



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

For Children and Families in
Eastern Delaware County

Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County

V.8.26



What We Do

- Promote positive, nurturing relationships with children and encourage individuality.
- Utilize developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate teaching practices.
- Create and maintain safe, healthy environments that meet the emotional and social needs of children and staff.
- Build strong family partnerships and mutual trust to establish a collaborative approach to teaching and learning.
- Provide children, families and communities with the resources and opportunities they need to learn, grow and thrive.
- Advocate for families, addressing society's most critical needs by developing community-based solutions.

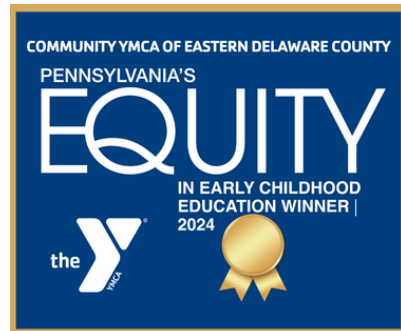


Why We Care

- The Y believes that young people deserve every opportunity possible to learn, grow and thrive. By connecting kids to their potential, purpose and each other, the Y empowers kids and teens to shape the communities of tomorrow, today.
- Out of School Time and early learning programs at the Y focus on nurturing child development comprehensively by building foundational skills, fostering healthy relationships and boosting self-reliance, all in a safe and supportive environment.
- From camp to early learning to afterschool activities, the Y offers holistic programming that enhances, protects and nurtures the unique developmental journey of every child and teen.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Global Engagement

The Y is made up of people of all ages, from all walks of life, working side-by-side to strengthen communities. Together, we strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race or sexual orientation has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity. Our core values are caring, honesty, respect and responsibility – they guide everything we do.



Our Philosophy

With so many demands on today's families and the increased focus on early brain development, families need all the support they can get to nurture the potential of youth. That's why early learning and Out of School Time programs at the Y focus on holistically nurturing child development by providing a safe and healthy place to learn foundational skills, develop healthy, trusting relationships and build self-reliance through the Y values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Children are like sponges, they watch and absorb knowledge, skills and values from everything and everyone around them. At the Y, we believe the values and skills learned early on are vital building blocks for quality of life and future success. That is why our programs are staffed with people who understand the cognitive, physical and social development of kids, the need children have to feel connected and supported in trying new things, and the caring and reinforcement parents and families need to help each other. At the Y, babies develop trust and security, preschoolers experience early literacy and learn about their world. School age children enjoy physical activities, strengthen cooperative skills, and receive homework assistance.

Most importantly, children learn how to be their best selves. This makes for confident kids today and contributing and engaged adults tomorrow.

Financial Assistance

The Community YMCA will make every effort to ensure families are not turned away from enrolling due to an inability to pay. All early childhood programs accept ELRC funding. To find out if your family qualifies, call 888-535-2217. YMCA Financial Aid is also available for families who do not qualify for state subsidy. All programs welcome CHIP participants [1-800-986-KIDS \(5437\)](tel:1-800-986-KIDS).



Our Commitment to Quality

Keystone Stars is an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning to improve, support and recognize the continuous efforts of early childhood programs in Pennsylvania. All Community YMCA of Eastern Delaware County early childhood programs participate in this state-wide initiative.

All sites are state licensed and utilize the PA Early Learning Standards. The learning standards outline specific age-appropriate expectations and skills for children from birth through grade 12. This informs lesson and activity planning within each group.

The Community YMCA is an Equal Opportunity Early Childhood Provider.



Early Learning

Learning through Play

Play is the most powerful teaching tool used by educators across the country. When children play, they get to make their own decisions, which empowers them to investigate and want to know more. From infants and toddlers to preschoolers and school agers, children are naturally self-motivated to engage in play, and that helps them discover the world around them.

Skills developed through play include:

- Knowing what to do when no one is directing you
- Problem solving
- Creativity and imagination
- Interacting with others and negotiating
- Resilience
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Willingness to take risks and try new things
- Processing emotions
- Understanding social situations
- Discovering interests
- Building confidence
- Strengthening muscles and so much more

Learning Centers

Toys and materials should spark the natural, individual curiosity of each child. That is why interest areas are located throughout the early learning classroom. As children play, teachers ask open-ended questions, make suggestions, and carefully guide learning.



Art Center

A child's imagination and creativity has no limit. Here they explore textures, work with a variety of tools, strengthen fine motor skills, identify shapes & colors, and reinforce writing skills through line formation and scribbling. Most importantly they learn to take pride in their work.

Dramatic Play Center

Children can stretch their imagination and be whatever they choose in this area. They act out familiar routines, learn to control emotions, make social connections with others, and develop the art of conversation. When dramatic play turns into a restaurant; math, writing, food, nutrition, and service to others are just a few skills that emerge in these young minds.





Language & Literacy Center

Children choose books, relax on comfortable furniture, read to a stuffed animal or peer, retell parts of a familiar story and more. Age-appropriate books draw the young eye to this part of the classroom. You will often find a staff member sitting on the floor and reading informally to one or two children. Here the spark for reading is ignited.

Music & Movement

When children engage in movement and music activities they develop balance and coordination through dance. Rhythm, rhyming, and sequence are reinforced through songs and singing. Clapping, snapping, tapping fingers and playing with instruments enhance dexterity and hand-eye coordination.

This learning center is also a great outlet for emotional release and expression.



Block Play

Interactions with blocks begin with the very young child learning to hold and manipulate objects. As children grow, they begin stacking and making towers which turn into more complex structures such as bridges and buildings. This type of play inspires our future architects and engineers. Math, science, social skills, problem solving, and language development are also present in block play.

