



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

ELC PROGRAM

ymcawichita.org/ELC



"I'm so pleased with how my little one is growing and learning each and every day! The best thing ever is when I hear her ask, 'Mommy is there school? I like school', that's when I know the ELC is doing something right."

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 their 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 preschool children and part day in select locations and classrooms — 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 always enjoy the activities that the children do that helps promote different skills that are age appropriate. The staff working here are trustworthy, kind, and observant."

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.

- ELC Enrollment is available by appointment only, at the ELC location you wish to enroll. Enrollment forms will be provided during the enrollment appointment and cannot be obtained on-line or at our YMCA Branch membership desks.
- All YMCA ELC programs accept DCF funds; any fees not covered by DCF are the responsibility of the parent or guardian including any registration and applicable deposits due at enrollment.
- Financial Assistance is available for those who qualify in addition to other grant opportunities, make sure to ask your director for more information or check our website to apply in advance at ymcawichita.org/ibfa.
- Children are placed in classrooms based on developmental readiness, KDHE licensing regulations, and available spaces. The classroom your child is enrolled in determines the weekly rates before financial assistance or grant funding is applied.
- A full list of our Program Policies can be found on our website at ymcawichita.org/elc.
- See page 7 for a list of our ELC locations and contact information OR reach out to our administrative offices at 316.264.1610 for assistance in finding a program near you!

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

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

The Early Learning Centers are part of the Child Care Branch of the Greater Wichita YMCA proud to be the region's largest child care provider. Our programs include 10 licensed child care centers, school-based before and after school programs in 5 different school districts and school day out programs at select YMCA facilities.

**"They treat
us like
family."**

DR. JIM FARHA ANDOVER YMCA EARLY LEARNING CENTER
1115 US-54 HIGHWAY, ANDOVER, KS 67002
316.448.1060

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 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
402 N. MARKET STREET, 2ND FLOOR, WICHITA, KS 67202
Branch Director: Andrea Eliot | 316.776.8241
Senior Program Director: Jerrica French | 316.776.8253 |
jerrica.french@ymcawichita.org

**For full Parent Policies and Information,
please visit ymcawichita.org/ELC.**



YOU
ARE MY
SUN-
SHINE

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.

ymcawichita.org/ELC

Revised 050825