



GET UP GET OUT AND GROW



Licensed School Age Program Parent Handbook Family YMCA of the Desert

43-930 San Pablo Ave
Palm Desert, CA 92260
760-341-9622

2025
2026

Proudly Serving Families at the Following Locations:

Amelia Earhart

(760) 902-1746

License # 334810126

Carter Elementary

(442) 933-9120

License # 334803331

Ford Elementary

(760) 902-1754

License # 334800967

La Quinta Child Development

Center (760) 564-2848

License # 334803769

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Family YMCA of the Desert, we're happy that you chose our program for Licensed School Age Child Care for grades TK-5th. We welcome all parents to be a part of our school age program by offering suggestions, comments and moral support. It is our goal and commitment to make sure each family is provided with a fun, safe, and nurturing environment.

The child care program here at the YMCA is designed to help meet the needs of working parents and their children. Our mission is to help each child develop their positive identities, values, social skills and commitment to a positive learning approach. Within the program children will get the opportunity to learn healthy eating habits, gain a hands-on approach with projects, develop a balanced homework schedule and have the opportunity to be outside being active with great lesson plans setup by our staff here at the YMCA.

Within this handbook you will find everything that you need to understand the philosophy, policies, and procedures here at the YMCA. Please read this handbook and maintain a copy of it for any future reference. If you have any questions about our policies and procedures, please feel free to talk to the Site Supervisor at your site and we will gladly assist you in any way possible.

Welcome to the Family YMCA of the Desert's Licensed School Age Program and we look forward to a great school year!

Justin Hickey

Community Program Director

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WHAT THE YMCA IS ALL ABOUT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Family YMCA of the Desert is to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

PURPOSE & PHILOSOPHY

The licensed school age program is designed to meet the developmental needs of school-aged students, as well as support, motivate, and nurture them. The program focuses on facilitating the child's sense of industry, promoting a sense of competence, creating an environment conducive to positive peer interaction, challenging children to grow in imagination, creativity, self-directed initiative and leadership, while keeping them safe under the guidance of a nurturing and caring staff.

We believe that all children are capable of learning. All children are unique individuals and deserve our respect. All children should be able to relate to and be proud of their own culture, as well as respect and relate to other cultures around them. Instilling and nurturing these qualities within each individual child will enable them to become outstanding citizens of tomorrow.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our goals and objectives as child development providers are to contribute to the child's total development. We are sensitive to the fact that developmental ability and personalities can vary widely at any age. We help children to build self-control by learning to follow rules, sharing, taking turns, and working in a group. All in all, our goal is for each child to be able to grow physically, emotionally, socially and mentally.

In order to attain the above goals, the staff will help the child:

- Gain pride in their own cultural background
- Learn to work and play independently
- Learn to live and play effectively with other children and to value one's own rights and the rights of others
- Develop self-identity and a view of themselves as having competence and worth
- Realize opportunities to strive and succeed physically, intellectually and socially
- To wonder, seek answers, question, explore and to be curious while exploring their environment
- Strengthen physical skills, using large and small muscles
- Grow in ability to express feelings and to understand the difference between feeling angry and feeling empathy for others

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

The Y of the USA has a commitment to character development. The YMCA maintains that families are the key to character development. Parents and other caring adults have the primary responsibility to teach their children the values they feel are important.

The Y will support families in character development by challenging children to accept and demonstrate positive values. We will do this by providing an environment, role models and activities conducive to character development. We will keep parents informed and involved as well as challenge all adults to be positive role models and valuable educators.

The Y has adopted the following four values: Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility.

The Y challenges all parents/guardians to accept and demonstrate Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility.

ENSURING PROGRAM ACCESS FOR ALL CHILDREN

The Family YMCA of the Desert does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color or mental or physical disability in determining which

children are served. The program refrains from religious instruction or worship. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to the Palm Desert YMCA at 760-341-9622.

The Family YMCA of the Desert, in keeping with its mission to help all people realize their fullest potential, encourages and supports the participation of all children in YMCA child care programs. Consideration is given to the individual needs of every child and the reasonable accommodation of the program to meet those needs.

The Family YMCA of the Desert works together with Community Care Licensing to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the children served under the guideline of Title 22 regulations.

FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION

- You may choose one of the three plans we have to offer—before school, before & after school or after school. Each plan has the option of 3 or 5 days per week. We do not have an hourly rate. The 3 day option has limited space available.
- A non-refundable, non-transferable material/registration fee of \$150.00 is charged annually for the first child within the family, \$50 for the second child and no fee for the third or more enrolled. *Fees cover the operation of the center, facility rental, staff salaries, supplies, curriculum materials, snacks, water, electricity, etc. We need everybody to be responsible for his or her childcare payment so that we can continue to give the quality child care our children deserve.*
- The registration packet must be completed before the first day of attendance prior to your child attending our program. Children who attend our program the year before have first priority on registration. Any siblings in the family will have priority after that before we open to any kids on the waiting list.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Monthly payments are due on the 25th of each month for the next month of care. Any payments not paid by the 25th will be assessed a \$20.00 late fee. Available spaces in the child care program are opened to the wait list on the 1st of each month.
- Checks or money orders are to be made payable to the Family YMCA of the Desert.
- Cash payments will not be accepted at sites, any payment by cash must be done at our main location: 43930 San Pablo Ave, Palm Desert, CA, 92260.
- Bank draft may become available and proper forms must be filled out in order to choose this method.
- Visit our website at www.ymcaofthedesert.org to pay online and view other exciting programs.
- Parents/guardians receiving Third Party assistance through the state are responsible for all fees not paid by the Third Party Agency.
- Adjustments to child care fees will not be made.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applications are available to all participants in need of financial assistance for registration or program fees. Financial Assistance is valid for one year and it is the responsibility of the parent to resubmit the financial assistance forms. Individuals may be asked to provide the Y with current financial information during the term of their financial assistance agreement. Everybody receiving financial assistance must keep their payments current or their assistance will end. Financial Assistance is limited to funds available.

RETURNED CHECKS

There is a \$25.00 service fee for all returned checks. The second time that a check is returned, all future fees must be paid with a money order or cash.

PAYMENTS FOR VACATION / SICK TIME

There are no adjustments to childcare fees for absence or non-participation. Payment is still required. There are no fee credits or adjustment made for vacations, illness of participants or days which the provider is closed. This includes our school year, holiday breaks and summer programs.

REFUND POLICY

Refunds are only given if the YMCA cancels a program.

CHILDCARE EXPENSE AND TAX REPORTING

As a licensed childcare, expenses for the year can be claimed as a valid tax expense. Our tax ID number is 95-3673295.

ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT PARTICIPANTS

The Y accepts alternative payments from third party agencies such as Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE), California Work Opportunities and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKS), etc. These agencies may not cover the full tuition charged by the Y. Any difference between the amount paid by the third party agency and the Y's rate will result in a co-payment and is the sole responsibility of the parent. *All third party participants will be required to adhere to the payment schedule.*

ATTENDANCE POLICY- APPLICABLE TO THIRD PARTY ATTENDEES

ABSENCES

Call as soon as you know your child will be absent. It is imperative that Third Party participants monitor excused and unexcused absences and state the reason for the absence on the specified sign-in sheet. It is the parent's responsibility to review the accuracy of absences each month and sign off on the attendance sheet at the end of each month. This has a direct impact on the continuation of your approved services by the third party agency. Please talk to your Site Supervisor if you have specific questions or need assistance in filling out the attendance sheet.

EXCUSED ABSENCES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

Court ordered visitations, illness or injury of the child or parent, doctor or dental appointment for the child or parent, funeral due to death in the immediate family.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

Didn't feel like coming to school, sleeping in, car problems, no transportation, suspension due to behavioral issues. After 3 unexcused absences your child may be terminated from the program.

PROVIDING APPROVAL CERTIFICATES AND SIGN-IN AND OUT SHEETS

It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that the site has current, approved certificates from their third party agency. Failure to provide appropriate certificates may lead to program termination and the responsibility to pay tuition not covered by your third party agency.

Some agencies provide the Provider Invoice / Sign-In Sheet directly to the parent. In this case, it is the parent's responsibility to give the invoice to the Site Supervisor in a timely manner. The Site Supervisor has the right to suspend care until the Provider Invoice / Sign-In Sheet is turned in to the site.

OPERATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CENTER POLICY

- Files are kept on each child for health and attendance purposes.
- Files pertaining to eligibility standards and family service records are kept confidential with limited access in secured files.
- Attendance is taken on a daily basis.
- Parents are able to visit the site before their child's first day.
- Every child is treated with respect and dignity.
- The program refrains from religious worship or instruction.

CENTER HOURS / DAYS OF OPERATION

Days of Operation: Monday – Friday

Hours vary per site, please see final page for site specific information.