Math & Manipulative Center

Besides learning to identify numbers, children also develop critical thinking skills such as organizing, sorting, categorizing, sequencing and spatial awareness. They learn to identify and understand shapes, measure quantities, solve simple algebraic problems and much more. Math is found in just about every learning center throughout the classroom. Manipulatives such as playing with puzzles or interlocking materials develop persistence, perseverance, problem solving, and enhanced visual awareness competences.



Science Center

Children gain a better understanding of the physical world in science play. Natural items spark conversation, questioning, hypothesizing, or guessing; which leads to inquiry. Exciting activities such as bringing snow inside the classroom and adding polar bear figures and ice cubes lay the groundwork for an amazing investigative exploration into winter and colder regions of the earth. These planned activities foster science exploration and develop inquiry skills students will practice throughout the rest of their lives.



Outside Play

Studies and research provide clear evidence that outdoor physical activity decreases obesity in children. Emotional self-regulation and cooperative play skills are strengthened as children create their own games, rules and strategies. Emotional resilience and self-confidence are developed when children learn how to get back up after they fall. Outdoor play allows kids to get dirty, take risks and test the limits of their own bodies. When a child crawls, climbs, runs and jumps, they strengthen large muscles and build endurance. Y programs aim to include at least one hour of outdoor play daily when weather permits.



Swim Lessons

Children toilet trained and enrolled in our preschool classrooms, enjoy FREE swim lessons by trained instructors. Through these lessons, students gain basic water safety and swimming skills. They learn to become comfortable and confident in the water by practicing safe water habits, engaging in water exploration and learning how to swim to safety if they fall into a body of water.

Lansdowne YMCA
Serving Ages 6mo.-6

Contact
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Ridley YMCA
Serving Ages 1-5

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Springfield YMCA
Serving Ages 4-5
Contact

Marisa Gonzales
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Domonique Childs
Out of School Time (OST)
Director
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Lansdowne YMCA School Age

Serving Upper Darby and William Penn School Districts

In partnership with the Upper Darby School District, before and after school care is offered at the following elementary schools



- Aronimink Elementary School
 - Garrettford Elementary School
 - Hillcrest Elementary School
 - Upper Darby Kindergarten Center
 - Westbrook Park Elementary School
- (also serving Primos students at this location)

Hours -Elementary locations

AM Care - 7:30-Start of School

PM Care - Close of School until 6:00PM

School Age Contacts

Cindy Carroll

Out of School Time (OST)

Director

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Dana Pierce

Out of School Time (OST)

Director

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UDSD K-Center Hours & Options

Kindergarten Enrichment

9am-3pm

Kindergarten Enrichment with AM & PM Care

7:30am-6:00pm

Kindergarten Enrichment with AM Care

7:30am-3:00pm

Kindergarten Enrichment with PM Care

9:00am-6:00pm

*Enrichment time includes formal lessons that directly correlate to Kindergarten academics.

William Penn School District, - Before and after school care is offered at the following school

- Ardmore Avenue Elementary

Hours-Ardmore Avenue

AM Care - 7:00-Start of School

PM Care - Close of School until 6:00PM

Activities

Students at all locations will enjoy free choice of indoor and outdoor games and activities, homework assistance, arts and crafts, and extra-curricular activities.



Half Days and School Closures

The YMCA will provide care for most SCHEDULED half days and closures as outlined on school district calendars. A full list of days serviced will be shared at the beginning of each school year.

Ridley Area YMCA School Age

Serving Ridley & Interboro School Districts

Activities

Students at all locations will enjoy free choice of indoor and outdoor games and activities, homework assistance, arts and crafts, and extra-curricular activities.

Half Days and School Closures

The YMCA will provide care for most SCHEDULED half days and closures as outlined on school district calendars. A full list of days serviced will be shared at the beginning of each school year.

Hours at all locations

AM Care - 7:00-Start of School

PM Care - Close of School until 6:00PM



Interboro Contact

Gina Moffa
Asst. Early Childhood
Director
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Interboro School District - Before and after school care is offered at the Ridley Area YMCA with transportation

- Kindergarten Academy
- Glenolden School
- Norwood School (PM care only)
- Prospect Park School

Ridley School District - Before and after school care is offered at the following elementary schools

- Edgewood Elementary School
- Amosland Elementary School

Ridley Contact

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Community YMCA is an Equal Opportunity Early Childhood Provider

Springfield YMCA School Age

Serving the Springfield School District

In partnership with the Springfield School District, before and after school care is offered at the following elementary schools

- Scenic Hills Elementary
- Sabold Elementary
- Springfield Literacy Center

Hours at Elementary Locations

AM Care - 7:00-Start of School

PM Care - Close of School until 6:00PM



Half Days and School Closures

The YMCA will provide care for most SCHEDULED half days and closures as outlined on school district calendars. A full list of days serviced will be shared at the beginning of each school year.

Activities

Students at all locations will enjoy free choice of indoor and outdoor games and activities, homework assistance, arts and crafts, and extra-curricular activities.

SLC Kindergarten Hours & Options

Kindergarten Enrichment

9am-3pm

Kindergarten Enrichment with AM & PM Care

7:00am-6:00pm

Kindergarten Enrichment with AM Care

7:00am-3:00pm

Kindergarten Enrichment with PM Care

9:00am-6:00pm

*Enrichment time includes formal lessons that directly correlate to SLC academics.

Bus Transportation for SLC

Kindergarten students spend half their day at the Springfield YMCA location for enrichment, and are bussed between SLC and the YMCA for care.

School Age Contacts

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