program for many years to come. It is comforting to know George is so well supervised and that his safety is paramount - while he enjoys his full days of activities!” Karen

“Camp Kaleidoscope of 2017 with weeks 1-3 and week 5 were the most spectacular weeks EVER!!! :) The best parts of every week were swinging at the park, swimming at the wave pool and going on field trips: such as Saunder's Farm, Karter's Korners, Brewer Park, the Walkley Bowling Alley, the St. Laurent Shopping Center's Imagine Cinemas, and most of all: Mont Cascades! Thank you so much for understanding me and taking such good care of me and making me happy. My support workers were: Kianna, Sarah, Josette, Annalee and Carol. And they were full of life and they sang and colored with me! I can't wait for next summer! You make every summer very special for me!” Anuk (Camp K Camper)



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2017

“This was our son's first year at Camp Kaleidoscope and he loved it. It has been his favourite camp this summer. When I went to the intake interview, I had a good feeling about it as the interviewer was so accommodating and completely knew how to keep my son entertained/occupied while we spoke. She was able to get him to engage with her as well. We originally were going to sign him up for 1 week to give it a try but I liked the interviewer so much that I registered him for 2 weeks. She was fantastic and was able to fit him in for the weeks requested. Our son was diagnosed less than 2 years ago and this was our first summer signing him up for specialized ASD camps. I am so grateful that Camp Kaleidoscope exists and that the counsellors are so great with our son. He came home happy each day and they do way more activities with the kids than just letting them play. ASD is new to us and so we're looking forward to seeing all the other activities that are available through Children at Risk. It was also comforting knowing there's a whole world of other kids similar to my son and that we're not alone. We're looking forward to enrolling our son again next year. Thanks for the great 2 weeks!” LeAnh

“This is my testimonial on the greatest camp on earth. Summer has flown by and is almost done and it couldn't have been as successful without the care my son got in the two weeks he attended Camp Kaleidoscope. My son has a new diagnosis of being on the spectrum (May 2017) so we didn't have much time to plan for his summer vacation from school. In the past, City run programs were not a good fit, but when I was introduced to your camp and read about it and heard from others who have dealt with you, I had nothing to lose and sought out a placement with your camp. From the beginning of the process to the end, it was the most positive experience I have endured. The staff go above and beyond to answer questions, make everyone comfortable and most importantly, provide our children with the best care and the most fun in a safe environment that they could ever have. I look forward to many years ahead for my son to continue with such a great organization that loves and cares for him as much as I do. Thank you Camp Kaleidoscope for a memorable summer and new friendship!!!” Rebecca

“Thank you Children at Risk for providing a safe, fun and interesting camp for our daughter. We're always impressed with your programming and how happy our girl is when we drop her off and pick her up at the end of the day. We are very grateful for this opportunity, summer would be a very different story without Camp Kaleidoscope. See you next year!” Chantal, Darren and Arlo

“We had an amazing time this year at the bet summer camp in world! I would like to send a special Thank you for your support in ensuring that our Autistic children a fun, safe environment handling some of the most difficult days with behaviors and non-verbal children and giving parents a greatly appreciated rest without worrying about anything but what's for dinner! God bless you for all your support and making summer holiday and exciting one for 2017. Many thanks to all of the Supporters who also donate to make it possible.” Natalie

“Actually my son Halim Bitar is nonverbal, so I couldn't hear from him anything about Camp Kaleidoscope, but it's enough for me to see his smile and to know that he is having fun. I know that he enjoyed his time a lot, and all the activities were very interesting. I'm very glad to be a member of Children at Risk and a big thanks to all your Staff!” Mai



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2017

“I would like to inform you that Camp Kaleidoscope was amazing! Mariam had a great time during one week in the camp, she made friends and become more social to interact with other people. I am very grateful for your kind and continuous support to us as a family of disabled child and wish you the best for all upcoming events, especially the summer camp for next year!” Yasmin

“Isabelle had so much fun at camp, when I picked her up her face lights up. She really loved drawing and going Swimming and of course the special trips to new places that she hasn't been before. She started drawing more and singing and playing with her brother. Miguel loves camp Kaleidoscope more than school. I can tell because he loves wearing the Camp Kaleidoscope shirt but when I showed him the school uniform he put it away in his dresser, also tries to take off his sister's uniform! I really believe that Camp Kaleidoscope has helped my son and daughter in all kinds of activities from cooking, to socializing with other kids and the Councilors. Also being introduced to a new environment with their Trips before we go as a family, there is less tantrums and they know what is expected. Miguel likes playing outside more than watching videos in his tablet and it was so hard to take it away from him. I never thought it could be possible. Thank you to everyone that made this change in my kids possible!” Maria & Stephane