VACATIONS / HOLIDAYS

The centers will be closed in the observance of the following holidays:

Independence Day: July 4, 2025 (Friday)
Labor Day: September 1, 2025 (Monday)
Veteran's Day: November 11, 2025 (Tuesday)
Thanksgiving: November 27, 2025 (Thursday)
Day After Thanksgiving: November 28, 2025 (Friday)
Christmas Eve: December 24, 2025 (Wednesday)
Christmas: December 25, 2025 (Thursday)
Day After Christmas: December 26, 2024 (Friday)
New Years Eve: December 31, 2025 (Wednesday)
New Years Day: January 1, 2026 (Thursday)
Martin Luther King Day: January 19, 2026 (Monday)
Presidents Day: February 16, 2026 (Monday)
Memorial Day: May 25, 2026 (Monday)
Juneteenth: June 19, 2026 (Friday)

The dates above include summer and holiday break care which are not available at all sites. Centers may be subject to additional closures due to school holidays set by the school district. For a listing of these dates, please see your Site Supervisor. Care for these days are available at alternate locations in Palm Desert and La Quinta. See your Site Supervisor for more information.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

Parents are required to complete a registration packet upon enrollment. The child will not be permitted to start the program unless the packet is complete and accurate. Packets are required to be updated annually. It is the parent's responsibility to keep all information current and updated, such as change of address, emergency contacts, telephone numbers, etc. A Change of Information Form will be available for parents to update information.

SIGNING IN & OUT PROCEDURES

A parent or designated person, who is at least 18 years of age, must sign the child in when brought to the center. SIGN IN INCLUDES FULL NAME, THE EXACT TIME, AND MUST BE LEGIBLE on the attendance sheets provided. This is in compliance with Title 22 Licensing Regulations 101226.1 (b) and 101229.1 (a.1). The same process must be completed when picking the child up.

AUTHORIZATION TO PICK UP CHILD (REN)/CHANGE INFORMATION

No child will be released to a person not authorized by a parent to pick up the child. We must have written authorizations for persons picking up children who are not on the child's authorization list. Parents will be asked to list persons authorized when they register their child at the center.

Reminder: Only written authorization will be accepted along with verbal verification from the parent. Staff will require that the person picking up the child show proper (photograph) identification at time of pick up.

DIVORCE/SEPARATION

In the case of separation/divorce, court documents must be provided to inform the site of custodial rights and

days and if the non-custodial parent may pick up the child. No changes to the pick up authorization will be accepted by phone. Restraining orders must be on file with our office. In the event that custody of the children is shared jointly, children will be released to either parent and to any adult listed on the emergency card provided by either parent. Should disagreements arise between the parents, related to issues of who may pick up the child; staff will follow any procedures outlined in the most recent court orders.

DAILY ABSENCES

If a child is going to be absent the parent must call the appropriate center as soon as it is known that the child will not be attending. The program cannot be held responsible for any child who is not at the pick-up point from school or not arriving at the childcare sites after school. If your child does not attend school for a full day (no matter the reason), or goes home sick, they will not be allowed to participate at the Y for that day.

It is extremely important that your child go directly to the pick-up location / childcare facility after class.

Parents are to notify the center if a child is attending a school field trip. If the child returns late from a school field trip it is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation to the childcare site.

LATE PICK UPS

Children need to be picked up on time everyday. Excessive late pick-ups will result in termination of all child care services. After the closing time there will be a late charge of \$1.00 for each minute until the child is picked up. This fee must be paid to the staff at the time of pick up. Should a parent not have the means to pay the fee, it is due the following day. Checks are to be made payable to the Family YMCA of the Desert. Should a parent fail to pick up their child (ren) by closing time the staff will attempt to call those listed on the emergency form. After ONE (1) HOUR, the proper authorities will be called and the child will be released to their care.

MANDATED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING

Legislation (AB-2710, Chapter 1718, States of 1984) requires that any person who enters into employment in a capacity in which they are required by law to report known or suspected cases of child abuse must sign a statement, to be provided by the employer, indicating knowledge of an agreement to comply with child abuse reporting requirements.

Under the law, mandated reporters are required to report any reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. The employees of Family YMCA of the Desert are considered mandated reporters, under this law. The employees of Family YMCA of the Desert are not required to discuss their suspicions with parents prior to reporting the matter to the appropriate authorities, nor are they required to investigate the cause of any suspicious marks, behavior or condition prior to making a report. Under the law, mandated reporters can be held criminally responsible if they fail to report suspected abuse or neglect. We at Family YMCA of the Desert take this responsibility very seriously and will make all warranted reports to the appropriate authorities. The law is designed to protect the welfare and best interest of all children.

As mandated reporters, the staff of Family YMCA of the Desert cannot be held liable for reports made to Child Protective Services which are determined to be unfounded, provided the report was made in "good faith."

