



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



LOWE'S YMCA
PARENT
HANDBOOK
2019-2020

This booklet is to be used as a guide and reference to the Lowe’s YMCA preschool program. Within you will find all of the necessary information to provide a safe stay in our preschool program. Please refer to the document to answer questions that may arise; if subsequent questions still remain, please contact your preschool coordinator.

Please sign the back of this booklet and return the slip to your preschool coordinator.

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

Welcome to the Lowe's YMCA Preschool! The Lowe's YMCA offers a preschool program designed to meet your child's needs with activities that include group playtime, Bible stories, music and movement, as well as fine and gross motor skill development. All of our classes are planned to develop each child's self-esteem and create a strong image of self-worth through learning and sharing in a fun, structured environment. Children are encouraged to explore, ask questions, and solve problems in a warm Christian setting.

Our program is a combined system of thematic learning, physical activity, and Christian education. We believe that through play and other process-oriented experiences, children gain confidence in their ability to learn. We strive to provide an atmosphere where children can laugh, learn and play through different activities. Every day your child will be given the opportunity to grow intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

GOAL OF THE YMCA PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The goal of the YMCA Preschool is to provide a safe, wholesome, Christian environment where children will grow in spirit, mind and body. Teachers focus on teaching your child the YMCA's Five Building Blocks: socialization, fine and gross motor skills, education and healthy choices. YMCA Preschool strives to enhance each child's self-esteem, helping them to reach their God-given potential.

PRESCHOOL STAFF

- **Preschool Coordinator**

Jennifer McKnight, the Lowe's YMCA Preschool Coordinator, can be contacted at (704) 716-4069 or through email at Jennifer.McKnight@YMCACharlotte.org

- **Family Service Director**

Danielle Crimi, the Lowe's YMCA Family Service Director, can be contacted at (704) 716-4043 or through email at Danielle.Crimi@YMCACharlotte.org

- **Teachers**

Our preschool is staffed with capable, trained teachers, who are eager to work with your child. After a rigorous screening process which includes background checks and drug testing, chosen teachers must complete training in areas including child development, blood borne pathogens, CPR, first aid, dealing with discipline and positive reinforcement, safety and emergency procedures, and YMCA policies. In addition, we require 5 additional hours of training to give them expertise in early child development. We look for leaders who exemplify outstanding character, compassion, and love for children. We take pride in the high expectations we set for our preschool staff each year and evaluate them on a regular basis.

Communication between parents and teachers is strongly encouraged. Although parents are always welcome to observe and participate in the classroom, if you have specific questions about your child's behavior or participation, you should schedule a conference outside of class time. This will ensure that classroom instruction will be uninterrupted for all participants and your concerns will be thoroughly addressed in a one-on-one setting.

ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS

- **Declaration of Inclusive Policy**

All programs of the YMCA of Greater Charlotte are open to everyone within age parameters regardless of race, religion, national origin, or ability to pay.

- **Registration**

Each child must register by completing a registration form and providing a non-refundable registration and supply fees of \$150 for Members or \$200 for Program Participants. This fee is inclusive of supplies and any other event that may include a fee. Once registered, the parent must complete an information packet containing:

1. Tuition payment
2. Registration Form
3. Emergency Contact and Pick-Up Authorization
4. Participant Info and Health history
5. Signed waiver
6. Handbook acknowledgement form

- **Admission**

Children will be enrolled into the program based on space available as determined by the registrar. A waiting list will be compiled in the event that additional space may become available as the school year progresses. All admissions are on a first come, first serve basis.

The Lowe's YMCA reserves the right to deny preschool admission or continued participation if one or more of the following conditions exist:

- The child's information packet is not returned promptly
- The child is not participating or benefiting from the program
- The staff cannot provide adequate or safe care for the child
- The staff cannot provide adequate or safe care for other enrolled children due to the behaviors of the child
- Non payment of monthly fee

- **Tuition**

Bank Draft or Debit/Credit Card Draft: Monthly bank drafts will occur on the 15th of the month beginning on August 15 and ending on April 15 for 9 total payments.

- **A \$25.00 bank fee will be charged if a draft or charge is returned for insufficient funds.**
- **A \$25.00 late fee will be charged on payments made after the 15th of each month.**
- **Removal from the program will occur if tuition and late fee payments are not made by the last day of the current month.**

Refunds are not given for days missed due to illness, inclement weather, or vacation.

