



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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PARENT'S GUIDE

YMCA OF GREATER OMAHA EARLY LEARNING CENTERS & CHI HEALTH TRANSITION

Welcome to the YMCA Early Learning Centers & Preschools! We are excited that you have chosen the Y to educate and care for your child. We believe in hands on learning and engaging your child and family in your child's education. This Parents Guide was created to help you understand the transition from CHI Health child care to YMCA Early Learning Center.

About the YMCA of Greater Omaha

The YMCA of Greater Omaha is so much more than a gym; it's a cause dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Y has had a presence in Omaha for over 150 years. Today the Y has over 62,000 members, impacts over 50,000 children through youth programs and provides over \$1.7 million in financial assistance. CHI Health & the YMCA of Greater Omaha share a vision of strengthening and building better communities.

The YMCA early learning/preschool programs are dedicated to providing quality childcare. Each location emphasizes the children's emotional, physical, social, cultural and cognitive developmental needs. Teamwork between parents and staff will ensure the best possible environment for the children. The objective of the educational philosophy is to foster the growth and education of children in such a way that it makes an important contribution to their well-being. The program is designed to offer a variety of learning experiences.

Transition Period

The Y will take over operations of CHI child care centers on June 3, 2017. Prior to this, the Y will be hiring staff and introducing families and children to their site directors, teachers and other early learning staff. We will maintain continued communication with parents on updates and welcome questions to Jenny Holweger, Vice President of Programming, at any time: jholweger@metroymca.org.

Staff

It is the YMCA's intention to keep as many of the CHI staff with the children as possible. The Y will introduce the staff members to parents once the hiring process is finalized, late April - early May.

The YMCA programs are licensed by the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Humans Services or State of Iowa Department of Health and Human Services for Council Bluffs and Mills County. This means that each of the Y programs must meet the health, safety and programming standards established by the state. These staff hiring standards include:

- all staff are trained in CPR and first aid,
- additional child development training,
- background checks
- staff must meet specific education, experience and/or training expectations to be a qualified teacher.

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Staff are carefully chosen for their ability to nurture a child's individual needs. Many staff members have training in Early Childhood Education and the Y provides opportunities for ongoing education. Staff are required training in several areas, including; lesson planning, discipline, developmentally appropriate practices, communication, Nebraska & Iowa Early Learning guidelines. All staff members are mandatory reporters of child abuse. A copy of the licensing standards are available on line and/or by request to the director. Each site has a copy of their licensing consultant's name and number available to you.

Schedules

One or Two Days Flexible Schedules

Because a one or two day flexible spot leave 60-80% of the week unfilled, a one or two day flexible schedule will only be available on a space available basis. Once the fixed and three day flexible enrollments are scheduled, one and two day openings will be made available one week prior to the week of service for those needing one and two day care.

Vacation Days

There is not credit for days not attended.

Hours of Operation

Lakeside	6:00 am- 6:15 pm
Mercy Little Blessings	6:00 am- 6:00 pm
Bergan	6:00 am- 7:30 pm*
Immanuel	6:00 am- 7:30 pm*

*With notice, the closing times may change if attendance is low.

Saturdays

After reviewing past attendance and visiting with parents, there will be no Saturday service, beginning June 3. Average attendance over the past six months is about 6 children. Since we need 10-12 children to open the center to pay for staffing, we will not be able to offer the Saturday option.

Closings

The Y strives to keep our early learning centers open for all service days, even during school district weather closings and federally mandated holidays. In a rare occasion, weather may require us to close unexpectedly. All closings will be communicated with parents as soon as possible.

Grandfathered Options

Current CHI families with currently enrolled children or children on the waiting list at any of the four centers will be grandfathered into the flexible and fixed schedule options for the time the children attend the center. New families and current families that dis-enroll but wish to re-enroll, will be under the new rate plans.

Enrollment Forms Due

All enrollment forms for children to continue attending CHI Early Learning Centers post-transition (June 3rd) are due on April 29. Please return directly to your child care site director.

School Age Children

Summer Day Camp

Summer Day Camp is the YMCA summer program for school age children and will be offered at Immanuel and Bergan for the summer of 2017. The program runs M-F, 9:00 am- 4:00 and before and after care is provided from opening to closing hours. The Camp guide can be found here: <http://metroymca.org/camp>.

Schools Day Out

Schools Day Out is offered during the school year for school age children when school is not in session. Location of the center will determine which schools calendars will be followed. Snow Day Schools Day Out will also be offered. All planned days will be available for sign-up in-person and on-line once the school year begins.

Tuition & Payment

Payment Transition

Because CHI bills two weeks after service and the YMCA bills the Friday before service, there will be an overlap in child care fees on May 31, June 9, and June 16. All child care fees will still be due, so please plan accordingly. If this creates a financial hardship for your family, please contact Jenny Holweger to inquire about a temporary scholarship/financial assistance.

Payroll Deduct

Because the YMCA does not have access to CHI payroll, payroll deduction will not be an option for payment. Payment must be made by automatic credit card or debit card draft the Friday before service.

Liability Waiver

The liability waiver on the enrollment form is required by our insurance and lawyer. The standard language of the waiver is on every membership application and program enrollment form for the YMCA of Greater Omaha. Over 50,000 children are served each year by the YMCA. Each of their parents have signed this liability waiver.

The standards the YMCA maintains are independent of the liability waiver. The YMCA meets all licensing standards of the state of Nebraska or Iowa, dependent on location. We also meet all YMCA of the USA standards. Supervision of children by a supervised staff is key to the safety of the children and is always our first priority. We have a strict child abuse prevention policy and all staff and volunteers must abide by it.

CHI Employee Status / YMCA Member

Both CHI Employee Status and YMCA members receive the YMCA member rate for the CHI Early Learning Locations. This applies only to child care at the Bergan, Immanuel, Lakeside and Mercy locations. All other YMCA programs (aquatics, sports, etc.) and membership offerings require a YMCA membership to receive YMCA member rates.

Further Questions?

Please refer to the Parent Handbook for more information or contact Jenny Holweger, Vice President of Programming, YMCA of Greater Omaha: jholweger@metroymca.org - 402.930.4351