Causes for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect include, but are not limited to:

- Unusual bruising, marks, or cuts on the child's body
- Severe verbal reprimands
- Improper clothing relating to size, cleanliness, season
- Transporting a child without appropriate child restraints (e.g. car seats, seat belts, etc.)
- Dropping off or picking up a child while under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol
- Leaving a child unattended for any amount of time
- Failure to attend to the special needs of a disabled child
- Children who exhibit behavior consistent with an abusive situation

In addition, if social workers or other designated employees from Child Protective Services wish to interview your child at our facility, we are required by law to allow them to do so. Notification to parents that such an interview took place is not required.

The child's file is available for review by the Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services, Law Enforcement Personnel, and Community Care Licensing, California Department of Education and/or authorized Y staff. We value your privacy and will restrict access to your child's file to only those necessary to ensure the safety of your child.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Although every effort will be made to accommodate schedule changes, any changes in a child's attendance at the Licensed School Age Program are subject to availability.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE PROGRAM

To withdraw from the program, one week's written notice is required to be given to Site Supervisor specifying the last day of attendance by completing the *Change of Care Form*. If this is not done, you will be charged one week's tuition.

LICENSING AND REGULATIONS

Child Development Centers of the Family YMCA of the Desert are licensed by the State Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing and follow Title 22 regulations which establish health and safety standards for child care centers. A licensing analyst has the authority to inspect the facility and interview children in care. The findings of each visit are posted on the parent bulletin board or a copy can be requested from Site Supervisors and/or the Director of Licensed Programs.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE/CONSENT

Family YMCA of the Desert will be taking photographs / videos of the children and families for instructional, training and promotional purposes. Children take pride in seeing their pictures of themselves engaged in classroom activities. This is a very powerful motivator for learning. These pictures / videos may be posted on our web site or social media sites and may also be used for publicity purposes.

If you do not wish for us to take and/or publish photographs / videos, a request in writing must be given to the Site Supervisor. However, the Family YMCA of the Desert is not responsible for any photographs / videos that may be taken / published by other program participants (i.e. parents, grandparents, etc).

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Your Site Supervisor will be able to assist you with most questions related to the program, including:

Behavior Concerns

Program Concerns

Schedule Changes

Transportation Issues

The Site Supervisor will be able to work closely with you to ensure a positive Y experience for both you and your child. If, after working with your Site Supervisor, you are unable to reach a satisfactory resolution to a concern, please contact the Community Program Director.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

SAMPLE OF A TYPICAL DAY (Schedules vary from Site to Site)

7:00-8:30 a.m.	Indoor Games / Homework Help
3:00-3:15 p.m.	Afternoon Snack
3:15-4:00 p.m.	Homework/Academic Enrichment
4:00-4:30 p.m.	Outside Play/Organized Sports
4:30-5:15 p.m.	Arts and Crafts
5:15-6:00p.m.	Indoor Quiet Games

MEALS & SNACKS

Daily nutrition plays a vital role in your child's day. Staff and children spend quality group time together in a relaxed atmosphere while they enjoy their snack. Your child's daily nutritional needs are met through planned snacks that follow USDA guidelines. Snack menus are posted monthly. Parents are asked to inform staff of any special dietary needs or food allergies. The Site Supervisor will discuss how / if we can meet the individual dietary needs for the child or if an alternative will need to be provided.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Our sites are equipped with toys and games suited for each age group. Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home; this will help eliminate unnecessary problems. The YMCA is not responsible for personal property that is lost, stolen, or damaged.

TELEPHONE USE BY CHILDREN

The staff will be happy to convey messages to children when necessary but it is not possible for children to make or receive telephone calls. Parents are welcome to call the site at any time to speak to the Site Supervisor or staff about questions or concerns regarding their child. Children will also not be allowed to use their personal cellphones or other electronic devices during program hours.

CLOTHING

Your child will actively participate in many activities. It is important that your child is dressed in a manner that is comfortable and allows the freedom to experiment and enjoy the many opportunities for learning and play. Comfortable, sturdy, closed toe shoes will make active play much safer and more enjoyable.

STAFF BABYSITTING

All Y staff working directly with children is required to take training above their current education in child abuse prevention and positive guidance within the first 30 days of employment. As part of our policies on the protection of children, staff is not allowed to relate to members outside of Y programs. Please do not put staff in a difficult position by asking them to provide personal childcare.

TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS

You are your child's first teacher. Student success depends on the support of networks that include parents, teachers, and other key stakeholders in their school communities. To strengthen these partnerships, this year sites will be using a text messaging app to elevate our Parent-School connection. The app is a free, safe messaging app that keeps families up to date with what's happening in the classroom. Teachers and staff can send messages to an entire class, smaller groups, or individuals without any phone numbers being shared. These quick, simple messages can help you and your student stay informed about:

- Upcoming events
- Needed paperwork
- Field trip updates
- Schedule changes

- Personalized support or feedback
- And more!