“I have the pleasure of writing about our family's experience with Camp Kaleidoscope. My 16 year-old daughter has Autism and is non-verbal. While she cannot speak she seeks and enjoys social interaction like everyone else. The challenge for my family is to find positive and supportive socialization opportunities. Camp Kaleidoscope provides the type of wonderful camp experience that is not offered by any other service in Ottawa. The counsellors are carefully screened and selected by the Children at Risk staff who do a marvelous and miraculous job of finding enthusiastic, capable and engaged camp staff that all the children enjoy being with. The camp offers both socialization opportunities and outings in the community. My daughter went to camp with a smile every day and never hesitated to walk into camp-a real testimony of how much she enjoyed it. For the families, it is a great comfort and joy to see our children participate in a welcoming, safe and accepting community. All the staff at Camp Kaleidoscope also interact with the families and parents with a great deal of sensitivity and compassion which can also be very difficult to come by with other service providers. The children attend the camp but the entire family benefits from it!” Anna

“My son Devin attended Camp Kaleidoscope for 2 weeks this summer. It was his second time and he had a blast. The one on one with a worker enabled him to be free, to be happy and to have the biggest smile ever for those 2 weeks. It also allowed the rest of the family to relax because we did not have to worry about his care while at Camp Kaleidoscope. The one on one workers provide a huge level of comfort and care. This camp and these workers provide such a unique setting for these kids. This can't be matched anywhere else in Ottawa. I am so thankful and grateful for this Camp. Thank you Camp Kaleidoscope and all of the wonderful people that make this Camp possible!!! Devin had a wonderful time and as a family we are just thrilled to have discovered this wonderful camp and wonderful organization. We can't wait to see you next year!!!” Nicole



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"Our little boy had such a good time at camp kaleidoscope this year. He couldn't wait to get in the door each morning and he came home happy, fulfilled and really tired (which is great!). It is so difficult to find a camp that will meet our son's needs. This camp does that and so much more. Camp Kaleidoscope is a real gift! Thank you Camp Kaleidoscope for giving our little guy the opportunity to experience camp just like any other kid. He had a ball!" Tracy

"My sincere appreciation to the management and staff at Children at Risk for the wonderful camp experience my grandson has had this summer. The 1:1 staff/camper ratio is a very rare service in the community yet it is a very important service within the special needs community. If not for Children at Risk, my grandson has very limited opportunities for day camp given his unique needs. Because of the 1:1 ratio, my grandson lived successes during the entire sessions. He has gained confidence and a willingness to participate and got excited about the day. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity!" Paula

"Camp Kaleidoscope is a wonderful camp. The staff are all amazing. They take wonderful care of our children and keep them busy all day with exciting activities. This camp is essential for our family. There is no other camp that supplies a worker to be with our son one on one all day. I never worry about him knowing that he is in good hands. My son enjoys this camp and we can see that he is happy. Not sure what we would do without Camp Kaleidoscope. Only wish this camp would run the whole summer! Thank you Camp Kaleidoscope for another great summer!" Sandra

"I wanted to let you know how much Zachary enjoyed Camp Kaleidoscope this summer camp 2017 and a huge thank you to Children at Risk and all who participated in making life so much better from a single parent home! Hard to let go without having anxiety whether or not my child is safe and having a good time with you, but with your camp I feel calm and assured that you know what it takes to ensure that our children are safe and happy and busy having a wonderful time in your care! God bless you all for the chance to participate in such a needed respite program. Thank you." Nataly

"Camp Kaleidoscope was my son's first summer camp he ever attended and he absolutely loved it. He felt welcomed, accepted and safe and that made the whole difference in morning drop offs. He also had so much fun that he would ask to go back the following day and would get ready without any hesitation. My child was happy and safe and as a parent that is more than I could have asked for. Also, as a parent, I really enjoyed the fact that there was such a great variety of activities planned on a daily basis, so I also looked forward to my son exposed to all these different experiences and going places. Overall, this summer camp experience was so worth it, exceeded my expectations, I would highly recommend it and both my son and I are looking forward to it next year. Also, huge thanks to the wonderful staff as well, they made this whole experience more so unforgettable. This is from *One Happy Parent!*" Dijana