



Camp Jojo FAQs

Application Process

When do applications open?

Our family applications open 2nd January 2025. This will be announced via our social media and website.

When do applications close?

Applications close on 31st January 2025.

Is there an age limit?

Camp Jojo is a children's charity so the child/children you are applying for must be 17 years old (or younger) at the time they attend camp. We can accept siblings older than 17 years old but we can only offer volunteer support to those under 18 years of age.

Can I apply if I have been before?

Even if you have attended Camp Jojo before, you can apply again. However, we do have to give as many people as possible the chance to enjoy Camp Jojo, so being selected for a second camp is less likely. Sadly, we can't guarantee you will be given the opportunity to come again.

What is your criteria?

Our criteria includes things such as:

For the disabled child/children - the complexity of disability of the child, the disability equipment needed, the life expectancy of the child, recent hospitalisations, the level of care support received from services.

Issues for the family as a whole - such as the difficulty for them to go away all together; any recent significant losses and changes or stresses for the family; what wider support is available for them; whether any other holiday is possible; current financial constraints; and particular concerns for siblings.

I think my child is too complex for Camp Jojo?

It would be very rare for us not to offer a place to a family because their child was 'too complex'. However, we will always discuss the risks of particular complexities in a camp setting with the family, so that you can make an informed choice whether to come or not. We have had children on oxygen, on ventilators, with intractable epilepsy and with respiratory arrests at Camp, and we can provide most equipment. But we will not accept a child with severe complexities without careful discussions with you, the parent/carer(s), as to what support we can and can't provide.

I don't think my child not complex enough for Camp Jojo?

It is true that most disabled children who come to Camp Jojo have complex needs. So for instance they may have extensive disability equipment needs; or complex medical equipment needs; or a combination of physical neurodiversity needs; or a life limiting condition. Or occasionally they may have severe neurodiversity with associated severe behavioural or mental health problems. Some families may have several children with additional needs. It is not likely that we could offer a place to a family where complexity of need is not present.

If you are unsure, then please do check out criteria before applying.

How many families do you select?

For each camp we select 6-8 families (depending on the size of each family and how we can accommodate them). In 2024 we welcomed 43 families to camp and received 284 applications.

How are families selected?

We have a family selection team who are made up of people who have lived and learned experience of disability, come from a medical or educational background. Our team spend time carefully going through all the applications that have been received. They are discussed and assessed against our criteria which includes the following:

For the disabled child/children - the complexity of disability of the child, the disability equipment needed, the life expectancy of the child, recent hospitalisations, the level of care support received from services.

Issues for the family as a whole - such as the difficulty for them to go away all together; any recent significant losses and changes or stresses for the family; what wider support is available for them; whether any other holiday is possible; current financial constraints; and concerns for siblings.

Can I appeal if I'm unsuccessful?

Unfortunately, we don't accept appeals. Our family selection process is very thoroughly carried out by a team of people with lived, learned or medical experience. It is a lengthy process which takes a couple of months. Once decisions are made, they are final.

Can I reapply next year if I'm unsuccessful?

We welcome people to reapply, even if you have been unsuccessful in the past. We are aware that family circumstances change year on year so please check you meet our criteria, by clicking

on this link, first.

When will I find out if my family has been accepted?

We aim to notify all families, whether successful or not, by the end of April.

How much does it cost?

Camp Jojo covers the vast majority of the cost for the camping experience for your family. We just ask you for a £50 contribution towards those costs. This is asked for in two instalments. The first £25 when you accept your place and another £25 four weeks before you come to camp. We understand not everyone is in the position to make these payments, so we also have a bursary application for those who need it.

When is it/how long for?

Our Camp Jojo experiences are two nights/three days. Running from Friday early afternoon-Sunday early afternoon. All camps take place in July and August.

Catering

Do I need to bring food?

All your meals and snacks are provided (link to example menu?). We encourage you to bring anything else you may require/want such as particular snacks/drinks your children enjoy. Please note that Camp JoJo is a nut free camp.

What do I do if I have a food allergy/intolerance?

We will ask you about any of food allergies or intolerances before your visit so we can cater for you. We aim to cater for everyone. **Please note that Camp Jojo is a nut free camp.**

Is there a microwave or fridge?

There is a microwave and fridge located in the communal barn for families to use. We also have a separate fridge for medication.

Is there a blender for my child's blended diet?

We do have a blender at camp for blended diets. You are also welcome to bring your own if you prefer.

Equipment

Do you have hoisting?

We have hoisting available in some of our tents, a bathroom and Mobiloo with hoisting as well as a mobile hoist. You child's requirements will be discussed with you.

Do I need to bring a tent or sleeping bag?

Everything you need to camp, such as tents, sleeping bags and mats are provided. You are welcome to bring your own duvet or bedding if you prefer.

What do I sleep on?

We have a selection of camping mats and camp beds allocated based on need. Your family's requirements will be discussed with you.

Are there any charging points/electrics at the farm?

There is electricity in the communal barn to charge phones and other non-essential items. There are only four tents that have a power supply for essential medical equipment such as oxygen, apnoea alarms, suctioning and feeding pumps. The needs of each family will be discussed, and these tents will be allocated accordingly.

Is there somewhere safe I can store my child's medication?

There is a fridge with safety latch located in the communal barn for medication. We also provide small lockers for medication that doesn't need to be refrigerated.