In order to ensure professionalism and appropriate contact, teachers are not allowed to communicate with parents through personal cell phones or e-mail.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents may request a teacher/parent conference or a supervisor/parent conference to discuss their child's development or any other concerns. Upon request the staff will do a written observation of a child. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of parents sharing changes occurring in a child's life. Any changes a child may be experiencing at home will probably affect the child's behavior at school. If we are kept informed of any changes, we can be more sensitive to your child's needs. The staff's goal is to work as a team with the family to provide the best environment for the child's growth and development. Regular communication with the YMCA staff is advised.

PARENT BULLETIN BOARD

A bulletin board is reserved for items that parents need to read. It has information and notices about the center and its activities. The bulletin board and the sign in/out table should be checked daily in order to keep up to date with the before and after school program.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Each site has an active Facebook page where events, reminders and photographs are routinely posted. We encourage families to "like" their Center page to keep updated. Please see your Site Supervisor for more information.

HOMEWORK

Homework time will be provided Monday-Thursday. A quiet supervised environment will be provided during this time for children to begin their homework. Note: We encourage all children to do their homework and not all the children will complete their homework during this time. Children will receive assistance, but it's the parent's responsibility to check the accuracy and the completeness of their child's work. Staff members are available to supervise the homework area and to assist the children with their work, however, a child who needs individual help with his or her homework must ask. Because of the number of children who require assistance during homework time, the staff members are unable to check each child's homework for accuracy or provide the type of one-on-one homework help that is available from a private tutor. As a licensed childcare facility we have to be respectful of the children's rights, and therefore our staff cannot search for homework, force completion of homework or withhold activities for failure to participate during this time.

CURRICULUM

The YMCA staff will prepare lesson plans based on weekly themes. Themes are chosen based on overall program and children's needs. The curriculum will cover social, cognitive and physical development. Interactions and activities are designed to develop children's sense of themselves and a positive attitude towards learning. Children will have hands-on science and math experiences, enhance creativity through the arts, develop motor skills, and encourage social and emotional development. A weekly calendar is posted at the site so that parents can follow along with what activities are being provided in the program.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Y school age staff strives to respond to the needs of each individual child in a group setting, with a ratio of one staff member to fourteen children. The Y provides opportunities for involvement in large and small groups. The Y is, however, unable to provide one-on-one care for any child except on an intermittent basis such as immediate disciplinary issues, injuries and certain personal care needs customarily provided to other children.

The Y School Age Program welcomes all children to the extent it is reasonably able to do so. The Y program will

provide services to children with disabilities or any special needs in the same manner as services provided for other children of comparable age.

It is essential that all pertinent information about the child's needs be available to staff from enrollment and that a continuing bond of trust and mutual partnership exists for the benefit of the child. A parent has the obligation to disclose significant medical, physical and behavioral issues at the time of the child's enrollment and on an ongoing basis. If necessary, a meeting with the Director of Licensed Programs will take place prior to the start of the child participating in the program.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

The YMCA promotes four character values – Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility, through modeling, praising and rewarding these behaviors.

Children are taught that HONESTY should be the basis for all relationships and interactions.

Children are taught CARING for themselves and those around them.

Children are taught to RESPECT each other and the environment.

Children are taught RESPONSIBILITY for their actions.

DISCIPLINE

The YMCA uses only positive discipline that encourages acceptable behavior. Staff will use the following strategies for preventing behavior problems: know individual children and their responses to situations, plan and arrange materials and activities to motivate productive behavior, minimize stress and promote trust and cooperation and be alert to changes in the emotional environment and re-direct the child to another area or activity.

When discipline becomes necessary, we do it with care and understanding. The child becomes aware that they are cared for, but that certain behavior is not acceptable.

Safety of all children is the highest priority for setting the discipline policy.

If a child has a serious discipline problem, the parent may be called to pick up the child. Should the staff decide that a child poses a serious discipline problem, that child may be suspended from the program. A serious discipline problem may cause the child to be terminated from the program.

