

# **Planning for Summer: ISACS Webinar**

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## **I. Introduction: The Sweetest Moments of Childhood**

What are your goals for summer? What do you want your children to remember about their summers?

## **II. The financial realities: time and money and age of children**

How much time can you take off? How much flexibility do you have?  
How old are your children? How much childcare do you need?

## **III. Family time vs. away-from-family adventures**

What were your best summer memories?

## **IV. Paradoxes of Parenting**

1. The paradox of control
2. The paradox of choice
3. The paradox of information
4. The paradox of the “great parent”

## **V. Eight Things You Cannot Do for Your Children**

1. We cannot make our children happy.
2. We cannot give our children high self-esteem.
3. We cannot make friends for them or micromanage their friendships.
4. We cannot successfully double as our child’s agent, manager, coach
5. We cannot create the “second family” for which our child yearns in order to facilitate his or her own growth.
6. It is increasingly apparent that we parents cannot compete with or limit their child’s electronic connections.
7. We cannot keep our children perfectly safe but can drive them crazy trying.
8. We cannot make our children independent.

## **VI. Homesickness – A Fire in My Stomach**

- 81% of children have manageable homesickness.

- 19% of children show signs of distress.
- 6% of children have homesickness that does not remit.

## **VII. The Magic of Camp**

1. Opportunities for Imagination, Play and Creativity
2. Camp is Not School (No tests, judgment or evaluation)
3. Character Development: “I feel part of something bigger.”
4. Sacred Dimensions: “If we only take time to stop and look around.”
5. Independence, Self-esteem and Identity
6. Friendships and Social Skills
7. Making a Relationship with Nature
8. Healthy Sexuality and Body Development: “The Naked Brigade”
9. Relationships between Counselors and Children
10. Leadership Training

## **VIII. Childsick and Happy**

1. Give your child the gift of letting him or her go.
2. Prepare your child for homesickness.
3. Do not try to manage homesickness from a distance.
4. Do not make the “We’ll take you home if you’re unhappy” deal.
5. Help your children practice the skills they need before they leave.
6. Use letters, postcards and other, slower forms of communication.
7. Take a vacation from parenting, have some fun and don’t feel guilty about it!

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