The Camp Site

Where is Camp Jojo?

Camp Jojo is based at a farm on East Mersea Island, Essex.

Is there anywhere to park?

There is parking at the Farm. You will be able to drive round to your tent to unpack your car before being asked to return it to the parking area.

Where is the nearest train station?

The nearest train station is Colchester which is about 30 minutes away. If you require a pickup please let us know. Please note, we do not have a WAV for pick ups.

Is there any internet access?

The farm does not have internet access.

What is there to do at Camp?

There is plenty to do at Camp Jojo, including feeding the farm animals, pottery, music, pizza, making, sports, craft and a beach trip. We also have a talent show at each camp. Please see an example itinerary here:

Example Timetable

(Some timings may be subject to change depending on weather and tides)

	DAY 1 2pm - Families arrive and settle in 5pm - Camp Gathering 6pm - Dinner 7pm - Campfire 9.30pm - Quiet site**	
	DAY 2 8am - Morning Team Time 8am - 9.30am - Help-yourself Breakfast 10am - 11am - Morning activity session 1 11am - 12 noon - Morning activity session 2 12.30pm - 1.30pm - Lunch 2.30pm - Beach walk/games 6pm - BBQ dinner 7pm - Camp Jojo's Got Talent 9.30pm Quiet site**	
	DAY 3 8am - Morning Team Time 8am - 9.30am - Help-yourself Breakfast 10am - 11am - Morning activity session 1 11am - 12 noon - Morning activity session 2 12.30pm - 1.30pm - Lunch 2pm - Whole camp gathering 3pm - Assisted pack-up and leave camp 4.30pm - Volunteers debrief	

**After quiet site, a second campfire will either be lit at the bottom of the field, or people will gather in the barn, for parents/volunteers to chat & relax if they wish.

What equipment does Camp JoJo have on site?

We provide a range of equipment at Camp Jojo from medical profiling beds and safe beds to a Ppod chair, all terrain buggy's and hippocamps. Please see our short video showing you around the farm and the equipment we have available here.

Is it possible for children to leave the camp site?

We are a secure site in a rural area and the gate is closed once everyone has arrived. The camping is in a large open space allowing children to have freedom to run around and play. We do require children to be observed by a responsible adult.

Is it cold at night?

It can get cold, yes. We have extra blankets, hot water bottles and some electric blankets if needed. Please feel free to bring your own duvets, pillows or extras for warmth and comfort.

Are there mosquitos?

Being outside in the summer months means that there will be mosquitos and insects that bite. Please bring repellent and/or something to ease bite stings.

What happens if it rains?

We advise that you check the weather before you arrive at camp and pack accordingly. If it is due to rain please pack waterproofs, wellie boots, and plenty of clothes – as we do not provide these. We will adjust the itinerary to keep you as warm and dry as possible. We will also supply warm drinks and hot water bottles.

What happens if it's a heatwave?

We advise that you check the weather before you arrive at camp and pack accordingly. If it is due to be hot and sunny, please pack sun cream, hats and other items you may need. We will provide shade where we can. We do have a supply of paddling pools and water pistols which are a popular way to cool down. We also have a small number of fans.

Lost Property

Unfortunately, we do not have the facilities to store lost property indefinitely so anything left at Ivy Farm will be kept until 1 month following the last camp before it will be taken to the local charity shop.

Can I buy a Camp Jojo t-shirt or hoody?

Yes, of course. Please contact us at camp to ask.

Health, Safety and Emergency information

Where is the nearest pharmacy?

Boots Pharmacy, 37 Barfield Road, West Mersea, CO5 8QX.

Where is the nearest hospital?

Colchester General Hospital, Turner road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5JL. Approx. 30 minutes by car.

What happens if there is an emergency at whilst my family are at Camp Jojo?

Whilst we hope everyone who visits Camp Jojo has an enjoyable, stress free time we are aware that sometimes things don't always go to plan. Please see our In 'Case of Emergency at Camp Jojo' document below:



In case of Emergency



At Camp Jojo we really do appreciate the bravery it takes for our families to decide to come camping. It goes without saying that we hope our families enjoy their experience and make precious memories. However, we are all too aware that sometimes things don't go as planned.

Minor Accident or Illness

In the event of someone having an accident or being ill on site we do have a trained first aider.

Emergency

In the event of an emergency, we will call 999. It is important we make it clear to our families that Mersea is an island and for a couple of hours each day, when the tide is high, access will be restricted. This means that an ambulance would not be able to gain access to our site. That said, the ambulance service is aware of the accessibility issues and there is a contingency in place which calls on first responders who are located on the island, the coast guard and ultimately Essex Air Ambulance (if they are required).

Relevant Services

Colchester General Hospital, Turner Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5JL. Main line 01206 747474. (Approx 30 minutes by car)

Primary Care Centre, Turner Road, Colchester, CO4 5JR. Main line 01206 747474

Boots Pharmacy, 37 Barfield Road, West Mersea, CO5 8QX Main line 01206 382850

Other Relevant Information

We are aware that a lot of our family require essential medical equipment for their children, and this can be used 24/7. There is electricity available on site and families that require use of such equipment will be placed in tents that have an electricity supply. In the event of a power cut we do have a generator that will be able to keep essential equipment running.