INCIDENT REPORTS

Incident reports will be filled out, a copy given to the parent and a copy placed in the child's file, if the child displays behaviors which are concerning to staff which may include, but are not limited to:

- Hitting, kicking, or biting the staff or other children
- Running away from the program/teacher
- Damaging property belonging to the center, school and/or other children
- Abusive, foul or on-going unacceptable behavior
- Defiant, disruptive and / or out-of-control behavior

PARENT CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Parents and families are always welcome and we enjoy their attendance in our program. However, parents and visitors are expected to be a positive presence and conduct themselves appropriately. The behaviors listed below are unacceptable and visitors will be asked to leave if they are being exhibited. We reserve the right to terminate the enrollment of the child of the offending parent/guardian if they engage in any of the following behaviors:

- Disciplining any child in front of the other children, either verbally or physically
- Talking "negatively" about a child in her/his presence
- Smoking is not allowed on the program site
- Custody and visitation disputes are not to be argued on site
- Rude and/or malicious actions toward program staff, other parents, or children, including the use of profanity

- Causing injury to another child or staff member, or threatening to do so
- Making slanderous, libelous or otherwise disparaging remarks about the YMCA and/or its programs
- Violations of California Education Code regarding firearms, alcohol, drugs, physical altercations, theft, and destruction of property, immoral conduct, etc.

SUSPENSION FROM PUBLIC AND/OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The Y works cooperatively with the local school districts. Suspension from school is a serious offense. In any instance when a child is suspended from his/her school the Y is unable to provide care for the child during the time they are suspended.

COUNSELING CENTERS

The YMCA cannot recommend the use of certain counseling centers. The choice and decision has to be made by the parents and or guardians of the child. We suggest using the yellow pages of the phone book under Marriage, Family and Child Counseling Services or call the Riverside County Office of Education at (760) 863-3345 for a referral list.

IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM

If it is determined by the staff, Site Supervisor and Director, a child may be dismissed from the program effective immediately, if one or all of the following occur:

- A child is requiring constant one on one attention.
- A child is inflicting physical or emotional harm on other children.
- A child is physically abusing staff or is unable to conform to the rules of the program.
- A child has to be physically restrained from hurting other children, staff or themselves.
- A child is constantly disrupting and shows no attempt to listen or abide by the rules.

There is NO REFUND or CREDIT given if dismissal is necessary due to a serious discipline situation.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Should it be determined by collaboration between staff and parents that Y property damage was the fault of a child, the parents / legal guardians will be responsible for all expenses and loss incurred.

VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION

The following rules must be followed by ALL passengers being transported in our vans. Failure to follow these rules may result in a behavioral report, suspension and/or termination from being transported by the Y:

- Seatbelts are to be worn at all times
- One person per seatbelt
- No standing in the moving vehicle at anytime
- No horseplay or throwing items in the vehicle at anytime
- No foul language or excessive noises

AT-WILL TERMINATION

Unfortunately, from time to time, the Family YMCA of the Desert needs to terminate a child and/or family from our programs. Listed below, are some of the reasons a child may be terminated from YMCA programs.

- Three or more lock-outs on a family's account
- Three unexcused absences for an Alternative Payment Participant
- Failure to provide appropriate certificates for an Alternative Payment Participant
- Excessive late pick ups
- A serious discipline problem

- Violations of the Parent Conduct Expectations
- A child is requiring constant one on one attention
- A child is inflicting physical or emotional harm on other children
- A child is physically abusing staff or is unable to conform to the rules of the program
- A child has to be physically restrained from hurting other children, staff or themselves
- A child is constantly disrupting and shows no attempt to listen or abide by the rules
- Failure to follow the Vehicle Transportation rules

In addition to the above, The Family YMCA of the Desert reserves the right to terminate any child and/or family from any of its programs at-will for any reason.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

HEALTH

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the "CDC") recommends that children be vaccinated for certain preventable diseases. Children who are vaccinated generally will not catch these preventable diseases that can occur in school and child care settings. A child, who is not vaccinated as per the CDC's recommendations, may be exposed to and may catch an otherwise preventable disease.

All children must be in good health each day when they arrive at the site. We will not accept children who are ill. We must maintain a healthy environment for all of our children. If a child is ill, we expect the parents to make arrangements for their care. The Site Supervisor has the right to refuse admittance of any child if they have any signs of illness. These signs include, but are not limited to, runny nose and/or eyes, coughing or skin rashes. It is the parent's responsibility to call the Y site if the child is going to be absent. All contagious illnesses must be reported to the Y so that we may inform other parents if necessary. Other health problems such as pink eye, lice or ring-worm must be immediately reported to the Y so that we can check all children and take steps to halt the spread of the problem.

KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF THEY:

- Have a fever or have had one during the previous 24-hour period
- Are taking an antibiotic (for the first 24 hours)
- Have head lice (A child may not return to the program until they are lice and nit free. A staff member will check the child before they are admitted back into the program)
- Have a heavy nasal discharge
- Have a constant cough
- Have vomited within the last 12 hours
- Have symptoms of a possible communicable disease. These are usually sniffles, reddened eyes, sore throat, headache and abdominal pain, plus a fever.

Children may be sent home for any illness or concern at the discretion of the site supervisor.

