



YMCA Early Learning Center Program Description

The YMCA provides full day Infant, Toddler, Preschool and Pre-K programming. Our hours are 7am-6pm. We are located inside the Franklin County Developmental Disabilities (FCDD) building on Johnstown Road. We have been at this location since June 2006. We are NAEYC Accredited and have a FIVE-STAR Step Up To Quality rating.

Our collaboration with FCDD is unique. We have 2-4 slots in each classroom that are filled by FCDD. These children have special needs and qualify for services through FCDD. We have 2 FCDD Itinerant Teachers who float in and out of those classrooms and coordinate services. Therapist may work with these children in the classroom or out of the classroom. Other agencies within our building are: FCDD, CDC Head Start, and Columbus Public Schools. We have contact information for these agencies as well.

There are many wonderful shared spaces in the building i.e. Motor Parks, Gymnasium, Art Studios, Library, and Town Square. Monthly special events for the all building programs and are coordinated by FCDD. These special events are communicated to families through reminders and newsletters.

Additional activities your child may experience in our program include: Cooking with Sarah (all ages), Fit Kids program (3-5 yr olds), Toddler Motor Program (12months-3 yrs), horseback riding (all ages), vision/speech screenings (all ages), Reptile visit (all ages), Outdoor Learning Education program (3-5 yr olds), Adapted Physical Education Class (3-5 yr olds), and Musical guests (all ages).

We utilize The Creative Curriculum & Teaching Strategies Gold online Assessment Tool. Our environment and policies are guided by The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services Child Care Licensing, The National Association for the Education of Young Children Guidelines, and Step Up To Quality guidelines. Teachers utilize The Creative Curriculum Assessment Tool and offer formal parent/teacher conferences twice a year. The YMCA promotes Character Development values: Respect, Honesty, Caring and Responsibility.

Infant/Toddler Classrooms (6 weeks-21 months)

The YMCA employs dependable, nurturing teachers who have extensive experience and/or education in Early Childhood Development. Teachers utilize The Creative Curriculum to plan activities for young children according to their age. Teachers encourage positive social skills and offer support through developmental stages based on Ohio's Early Learning and Developmental Standards. Children are on individual

schedules based on their individual needs and parent/teacher communication. Kroger comfort formula with iron, baby cereal, solids and hot lunches for older infants/toddlers are provided. Teachers participate in ongoing Professional Development. We are licensed for 8 infants in each classroom with a 1:4 ratio.

Toddler Classroom (18 months-3 years)

The YMCA employs dependable, nurturing teachers who have extensive experience and/or education in Early Childhood Development. The toddler curriculum is enhanced by expanded skills with an emphasis on art, sensory and literacy. Teachers encourage self-help skills and positive social interactions. Teachers utilize The Creative Curriculum and Ohio's Early Learning and Developmental Standards to plan activities for young children according to their age. Children engage in circle time where basic concepts (shapes, colors, counting and sorting) are introduced in a fun and developmentally appropriate way. Teachers encourage potty training when the child is showing signs they are developmentally ready. Teachers participate in ongoing Professional Development. We are licensed for 12 toddlers in the classroom with a 1:6 ratio.

Preschool & Pre-K Classrooms (3-5 year olds)

Teachers complete lesson plans utilizing The Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies Gold online and the Ohio Department of Education Early Learning Content Standards as a guide. Themes are based on the children's interests and classroom experiences. The program provides opportunities for heavy amounts of language/literacy and social development. The children are encouraged to explore personal interests through play as well as a variety of small and large structured group activities. Exposure to community resources such as Adapted Physical Education, Art Studios, field trips, special guests, and other opportunities expand on the children's experience. Lead Teachers have a degree in ECE or a related field. Lead Teachers and Assistant Teachers participate in ongoing Professional Development. Classroom ratio is 1:10.

Y-Club

Before and After School care for children enrolled in full day building programs, Hours are 7-9am and 3:15-6:00p.m. on CPS and FCDD school days only.

Y-Club is an extended day program designed to serve siblings and those families in need of extended child care ages 3-6 years. There are 10 children in this program with 1 teacher. We utilize Creative Curriculum for planning activity choices for the morning and afternoon. The curriculum focuses on heavy amounts of literacy and social development. The children are encouraged to explore areas of interest in small groups. Exposure to motor spaces, the art studio, and outdoor learning areas are an important part of the children's routine.

Our Lead Teacher has a degree in Education and training in Ohio's Early Learning and Developmental Standards. The curriculum supports the Ohio Department of Education Preschool and Kindergarten standards.