

# How recreational summer camps can help refugee children integrate

## Exploring belonging: Experiences of refugee children and families in a Montreal recreational setting

**AUTHORS:** Ives, N., Alqawasma, H., Kline, P., Morland, L. Rabiau, M., Gonzalez, E.

**SUMMARY:** Recreation initiatives such as summer camps can provide opportunities for children to improve their language literacy, learn Canadian norms, and develop friendships – contributing to overall belonging.

**LINK:** Click [here](#) to read the executive summary; click [here](#) for the research report.

By participating in a recreational setting such as a summer camp, children and their families can:



### Recommendations:

- Offer staff and volunteers training on working with children who have experienced trauma
- Consider sliding fee scale to accommodate campers from diverse economic backgrounds.
- Hire staff with diverse experience and professional training.
- Pay attention to children's differences in personalities and physical needs.
- Choose a location near public transport and closer to families.
- Ensure the camp space is large enough for camp activities.
- Encourage participation and inclusion by engaging campers in designing activities and programs.