



# DISCOVERING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

## CHILD CARE GUIDE Custer YMCA

› Toddlers

› Preschool

› School Age



## LEARNING TO BE THEIR BEST SELVES

You want the very best for your child and so do we. YMCA Child Care is a place for children to explore, learn, feel safe, cared for and celebrated. We encourage positive relationships between the children, child care staff and parents to ensure a high-quality experience.

### A Safe Place to Grow

The safety and health of your child is our top priority. That's why all of our early learning programs are assessed using the nationally recognized ERS rating scale and CLASS rating scale. That's a big difference in the practices our staff follow to protect your child while in our care. These practices ensure that we go above and beyond basic state licensing standards to give your child the very best.

Parents have the opportunity to stay connected through the YMCA Facebook page and our Procure Engage app, which provides regular updates and frequent pictures so you'll always be connected to your child!

### Quality Staff

#### Early Learning

Lead teachers have a degree in Early Child Education (or related field), or a Child Development Associate Credential and practical experience working with young children. Warm, caring teachers bond and develop trust with families. Each child has a primary caregiver, your main point of contact, to guide your child's development.

#### School Age Learning

Site coordinators have a degree in Elementary Education (or related field), or a Child Development Associate Credential and practical experience working with school-age children. A majority of our support staff are local high school or college students interested in making a difference in our community.

All childcare staff are CPR and First Aid Certified and have passed background checks based on state licensing requirements.

### Learning Center Hours

Monday - Friday  
7:00am - 5:30pm

### Membership Benefits

A membership to the YMCA is about so much more than wellness centers, gyms and pools. It's also about making the community a better place in which to live. A YMCA membership means that you support and are committed to YMCA core values in the pursuit of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. It means that you belong to a community dedicated to changing lives for the better. As a member, you have the finest programs and facilities available to grow in spirit, mind and body.

Families who choose to become members will receive discounted tuition in our preschool, school age and summer camp programs and opportunities for early enrollment in all YMCA programming.

### Learning Healthy Lifestyles

Your child shares meals and snacks with their peers, where they learn to make healthy food choices. All meals exceed USDA requirements, as we follow the Healthy Eating Standards put forth by the YMCA of the USA. These standards include a fruit or vegetable at every meal, water or milk as their beverage, 60 minutes of physical activity per day and no screen time.

## TODDLERS 12 Months - 3 Years

### Gaining Independence & Confidence

Toddlers watch and absorb knowledge and skills from everything and everyone around them. Most importantly children learn how to be their best selves.

Our Y toddler program is centered around each child's daily schedule. Children will develop their gross and fine motor skills. Daily activities include cooperative playtime, art, outside excursions, naps and an abundance of hugs from the staff. Toddlers will also hear plenty of stories and songs that foster their language development.

Toddlers move, discover and play!  
Classrooms maintain a ratio of 1 adult:5 toddlers.

## PRESCHOOL 3-5 Years

### Ready for a Bright Start in School

YMCA Preschool is an educational experience intended to give kids skills that will build a foundation for school readiness.



## CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE®

Conscious Discipline is an international comprehensive classroom management program and social-emotional curriculum developed by Dr. Becky Bailey. YMCA childcare staff are guided through intensive training based on current brain research, child development information and developmentally appropriate practices.

Conscious Discipline utilizes character education curriculum and challenging situations to teach the following life skills: Anger Management, Helpfulness (pro-social skills), Assertiveness, Impulse Control, Cooperation, Empathy, Problem Solving and Real-Life Conflict. The YMCA Early Learning program believes that character education is a part of everyday life.

## frogstreet

Designed around early brain research, the Frog Street Infant and Toddler curriculums equip caregivers to foster essential growth and build a strong learning foundation for little ones during key windows of opportunity for growth and development.

Preschoolers learn letter, shape and color recognition in our preschool classrooms. Our curriculum focuses on developing literacy skills, social skills, body awareness and language development. Preschool classrooms maintain a ration of 1 adult:10 preschoolers.

You and your child's lead teacher meet together annually to discuss your child's development and the milestones that have been observed and documented in your child's developmental portfolio.



## SCHOOL AGE Grades K-5

### Reaching Their Full Potential

Incorporating the latest research in youth development, the YMCA of the USA has developed a unique program model for grades K-5 that combines fun with learning and exploration. The careful balance between social interactions, character development, educational activities and physical activities make the YMCA so much more than just "after school child care."



### Program Components



#### Healthy Snack

Children receive a healthy snack each day.



#### Exploration Time

Hands-on learning in a variety of areas and learning styles. Allows children to explore areas of interest and curiosity.



#### Physical Activity

Whether it is playing on the playground or an organized game in the gym, children get physical activity every day!



#### Homework Time

A set time each day where children have a quiet area to read, complete homework and receive needed help from staff.



#### Character Development

Children are encouraged to find and utilize their strengths. Character development inspires kids to become ethical, responsible citizens through engaging conversation and activities.



#### Literacy

Quality literature is shared through group reading, buddy reading and individual reading time.

### Curriculum & Seasonal Themes

YMCA school age programs offer after school fun and learning during the school year and full day programming during the summer months.

Curriculum focuses on a variety of subjects ranging from STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math – to cultural awareness. We love using our hands along with our brains to take our daily plans to the next level. Along with physical activities outside and in the gym, the Y focuses on developing the whole child. We strive to make every child knowledgeable on our core values: honesty, caring, respect and responsibility through character development lessons and role modeling.



Quality Staff

Nutritious Meals

Specialized Curriculum

Our programs offer a variety of enrichment activities and we believe high-quality child care is a partnership. Together, we'll give your child the best start possible.

We offer access to financial assistance.

School Age

Summer Camp

A safe place for children to go throughout the summer, YMCA Summer Day Camp aims to promote and increase the student's education, character development, and social-emotional skills. Activities include engaging enrichment activities, literacy and staff led STEAM and art projects, cultural awareness activities, supervised active games, outside time, a healthy snack and area field trips.

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