WITHDRAWAL

If you plan to withdraw your child from the program before the end of the school year, please give written notice to the Sales and Service desk **15 days** in advance. Otherwise, tuition will be charged for the upcoming month. Parents will be responsible for paying for all days of service through the end of the 15 day notice period. An exit interview to discuss your reason for withdrawal may be requested.

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT RATE

As part of our My Y Pricing rate structure, an adjusted rate is available to all who qualify. Both Members and Program Participants must provide income verification at the Sales and Service Desk in order to receive an adjusted program rate.

INSURANCE

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte provides liability insurance to all programs. It is the participant's responsibility to provide his or her own accident insurance coverage. Parents should include their personal health insurance information on the child's health form. The information will only be used to facilitate medical treatment if required. Parents are responsible for prescriptions and charges incurred for outside medical treatment of their child if such series are required while in attendance at the preschool program.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

- **What to wear**

Clothing for your preschooler should be simple, comfortable, washable, and easy for your child to manage. Rubber-soled shoes are essential for running and outdoor play. Please, send appropriate outerwear for the morning's weather activities, including close-toed shoes and jackets.

Please be mindful that at school we play and discover new things; as a result your child's clothing may become soiled. We ask that you do not dress your child in their best clothing expecting them to remain spotless. Please keep an extra set of clothes in your

child's backpack. If an accident occurs, your child will be dressed in their extra set of clothes and the soiled clothes returned to you in your child's backpack. Please place another set of clothing in the backpack for the next day if an accident does happen.

- **What to bring every day**

Your child will need a **LARGE** backpack and a two pocket folder daily. In your child's backpack please bring:

- preschoolers in the two year old classroom need to bring a minimum of three diapers and wipes (if your child is in diapers)

- all preschoolers need to bring a complete change of clothes (including socks and shoes). For our two year olds who are in the new to potty training, we also recommend placing a pair of flip flops as well.

- a nutritious and peanut free and nut free snack and a drink in a lunch box or bag.

Please monitor these supplies daily and replenish as needed.

Since toys from home can be lost or cause friction among children, please do not let your child bring them to school. A young child may bring something for security, such as a pacifier or blanket. These will be placed in your child's backpack at the first available opportunity.

- **Potty Training**

Our two year old teachers will partner with you in your efforts to potty training your child. Please communicate with the teachers when you are ready to begin so that they can help with consistency between home and preschool to increase your success and limit the time needed to potty train.

All preschoolers entering our three year old classrooms are required to be successfully potty trained by August 31. Being potty trained means that your child must be wearing underwear daily to preschool.

- **Supplies for the first day**

Please send the following items to school as a donation to the program if possible.

- Hand Sanitizer
- Unscented Baby wipes
- Paper towels
- Facial tissues

They will be distributed and used throughout the year wherever they are needed.

- **Labeling**

It is very important that all items that belong to your child are labeled. Please write your child's first name and last initial clearly on all items such as coats, umbrellas, backpacks, drink cups, jackets and lunch boxes/bags.

- **Missing Items**

We will make every effort to return lost items while your child is in preschool. If you discover that something is missing, please contact your child's teacher or check the lost and found immediately. If the item is in the classroom, the teachers will send it home the next school day. The Lowe's YMCA is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged clothing or equipment.

- **Snacks**

All classes have a scheduled snack time daily. Please send a small nutritious, peanut free and nut-free snack for your child to enjoy during this time. Water bottles are a great beverage selection for small children. If your child uses a spill-proof cup, please label and supply a beverage in that cup everyday.

PARENTAL VISITATION

Parents are always welcome at the Lowe's preschool. Please feel free to observe or assist us with the day's activities. However, some children have difficulty separating and an early visit followed by your absence may leave your child unhappy and unwilling to participate in remaining activities. If this is the case, rest assured that your child is normal. It may simply be better if you observe the class unseen or schedule conferences to discuss your child's classroom experiences.

COMMUNICATIONS

Calendars will be made available to parents. This item will inform you of activities planned for your child and keep you abreast of topics related to the preschool operations. Calendars will be handed out in the children's folders at the beginning of every month.

