



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# EARLY LEARNING CENTER

**ELC PROGRAM**

[ymcawichita.org/ELC](http://ymcawichita.org/ELC)



“ The staff is wonderful and has taken the time to understand my son. The curriculum is great and I see improvement in my son every day.”

## BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Children absorb knowledge, skills and values from everything and everyone around them. The Greater Wichita YMCA believes the values and skills learned early on are vital building blocks for quality of life and future success. That's why our child care programs are staffed with people who understand the cognitive, physical and social development of young children.

In our Early Learning Center (ELC) environments, babies develop trust and security, toddlers' language skills blossom and their independence grows, preschoolers experience early literacy and build the skills needed to enter kindergarten both academically and socially prepared.

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

We are excited to serve your family. Our goal is to meet the individual needs of each child and family within the structure of our program, while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all children and staff.

# PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

ELCs foster a warm “extended” family atmosphere in which children feel secure, comfortable, and important. Children are engaged in a mixture of education and recreational activities that holistically approach education, build confidence, and ensure future success.

## WE BELIEVE:

- Parents are the first and most important teachers in a child’s life.
- Families benefit when parents and adults pursue work and personal responsibilities – which requires a safe, pleasant, and dependable place to entrust children.
- Development is patterned, but each child is unique – growing at their own pace and style.
- Children are innately curious. They constantly gather knowledge of the world through education and other experiences including play.
- Trust, respect, and emotional awareness of self, others, and nature are crucial elements for positive self-growth and productive in our increasingly complex society.

Our ELC programs provide affordable, high quality, child care service, designed to meet the needs of parents who are working and/or in school and our facilities and staff are fully licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).



## WE OFFER:

- Full-day, year-round child care services—for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers—Monday through Friday (except traditional holidays) from 6:30AM-6PM
- Nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snacks to participants each day
- Curriculum and assessments aligned with Kansas Early Learning Standards at all sites and Kansas State PreK Programs at East and South
- Parental engagement tools to continue education at home
- Financial support including income-based financial assistance for those who qualify and scholarships (through generous YMCA donors), Early Childhood Block Grant, and PreK funding for eligible families and we accept DCF funding
- Opportunities to participate in Greater Wichita YMCA swimming, gymnastics, and dance programs (varies by location and availability)

# ELC CURRICULUM

Greater Wichita YMCA child care staff uses the Frog Street Curriculum for all our early learning programs, including ELC. The curriculum aligns the latest early brain development research with Kansas Early Learning Standards to build a robust, exciting, experience for children. Daily classroom themes and resources engage children at all development levels with a balance of intentional teaching strategies and plenty of learning through play.

Frog Street's developmental and learning continuums allow children to build upon previously mastered skills to more readily achieve new skills while emphasizing emotional development and Dr. Becky Bailey's "Conscious Discipline" approach that builds trust and healthy attachments while developing impulse controls in a seamless and continuous way from birth to age five. Children combine curiosity, persistence, attention, and communication to establish a base for life-long learning and learn to calm, unite, socially interact, and connect with others.

## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- Opportunities to sing, read, and talk in a language-rich environment
- Skill development in phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, print awareness, vocabulary and comprehension

## COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Critical, creative, child-sized problem solving through cause and effect
- Skill development in classification, patterns, one-to-one correspondence, order and sequence, and numeration

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Fine- and gross-motor skill development
- Balance, coordination, and control

## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Building trust and forming healthy attachments
- Developing impulse control and enhanced social interactions

## APPROACHES TO LEARNING

- Demonstrating curiosity, persistence, attention and communication





**“ I love the YMCA staff and curriculum. It is a great start for kids. I love having these activities and resources available for my child.”**

During the first five years of life, children are rapidly expanding their skills in all areas of development. It is vital that parents and caregivers are aware of each child’s developmental progress to ensure proper stimulation to advance. ELCs ascertain a child’s development in two ways:

### **DEVELOPMENT SCREENING**

We start our evaluation with the person that knows a child best – you. ELC parents and guardians are asked to complete an “Ages and Stages” Questionnaire upon enrollment. This reliable screening evaluates key areas of development for strengths and helps to identify areas of potential delay in young children. Ages and Stages screens helps teacher meet the needs of your child as an individual. Screens are repeated periodically during the child’s enrollment.

### **PROGRESS MONITORING**

Progress monitoring is a way to track a child progress in meeting curriculum goals and objectives. Progress is gathered through formal and informal observation during lessons and play activities. Period work sampling is also helpful. Visual information is kept in an individual portfolio that moves, with your child, as they transition through and – ultimately – out of our program. Observation data is compiled in fall, winter, and spring, then shared with families. Parents are invited in for formal parent teacher conferences during the fall and spring assessment periods.





# ENROLLMENT

Children can enter the program anytime during the year based on available space for their age group. Each ELC program maintains an independent wait list. Please contact the program directly to determine availability and begin the enrollment process.

- Enrollment for ELC enrollment is not available online nor at our YMCA Front Desks. It is only available through ELC staff inside branch locations.
- Applications, required forms and entrance fees must be provided for eligibility to be considered and space secured.
- ELC enrollment forms – including applications and KDHE paperwork can only be obtain from the ELC program staff.
- Financial assistance application, and ELC Program Policies and Parent Information – can be found and downloaded at [ymcawichita.org/ELC](https://ymcawichita.org/ELC).
- Children are placed in classrooms based on developmental readiness, licensing guidelines, and other factors. Children with special needs are accepted for participation once the program has been determined to be in the best interest of the child.
- Documentation of current physical exam and immunizations and a signed form verifying review of and intention to comply with ELC Program Policies and Parent Information are required prior to enrollment and attendance.
- The classroom your child is enrolled in will determine weekly rates before financial assistance or discounts are applied.

**Contact our Senior Program Director  
for more information or questions about the program.**

# EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

Early Learning Centers are an offering of the Child Care and Camp branch of the Greater Wichita YMCA. As the largest provider of licensed child care in south central Kansas, the staff oversees child care and camp programs throughout the region including 21 schools-based latchkey programs (KEY Academy), 11 early childhood settings, and 10 summer camp sites.

“ The center has  
a great vibe  
when you walk in.  
The staff is  
very friendly.”

## YMCA AUGUSTA EARLY LEARNING CENTER

*(LICENSE PENDING)*

1301 HELEN STREET, AUGUSTA, KS 67010

## EAST YMCA EARLY LEARNING CENTER

9333 E. DOUGLAS AVENUE, WICHITA, KS 67207

316.685.2059

## RICHARD A. DEVORE SOUTH YMCA EARLY LEARNING CENTER

3405 S. MERIDIAN AVENUE, WICHITA, KS 67217

316.942.9782

## GREATER WICHITA YMCA

### CHILD CARE AND CAMP ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

402 N. MARKET STREET, 2ND FLOOR, WICHITA, KS 67202

Branch Director: Andrea Eliot | 316.776.8241

Senior Program Director: Debbie Ogle | 316.776.8242 |

debbie.ogle@ymcawichita.org

**For full Parent Policies and Information,  
please visit [ymcawichita.org/ELC](http://ymcawichita.org/ELC).**



## OUR MISSION

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that promote healthy lifestyles, strong families, and positive youth development to build healthy spirit, mind and body for all, regardless of the ability to pay.

Learn more at [ymcawichita.org/mission](https://ymcawichita.org/mission).

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