Agreement for Multiple Session Attendance

Because it is our goal to set children up for success at camp, we work individually with each child and his/her parent or guardian to determine the best plan for each summer’s attendance. For some campers, a second session at Starfish can be very successful, and can enhance the progress made during their first session. However, it is the exception, rather than the rule, for campers to attend more than one session at Camp Starfish per summer. For many campers, the best of intentions to provide a lot of a good thing turns out to be just “too much.”

There are many reasons for this, two of the most common being (1) the intensive structure of the environment and/or (2) changes that occur from one session to the next, for example counselors having switched cabins, campers living in different cabins, or making social connections with a new group of campers. There is no set “formula” for whether a camper can or can’t, should or shouldn’t attend more than one session; rather, it is a decision that the camper, his/her family, our staff, and any clinical or therapeutic supports should be involved in together.

This Agreement helps ensure that we all have a common understanding of everyone’s expectations surrounding the Starfish experience. If you have this agreement, it is most likely because you’ve already spoken with one of our Directors about having your camper attend multiple sessions. Please read the items below, sign the Agreement, and return it to our office. If you have any questions, or would like to talk further about this or any topic related to your child’s attendance at Starfish, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

To be considered for returning participation in a second session during the same summer:

1. A camper must show, within reasonable expectations and with all appropriate options/reasonable assistance as can be provided by Starfish, a general ability to:
   a) be respectful of others, including campers, staff and camp property
   b) participate in activities, try new things, be a part of the camp community
   c) follow the daily schedule without significant time spent “away from program”
   d) listen to, respect, and make all honest efforts to use the Starfish Tools, and
   e) express interest in returning for another session when asked his/her opinion.

2. A camper will be registered into multiple sessions upon request from a parent/guardian at the discretion of the Camper Admissions committee and with the agreement of the Camp Director only. Camp Starfish reserves the right not to grant a second session of attendance to a camper, dependent upon the experience of a camper’s first session of attendance in any given summer (see 1 above). Camp Starfish’s preference is that this decision is made cooperatively with parents/guardians, campers, and the camp.

3. Partway through a camper’s first session, one of our Directors will contact the parent/guardian to discuss progress-to-date at camp, and to finalize discussions about a camper’s returning participation that summer.

4. If it is decided by Camp Starfish that a camper planning to return for another session is not able to do so, Starfish will refund any fees paid in anticipation of a returning session, with the exception of the registration deposit ($50). In other cases (for example voluntary withdrawal of a camper from multiple session registration) the standard Camp Starfish Refund Policy will apply.

4. A decision that two sessions in one summer would not be advisable will have no bearing whatsoever on attendance in future summers. It is the exception, rather than the expectation, that a camper will attend more than one session in the same summer. All campers, age permitting, are welcome to apply to return to camp each year.

Parent/Guardian Name ____________________________ Signature __________________ Date _________

Notes/Comments: