



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# Child Care Guide

YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties

Infants | Toddlers | Preschool | School Age



## Learning Center Hours

Monday - Friday  
6:30am - 6:00pm



## Top 5 Features of YMCA Learning Centers

- 1** We employ qualified teachers who want to be at the YMCA every day.
- 2** We serve nutritious meals and snacks with no added sugar and lots of fruits and vegetables.
- 3** Our programs provide activities to support school success.
- 4** We offer access to financial assistance programs.
- 5** We provide transportation to and from most area schools and select YMCA programs.

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

In every program, and every classroom, we address the specific needs of children based not only on age, but also individual pace of development. We believe the values and skills learned early on are vital building blocks for quality of life and future success.

At the YMCA, babies develop trust and security; toddlers learn to explore their world; preschoolers experience early literacy and math; school-age kids make friends and learn new skills. Most importantly, children learn how to be their best selves. That makes for confident kids today, and contributing and engaged adults tomorrow.

In accordance with our goals and philosophy, our program is play-based. Each day your child will be provided time for free play with

a wide variety of materials and spaces. Some activities are teacher planned and guided, but each child can freely choose which activity, materials or space they wish to use. The YMCA strives to challenge and stimulate each child at their own developmental level and foster a positive self image by accepting each child as an individual.

The safety and health of your child is our top priority. That's why the YMCA Early Learning Centers go above and beyond state licensing requirements to achieve high rankings through the Bright & Early North Dakota system to give your child the very best.

YMCA Early Learning Centers also participate in SEEDS of Learning, a professional development program for early childhood educators. Our teachers are continually learning to provide the best care possible for your child.

## Quality Staff

Child care staff are CPR and First Aid Certified and have passed background checks based on state licensing requirements. Staff continue to grow with ongoing professional development opportunities.

## Early Learning

Teachers have a degree in Early Child Education (or related field), or a Child Development 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 Credential and practical experience working with school-age children. A majority of our general staff are local students interested in making a difference in our community.

## 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 a beverage, 60 minutes of physical activity per day, and limited screen time per day (no screen time is given to children under four). Screen time is limited to educational viewing only.

## Stay Connected

Families are welcome visitors to our programs at all times. We hope that parents/guardians will attend family functions, help with classroom projects, and attend field trips with us. We encourage families to join us for lunch. Just give us a heads up and we'll make sure to prepare additional meals.

Families meet at least twice a year with their child's Teacher to discuss their child's development for infants through preschoolers. Families may continue to meet with child care staff as needed on an ongoing basis.

Parents also have the opportunity to stay connected using our ProCare mobile app, receiving regular updates and frequent pictures, so you'll always be connected to your child throughout the week!

## Membership Benefits

YMCA Child Care families can join the YMCA's fitness facilities and pay a discounted monthly rate! Membership includes access to Fitness Centers, Group Fitness Studios, the Aquatic Center, Basketball Gyms, Climbing Wall, and lots of spaces to play with as a family, like the Play Loft, Kids' Gym, and Xerzones! The Family Household Package membership even includes access to PlayTown (drop-in child care) for up to two hours/day for children ages eight years and younger.



I am very thankful for everything that the YMCA has done for me and Kalani. Because of the Y, I didn't have to choose between rent and childcare. I have no doubt that Kalani will be ready for school thanks to all of the help from the Y.

**Nicole, Kalani's mother**



# LITTLE ONES

Ages  
6 weeks - 3 years

## Learning to Explore Their World

In YMCA Child Care, children feel safe, secure, and happy while watching and absorbing knowledge and skills from everything and everyone around them. Teachers strive to attain balance and harmony with your child's home schedule – this means that we work with families to establish the right eating and sleeping routines for your child. We believe high quality child care is a partnership – together, we'll give your child the best start possible.



## TODDLERS 19 months - 3 years

*Toddler classrooms maintain a ratio of 1 adult : 5 toddlers.*

Toddlers love to move, discover, and play! We provide guidance as they develop their skills, gain independence, and master milestones. In the toddler classrooms, we use The Creative Curriculum®, an award-winning, research-validated curriculum to guide this increasingly independent age group. Toddlers spend their day exploring materials in the block area, science center, art station, and outside for gross motor play. In addition, toddlers spend daily group time together enjoying painting projects, story time, sensory activities, and themed lessons like letters, sign language, colors, seasons, shapes, and more that foster their development.

## INFANTS 6 weeks - 18 months

*Infant classrooms maintain a ratio of 1 adult : 4 infants.*

Infants learn through active, hands-on play with activities that help them learn and master new skills. That's why our classrooms are staffed with people who understand the cognitive, physical, and social development of infants, as little ones need to feel connected and supported. Our infant's daily schedules are based on the individual needs of the child. Infants spend their day playing with sensory objects and toys, enjoying stroller walks outside, and participating in activities like bubbles, water buckets, finger painting, dancing, and more.

Teachers work closely with families to introduce foods to your child timely and safely. All meals and formula are provided by the YMCA. Mothers may choose to provide their own milk and are welcome to stop in anytime during the day to nurse.



## EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM

Together, the Mayville State University Child Development Program and the YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties provide Early Head Start services to eligible families at our West Fargo and South Learning Centers! Early Head Start is an income-based program that provides families with quality child care. Early Head Start is for ages six weeks through two years. Applications are accepted at any time during the year. Learn more and apply online at [ymcacassclay.org/tuition](http://ymcacassclay.org/tuition).

# PRESCHOOL Ages 3-5

## Ready for a Bright Start in School

Our preschool programs use The Creative Curriculum. This curriculum was specifically chosen because it prepares children for a smooth transition into kindergarten. The curriculum supports skills in the areas of language development, communication, body awareness, character development, and socialization skills. Children learn how to play politely, take turns, listen to their teachers, clean up after themselves, and take responsibility.

### Full Day Preschool 3 - 5 years

Full day preschool is a licensed, full day, year-round school readiness program. You have the flexibility to drop off and pick up your child anytime between 6:30am – 6:00pm.

*Preschool classrooms maintain the following ratios: 3-year-olds are 1 adult : 7 children. 4-year-olds are 1 adult : ten children. 5-year-olds are 1 adult : 12 children.*



### Half Day Preschool 3 - 5 years

Kindergarten Readiness is the YMCA's licensed morning program that runs from September – May. Children must be three years old and fully potty trained by September 1 of the year you plan to enroll your child.

### Early Childhood Development Classrooms 4+ years

*The program is offered to four-year olds living in the West Fargo school district.*

Early Childhood Development Classrooms (ECDC) are a partnership between the YMCA, West Fargo Public School District, and United Way of Cass-Clay. ECDC is a low income-based program that provides families with quality early learning experience. Children in the program have the opportunity to work with Reading Corps, a program that provides evidence-based literacy interventions, assessments, and lesson plans to help children with development.

### Daily Activities

Children join their friends in an interactive large group experience to engage the brain and talk about weekly themes, calendar, weather, letters, shapes, colors, and numbers.

Children focus their energy on reading and writing. They also use their imagination through creative art.

Play is a child's work. Children are encouraged to socialize in a variety of learning centers such as dramatic play, art, sand and water, library, construction, science, and games.

Children experience large motor activities to move their bodies and pump their heart. At the Fercho and Schlossman YMCAs, children utilize other areas of the facility like play areas and the Aquatic Center (Fercho).

Quality literature is read aloud to children.

Lunch and snacks is included in your tuition. Meals are served 'family style' to make meal time a pleasant social experience. Manners are practiced during meal times.

Children attending our full day preschool program rest or nap daily on their individual cot.



Transportation is provided for full-day preschoolers to participate in swimming lessons and other activities at various YMCA sites. Opportunities to register for these programs are shared throughout the year.



# SCHOOL AGE

Grades  
K - 5

## Reaching Their Full Potential

YMCA School Age Programs offer before and after school fun and learning during the school year and full day programming during the summer months. 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 time, educational activities, and physical activities makes the YMCA so much more than “just” after school child care.



