



AIA'S SUMMER PLAYCATION FAQ'S

You're about to embark on a brand new adventure!

Now that might be exciting, daunting, anxiety inducing, thrilling or some other combination of feelings – it certainly was for us as we were designing it. But, we are really excited to show you what we've been working on over the past few months, and hope to answer some of your questions!

What is it?

Simply put, Summer Playcation is a video series. Think of it like a television show.

We've created two weeks of unique content, five episodes each. You, the host, choose the week of content that best suits your context. You might even be inclined to do one of each.

The first set of videos are centred around soccer drills and activities. We've framed these five episodes around an explicitly Christian perspective, while the second week is based on basketball. You'll notice that the stories from the coaches in Week Two are carefully constructed so that they might be appropriate for a non-Christian audience.

Summer Playcation is designed to work by participating in one episode per day. In this way, it still feels like day camp. Normally, we have our kids Monday to Friday for a week at a time. Playcation is structured in the same fashion. However, you have the flexibility to run things however you'd like for your community.

But that's where the similarities to TV end. Summer Playcation isn't meant to be digested all in one sitting, even to watch a string of episodes in a row. Although it can be watched continuously, it's designed with natural stopping points for human interaction. Like the classic caveat from a toy commercial: "some assembly is required". Summer Playcation was designed as both a resource and a tool for further engagement with your campers!

How have we structured each episode?

Each episode follows a similar pattern: our hosts welcome and introduce the theme for the day, send us to the field or court, which for many of your viewers will be their living room and back yard, for the warm up and drill, and afterward bring along a guest coach to share a portion of their personal story. Often, there is an activity to do following the testimony and opportunities for further discussion depending on the forum for day camps.

Along with the videos, you'll receive a companion document called "The Playbook". The Playbook is a catch-all instruction manual for running Playcation.

It contains further written instructions for each drill, diagrams, and add ons — what we call "progressions" which would allow for customization for different age and ability levels. We've included equipment lists — which always are substitutable depending on what materials you have on hand.

As we created Summer Playcation, our hope was that we would be able to take each day's theme beyond the video and into conversations with hosts, parents, peers and friends. The Playbook will include questions to expand on the content paired with a drawing or colouring activity that you can do with the kids.

How long is each episode?

Before I answer that question specifically, let me try to provide an illustration that should help in understanding Summer Playcation and how to use it:

You know Tide Pods? Those enticing colourful squishy packets of laundry soap? Well, once upon a time we had to buy big jugs of laundry detergent and pour a whole cup of powder or liquid inside every time we wanted to wash our clothes. But no longer. One pod is all you need. Why? Because Tide Pods are more concentrated! So, AIA's Summer Playcation, like a Tide Pod, is a concentrated form of Day Camp.

The total run-time of each episode will be similar to a standard TV show — between 15-20 mins long. But, in executing the camp, that content and material can be spread out over the course of a few hours, depending on your context.

And this is where you come in. Different hosts will have varying amounts of resources, time and volunteers on-hand, so Summer Playcation could look quite different across different environments. This, I'm sure, brings me to your burning question:

How should I run Playcation?

This is a tough one to answer, because right now every province has different guidelines as they approach the various phases of re-opening. There are two important things to consider before hosting:

1. Connect with your regional director who can help you come up with a game plan suited to your specific context and environment.
2. Pre-Watch the week of content and review the Playbook while you and your team devise a plan on how to bring Playcation to life.

Let's try a couple different scenarios:

Some communities might be running Playcation 100% digitally, beaming it directly into the households in your area. In that case, setting a schedule for the participants is a great idea.

Beforehand, your leaders can decide on start times and time allotments for each activity and invite participants to head outside to play and check back in after snack or after lunch. Maybe you even have the capabilities to host or introduce Playcation, much like a satellite church operates.

If, as a host, you're able to meet in person in small groups you might have a little more flexibility and could add in elements that you love like your own games, crafts, worship etc. It might feel or resemble more of a traditional day camp structure:

Here's a mock schedule:

8:30-9am - Drop Off
9:15am - Welcome & Worship
9:45am - Watch the introduction Playcation Skit, Warm up and Drill
10:00am - Head Outside to practice
11:30am - Lunch
12:30pm - Playcation Testimony Video
12:45pm - Small Group Discussion & Prayer
1:00pm - Craft/Drawing Activity
2:00pm - Outside Games
3:00pm - Snack
3:30pm - Home Time!

A **third option** might even be compressing the material into a few hours. This would be more similar to $\frac{1}{2}$ day kindergarten. With this option, you may be able to run the same material 2x in a single day.

Let's jump in!

As you can see, the possibilities are endless!

That's why we want to work alongside you in making the hosting process as easy as possible. You should feel supported, but also at liberty to be creative and innovative as you deliver Summer Playcation. You know your community and provincial guidelines far better than we do, so let us help you maximize the experience for your participants!