



LEARN GROW THRIVE

PLAY CENTER PARENT HANDBOOK

YMCA OF METRO ATLANTA

The following policies and procedures are minimum guidelines set to provide for a positive, healthy, safe, energetic, and fun environment for the children entrusted in our care.

The Play Center is operating as an exempt program based on Bright from the Start standards.



YMCA PLAY CENTER POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Welcome to the YMCA Play Center! As an added benefit to your membership, we provide a drop-in care area for members and their children. Here, children can play and learn in a safe, fun environment and parents can feel confident that their children are kept safe and entertained during their visit.

Our Play Center is designed to serve children ages 12 weeks to 12 years. Children may be left in our care for one visit per day per child, with a maximum of 2 hours. The parent/guardian must remain on YMCA premises while their child is in the Play Center.

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedure: All children and parents/guardians will have their temperature taken prior to entering the YMCA. Parents/guardians should complete the pre-screen questionnaire for each child attending the Play Center prior to coming to the Y. Parents/guardians need to personally drop off their children in the Play Center and remain on the premises at all times. The parent/guardian must use the Alaris sign in system when dropping off and picking up their children. You can sign in with your membership card, or your phone number on file. Anyone under the age of 18 is not allowed to sign a child in or out, even if they are a sibling or caregiver. Parents may check on their child at any time. **For the safety of all children in the Play Center, non-YMCA staff/parents are not allowed in the Play Center during regular operation hours.**

Capacity: To ensure the health and safety of all children in our care, no more than 20 individuals, Y staff included, will be permitted in each room/space. Each location's capacity will be posted outside of the Play Center space and is determined by square footage and staffing. Our Play Center will operate at the following ratios: 1:9 for ages 4 to 12, 1:6 for ages 2 & 3 and 1:4 for ages 2 and under.

Hours: Visit ymcaatlanta.org/locations to find your branch and check play center hours. Please be considerate and pick up your child by closing time. Hours and availability are subject to change on holidays and special events.

Illnesses/Contagious Conditions: To ensure the health and safety of all children in our care, any child who appears to have any illness or contagious condition, including but not limited to, coughing, diarrhea, vomiting, any nasal discharge that is not clear in color, fever, or head lice, will not be allowed to stay in the Play Center and may require a doctor's note upon return to the center.

Dress: Please have your child dress appropriately as we do sometimes go outside, weather permitting. After gymnastics, dance, swim or any other sports/activities, please change your child into play clothing that is easy to handle during bathroom breaks and is safe among other children. Shoes must be worn at all times. Certain activities require closed toe shoes. Face masks are required for all children ages 3 and up. Masks are optional for 2-year-olds, and the CDC recommends that children under age 2 should not wear masks.



Bathroom: We highly recommend having children use the restroom and wash their hands before checking in. If your child is not able to use the restroom and wash their hands independently, this is especially important. Staff may not go into the restroom to assist a child. If your young child is not completely potty trained or not able to use the restroom independently, please have him/her arrive wearing a pull-up. Send diapers and wipes labeled and in a plastic ziploc bag if you would like us to change your baby's diaper if soiled.

Play and Activity Time: During your child's stay with us, they are encouraged to engage in fun activities that include a wide variety of age appropriate toys, equipment and materials of interest to challenge them. If your child may need accommodations due to diverse abilities, please reach out to the staff.

Snacks and Drinks: We do not provide snacks or drinks in the Play Center. No food or drink is allowed during this time. As a drop-in facility and for the safety of all the children, we are not equipped or staffed to provide food, bottles, snacks, etc.

Personal Items: For safety reasons, personal items and toys are not allowed in the Play Center. Electronics will be permitted during this time, but the YMCA is not responsible for these items, and the play center staff will not be able to provide any assistance to children with any of their virtual learning/school assignments. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to ensure that appropriate content is available and accessible for the child to view/use, and that the child can only access games/entertainment that is appropriate for all ages while in the Play Center.

Behavior: The Play Center is designed to provide a pleasant and memorable experience for all children. The Play Center staff will use redirection and positive reinforcement while working with your child. If these techniques are not successful and your child poses a danger to self or to others, we will notify you immediately via text, phone or in person. We will share information concerning any behavioral issues upon request. Biting, hitting, running, climbing or pushing is not allowed in the Play Center. If after 15 minutes of your child struggling to adjust to the Play Center and the expectations (crying continuously or behavior issues), we will notify you to pick up your child. Please know, this procedure will be followed for the comfort and best interest of your child. If a second incident occurs we will create an action plan with the child's parents/ guardian. The YMCA has the right to limit access to the Play Center for children due to behavioral concerns.

We appreciate your careful review and consideration of these YMCA Play Center Guidelines. Your children are special to us and we want to provide a fun, healthy and safe place for them to play.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your YMCA.