If any symptoms of illness appear during the day, the parent will be contacted to pick up their child immediately. A Physician's note may be required for any contagious disease. If a child is absent more than three days, a doctor's excuse and authorization to return to the center may be required.

MEDICATION

Medication is given to a child only if the medication is in the original container with the child's name, drug name, dosage time to be given and length of time medication is to be given. Written consent from the parent is required. A "Medications Release Form" can be obtained from any staff member. Permission given by phone will not be accepted. No over-the-counter medications, including aspirin, cough medicine, etc. will be given without a doctor's note. A child may not administer medication to him/herself - *Except in the case of asthma inhalers. Parents are to send a doctor's note explaining dosage, time to be given and how the child uses his/her inhaler.*

SUNSCREEN

Sunscreen will be considered as a non-prescription medication which will require a consent form from the parent. This consent form will give the staff permission to administer the sunscreen while under the care and supervision of the Family YMCA of the Desert.

BLACKOUTS / LOSS OF POWER

If a blackout should occur, all children will be kept inside and will be given quiet activities to do such as reading, puzzles, board games, or they can use the time as a rest period. All sites will have plenty of water available and battery operated lighting. Do not call the YMCA if you suspect a blackout at your child's site, we must keep these lines clear. Cell phones will be available for emergency use. Y staff members are trained in CPR and heat exhaustion prevention. If the blackout exceeds 1 hour in length, you may be called to pick up your child.

EXCESSIVE HEAT AND OUTDOOR PLAY

Safety is our first priority and for the protection of your child, if it is excessively hot, precautions including reducing or eliminating outside play time will occur.

DRILLS

We practice fire, earthquake and lock down drills monthly for all age groups. In the case of a real emergency, evacuation will follow the guidance of the Family YMCA of the Desert.

EMERGENCIES / INJURIES

In case of serious accidental injury we will make an immediate attempt to contact a parent. If necessary we will also call the ambulance or the paramedics. Until the arrival of the parent, an ambulance or the paramedics, the Site Supervisor will be in charge and make all decisions about the care of the child. Parents will be expected to assume responsibility for any expenses. The Y will maintain a parent's signed consent form agreeing to this provision. It is recommended that you speak to your Site Supervisor or Administrative Assistant to find out where relocation sites are in case of center evacuations during an emergency situation.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

If you or anyone on your authorization form changes jobs, moves, etc., you must notify the site and fill out a new Emergency Information form with up to date info ASAP. This information needs to be kept current in case of an emergency or if staff needs to contact you. A Change of Information Form is available at all childcare sites.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD BECOMES INJURED AT THE SITE?

If the injury is minor, such as a scraped knee, the staff will administer First Aid (wash area and use a Band-Aid), and may complete an "ouch report" to give to you when you pick up your child. If your child receives a more serious injury, the Supervisor or acting director will take whatever steps are necessary to obtain emergency medical care if warranted. These steps may include, but are not limited to the following: Attempt to contact a parent or guardian, to inform you and to give you the opportunity to take your child to a physician. Attempt to contact you through any persons listed on the emergency information card you completed for us. If we cannot contact you, or your child needs immediate attention, we will contact 911.

Anti Bullying Policy



At the Family YMCA of the Desert we do not tolerate bullying of any kind within our programs.

Bullying can be done in the form of physical or emotional through hurting another child/participant.

Examples of Bullying:

- Hitting, kicking, punching, and pushing.
- Name calling, racist remarks, hurtful words.
- Threats of any kind.
- Exclusion from participating.
- Teasing
- Starting and/or spreading rumors.

Report

All students and participants within YMCA of the Desert programs are encouraged to report bullying of any kind to YMCA staff. YMCA staff will speak with the Site Supervisor who will look into the manner. All concerns will be responded to in a timely manner. The situation will be documented and if bullying is found parents/guardians will be informed of the situation and it will be monitored.

Consequences

- Written warning of bullying occurring within the program that will be given to parent/caregiver.
- Parent/Caregiver meeting with Site Supervisor and Community Program Director.
- Dismissal from the program.