## Curriculum

In the School Age Program, kids love using their hands along with their brains to take our daily plans to the next level. Along with physical games and activities outside and in the gym, we also allow children to choose their focus each day in activity areas like arts and crafts, music and drama, science, technology, math, reading, and more.

We strive to make every child knowledgeable of our core values — caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and health — through character development lessons and role modeling.

## Daily Activities

Children share lunch and snack family style with their peers to promote social skills and using manners.

Children can freely explore interests with friends in our many learning centers, from Art and Makerspace to Science and Math.

Whether it is playing on the playground or an organized game in the gym, children are physically active every day!

Our signature Explore Zone activity time provides children hands-on learning opportunities to conduct science experiments, complete art projects, develop their talents, and explore their interests in many hands-on activities.

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

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



**School Out Days** Don't forget: When school is out, we stay open! YMCA Learning Centers are open from 6:30am – 6:00pm on days when there is no school. Each day is packed with activities to keep minds sharp and bodies moving. Kids will unplug from technology and engage in fun activities and socialize with friends. Breakfast, snack, and lunch provided! Children not currently participating in a YMCA School Age Program are welcome to participate in School Out Days, so we encourage participants to invite their friends! Registration required two weeks in advance. Learn more online at [ymcacassclay.org/schooloutdays](http://ymcacassclay.org/schooloutdays).

# SITE DIRECTORY

Infant	Toddler	Half-Day Preschool	Full-Day Preschool	School Age
6 wks – 18 mo	18 mo – 3 yrs	3 – 5 years	3 – 5 years	Grades K – 5

Fargo Sites				
CalvaryYMCA – 4575 45th St. S	◇ ●	◇ ●	◇ ●	●
FerchoYMCA – 400 1st Ave. S	◇ ●	◇ ●	◇ ●	●
Horace Mann/Roosevelt* – 1025 3rd St. N				●
Jefferson Elementary* – 1701 4th Ave. S				●
Madison Elementary* – 1040 29th St. N				●
McKinley Elementary* – 2930 8th St. N				●
Oak Grove Lutheran School – 2720 32nd Ave. S				●
SchlossmanYMCA – 4243 19th Ave. S			◇ ●	◇ ● ●
SouthYMCA – 4225 38th St. S	◇ ● ✕	◇ ● ✕	◇ ●	●
Moorhead Sites				
Dorothy Dodds Elementary – 4400 24th Ave. S				●
Ellen Hopkins Elementary – 2020 11th St. S				●
Robert Asp Elementary – 910 11th St. N				●
S.G. Reinertsen Elementary – 1201 40th Ave. S				●
West Fargo Sites				
Aurora Elementary – 3420 9th St. W				●
Brooks Harbor Elementary – 801 22nd Ave. W				●
DeerCreek – 6400 54th Ave. S				●
Eastwood Elementary* – 500 10th Ave. E				●
Freedom Elementary – 401 26th Ave. E				●
Harwood Elementary – 110 Freeland Dr.				●
Horace Elementary – 110 3rd Ave. N				●
Independence Elementary – 3700 54th St. S				●
L. E. Berger Elementary* – 631 4th Ave. E				●
Legacy Elementary – 5150 9th St. W				●
Osgood Elementary – 5550 44th Ave. S				●
South Elementary – 117 6th Ave. W				●
Westside Elementary – 945 7th Ave. W				●
West Fargo YMCA – 330 3rd Ave. E	◇ ● ✕	◇ ● ✕	◇ ●	
Willow Park – 4901 15th Ave. S				●

\* 21st Century Learning Centers: These sites receive funding through the State of ND for academic support

● Program Location    ◇ Accredited Program    ✕ Early Head Start Program



## LET'S CONNECT!

Questions about YMCA Child Care Programs?

We'd love to help! Please contact:  
[enroll@ymcacassclay.org](mailto:enroll@ymcacassclay.org) or 701.364.4117.

## GET SOCIAL!



#ymcacassclay | [ymcacassclay.org/childcare](http://ymcacassclay.org/childcare)