SOLICITING

Soliciting is prohibited on YMCA premises. No printed material may be distributed without the approval and consent of the marketing department and the Family Services director.

DAILY ROUTINES

Classroom specific routines will be given at the scheduled open house. Example activities that the children will participate in are listed below.

- *Morning message* focuses on calendar, weather, and pledge of allegiance.
- *Activity Time* refers to a lesson developed by the teachers encompassing literacy, phonemic awareness and mathematical thinking.
- *Learning centers* provides opportunities for the children to participate in teacher-created productive play areas. Centers are used as a tool to reach developmental milestones

- *Read Aloud* time is devoted to children's literature and story comprehension.
- Manners and self-help skills are incorporated throughout the day.
- *Playground* is a time of physical activity, development of social skills and team work.
- *We do not have screen time as a regular activity during preschool.*

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- **Illness**

It is our sincere desire to provide quality care for your children while you take advantage of various services at the Lowe's YMCA. It is absolutely imperative that we work together to make this happen. **Please be considerate of all the students and teachers in the classroom and do not send your sick child to school.** Please be advised that staff *will not* exclude your child from care *unless* one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in preschool activities
2. The illness results in a greater care need than the child care staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
3. The child has any of the following conditions:
 - a. **Fever**-a child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to the program. A fever reduced by medicine does not qualify as fever free. We require 24 hours without the use of medicine.
 - b. **Signs of Possible Severe Illness:** Examples include lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing or other unusual signs – until medical evaluation allows inclusion.
 - c. **Uncontrolled Diarrhea:** Examples include one or more watery stools which cannot be contained by a diaper or more than two loose stools in a 24-hour period.
 - d. **Vomiting-** Have vomited within the past 24 hours.
 - e. **Nasal Drainage-** any discolored drainage must be confirmed as allergy related with a current doctor's note. However, drainage combined with other symptoms will be questioned or require additional doctor's documentation.

If an illness, such as lice, Fifth disease or Chicken Pox has been reported to us, all parents in that class will be notified.

- **Emergencies**

Our preschool staff will treat minor cuts, scrapes, and bumps. In the case of serious illness or an accident involving your child, the preschool coordinator will contact you. If you cannot be reached, treatment will be prompted as secured by your signature on your child's health form. In order to make sure that a child's safety is taken care of, some medication may need to be administered in case of an emergency due to an allergic reaction. To give the preschool permission to administer emergency medication, please fill out the emergency medication release form, available through your preschool coordinator. We do not administer other medications, including medication for diaper rash.

- **Inclement Weather**

For inclement weather, the Lowe's YMCA Preschool follows the Iredell Statesville School System's (ISS) lead. If ISS schools are delayed for one or two hours, then the preschool will open one hour late and close at regular time. If ISS schools are delayed by more than two hours, then the preschool will be closed. If ISS schools are closed, then the preschool will be closed as well. The Lowe's YMCA Preschool program will offer a limited amount of preschool make-up days that are marked on the preschool calendar. Preschool make up days will occur if Iredell Statesville Schools are operating on the same make-up day also. Due to the length of our preschool year, there are only a limited number of make-up days that can be offered. There are no refunds for weather cancellations.

DISCIPLINE

The philosophy of our program is deeply rooted in respect. Good manners and personal empathy are traits we will foster. Encouraging good behavior helps to discourage unacceptable behavior. Using the principle of positive reinforcement, each child will be praised for good work and made to feel successful. Negative behavior will be confronted and redirected towards positive behavior.

If a child is continuously disruptive and refuses to be redirected to positive behavior, he or she will be removed from the classroom for a short time. During this time the child will have a chance to think about the misbehavior leading to his or her removal from the group. When the child returns to the group, he or she will be welcomed back into the group and the day will continue on.

Our teachers are committed to working with parents regarding disciplinary matters; however, should these processes fail and behavioral problems are not corrected, the preschool coordinator reserves the right to dismiss the child from the program.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Preschool begins daily at 9:00 am and ends at 12:00 pm. Our car line is available from 8:55 am-9:10 am. After 9:10 am, a parent will be required to walk your child into their classroom. Preschool arrival and dismissal procedures will require time and patience. Please be understanding that during the first few weeks of school everyone is adjusting to a new routine. Please take advantage of this service as it makes it an easier transition to preschool for your child(ren). Specific guidelines for the car line will be available at open house. Please do not talk on your cell phone while in line to pick up your child. This is both a safety issue and a beneficial time to talk about your child's day at school.

- **Photo ID Protection**

Pick up: Please stand on the sidewalk near your car if you are in one of the first four cars in the car line. A preschool staff will come to your car and ask to see your photo ID (which must include your photo and your name) and then have you sign your preschooler out. If an alternate person will be providing transportation for your child they will be verified on the pickup authorization list and asked for photo identification also.

The preschooler will be escorted by one of the preschool teachers to you so that you can secure your child in their car seat.

- **Car Seats and Your Child's Safety**

Be sure to have the proper car seat in your car for your preschooler(s) being picked up. Child Safety Seats are required by law.

The North Carolina Child Passenger Safety Law States:

A child less than eight years of age and less than 80 pounds in weight shall be properly secured in a weight-appropriate child passenger restraint system. In vehicles equipped with an active passenger-side front air bag, if the vehicle has a rear seat, a child less than five years of age and less than 40 pounds in weight shall be properly secured in a rear seat, unless the child restraint system is designed for use with air bags. If no seating position equipped with a lap and shoulder belt to properly secure the weight-appropriate child passenger restraint system is available, a child less than eight years of age and between 40 and 80 pounds may be restrained by a properly fitted lap belt only."

- **Late Pick Up**

Preschool ends at 12:00 pm. A ten minute grace period will be granted for late pick-ups. After the grace period is over, a \$1.00 per minute toll will be charged. Payment is expected prior to future attendance. Our car line is available from 11:55 am - 12:10 pm. After 12:10 pm, a parent will be required to walk and sign out your child. If you arrive after the staff member has left the outside car line area, **you are late**. Chronic late pick-ups may be grounds for dismissal from preschool. If a child is not picked up after one hour nor a phone call is received, local authorities will be called.

- **Custody Issues**

In cases of separated or divorced parents where visitation rights are denied to one parent, we cannot deny releasing the child to such parent unless a court decree or separation document is in our file expressly forbidding such parent from picking up the child from our program, or from picking up at times not allowed by the court decree. The court decree must specify the rights of visitation on the YMCA Property during preschool hours and it must specify in writing that visitation is permitted by the non-custodial parent. Otherwise, we will not permit visitation.

- **Field Trips**

A school-wide field trip or special event is planned each year. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from this event.

- **Birthday Celebrations**

You may celebrate your child's birthday during the classroom's snack time by making advanced arrangements with your child's teacher. Birthday celebrations during preschool hours may include cookies or mini cupcakes. If you are distributing goody bags, please be mindful of the number of children in the classroom, the children's ages, choking hazards and our peanut free and nut free policy. We understand that you may not be

able to invite the entire class to your child's birthday party outside of preschool hours. So, to prevent any hurt feelings, we ask that you send any birthday invitations electronically and **NOT** through the teachers.

LOGISTICS

- Our YMCA preschool is not licensed and is regulated by the State Department of Child Development. Our YMCA of Greater Charlotte preschool adheres to YMCA Quality Standards.
- Children may not participate in the following programs or a combination of the following programs for more than four hours in a 24-hour period (calendar day) in a Charlotte YMCA or a combination of Charlotte YMCAs: Children's Enrichment Programs, unlicensed preschools, CHILDWATCH (drop in care) and unlicensed after school programs.
- All programs of the YMCA of Greater Charlotte are open to everyone within age parameters, regardless of race, religion, national origin or ability to pay.

Contact Numbers:

Lowe's YMCA	704-716-4000
Lowe's YMCA Fax	704-716-4001
Jennifer McKnight Preschool Coordinator Jennifer.McKnight@YMCACharlotte.org	704-716-4069
Y Kids at the Lowe's YMCA	704-716-4006
Danielle Crimi Sr. Youth Development Director Danielle.Crimi@YMCACharlotte.org	704-716-4043
Kyna Badger Program Registrar Kyna.Badger@YMCACharlotte.org	704-716-4409

PARENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Please sign and return this form at your child's open house.

I have read and I understand the policies and procedures outlined in the Lowe's YMCA preschool booklet.

My child's name is _____

X _____ (Parent/Guardian Signature) _____ (Date)