2025-2026 ADMISSION AGREEMENT FAMILY YMCA OF THE DESERT

Child's Name: _____

Enrollment Date: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Termination Date: _____

School Age: _____

5 days 3 days M T W T H F

Before After Before & After

MY CHILD'S RATE IS:

-

1. I understand that this Admission Agreement is for the 2025-2026 school year, which is scheduled to begin on August 20, 2025 and end on June 5, 2026. If the school district adjusts the school year dates, this agreement will follow the adjusted dates.
2. I understand that the program is **CLOSED** for the holidays listed in the parent handbook.
3. I understand that the signer of this admission agreement is the responsible payor.
4. I understand that all child care payments are to be made **prior to** receiving care.
Monthly payments are due on the 25th of each month for the next month. If the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, the payment is due on the last school day prior to the 25th. Any payments not paid by the 25th will be assessed a \$20.00 late fee. Available spaces in the program are opened to the wait list on the 1st.
5. I understand that if i make my payment late, I will have to pay the \$20 late fee and run the risk of losing my spot.
6. I understand my child CANNOT ATTEND the program if they are not fully paid.
7. I understand if I am receiving funding from CalWORKS, RCOE, etc., I am responsible to pay any portion of tuition that my alternative payment provider does not cover, including all "Family Fees" by the 5th business day of the month.
8. I understand if I am receiving funding from CalWORKS, I am required to provide the sign in sheet by the fifth day of the month or my child's enrollment will be terminated and my spot filled.
9. I understand if I am receiving funding from RCOE, I am required to provide the "Master copy" of the sign in sheet or my child's enrollment will be terminated and my spot filled.
10. I understand that methods of payment include: check, money order, credit card, or third party providers (with appropriate contract), bank draft possibly could be available, and if so proper forms must be filled out in order to choose this method. Checks/money orders should be made payable to the YMCA. Cash payments can be made but must do so at our main office: 43930 San Pablo Ave, Palm Desert, CA, 92260. Cash payments will not be accepted at sites.
11. I understand that I am responsible to pay a \$25.00 fee for all returned checks or autopay credit cards declined due to insufficient funds. Future payments may need to be paid in cash or money order.
12. I understand that there are no credits given for illness, vacation or other personal reasons. When I enroll, I am reserving the time, space and staffing whether or not my child attends.
13. I understand that refunds are given only if the YMCA cancels the program.
14. I understand that a registration/membership fee of \$150 is due annually.

15. I understand that the staff will assume responsibility for my child (ren) from the time I sign them in, to the time they are signed out by an authorized person. **ONLY WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE PARENT/GUARDIAN WILL BE ACCEPTED AND VERIFIED BY THE SITE SUPERVISOR FOR PERSONS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED BY THE SITE AUTHORIZATION LIST TO PICK UP MY CHILD. ONLY ADULTS WHO ARE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER MAY PICK UP A CHILD FROM THE CENTER.**
16. I understand that state licensing requires all signatures be in full name, be legible and have the exact time of drop off and pick up.
17. I understand if a medical emergency arises, the staff will first attempt to contact the parents/authorized guardians. The staff will be responsible for calling appropriate emergency personnel to attend to and transport my child.
18. I understand the importance of updating all information that is pertinent to the child's well being.
19. I understand that it is my responsibility to keep the child home if he/she is ill or has a fever.
20. I understand that I may pick up my child anytime until the center closes. After closing there will be a late charge of \$1.00 per minute/ per child. I understand that this fee must be paid at the time of pick up. Should I not have the money, it is then due the following day. If I fail to pay the late fee the following day or if I am continually late in picking up my child (ren) I risk termination from the program.
21. I understand that if my child is not picked up by closing time, the staff will attempt to call those listed on the emergency form. After **ONE (1) HOUR**, the proper authorities will be called.
22. I understand should it be determined by collaboration between staff and parents that damage to the facility, properties herein, grounds or play equipment was the fault of the child, I am responsible for the cost or repair.
23. I understand it is my responsibility to meet with staff, Site Supervisor and/or Directors when there are concerns with my child's overall development (speech, challenging behaviors, etc...)
24. I understand should it be determined by the staff, Site Supervisor and Program Director that my child poses a serious discipline problem; my child may be terminated from the program immediately. I understand there are no refund/credits given if the child is terminated from the program or is in the process of being terminated.
25. I understand that the Family YMCA of the Desert may terminate a child/family from programs at-will for any reason.
26. I understand that Community Care Licensing and Child Protective Services can interview my child (ren) at any given time.
27. I understand that I will be given at least 30 calendar days' notice prior to any modifications to this agreement, including the changing of tuition rates.
28. I understand that I am responsible for and will abide by all the policies concerning admission, financial obligations and program operations set forth in the Parent Handbook.
29. I understand all financial, attendance, enrollment and other business documents will be provided only to parents and/or guardians who have the legal right to such documents.
30. I have received and read the following documents:

2025-2026 Parent Handbook

2025-2026 Rates

Personal Rights

Parent's Rights

Caregiver Background Check Process

Facing the Facts: A Parent's Guide to the Understanding of Child Sexual Abuse

31. I will be provided a copy of this signed admission agreement which takes effect on August 20, 2025.

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date

Facing the Facts of Child Abuse

A Parent's Guide to the Understanding of Child Sexual Abuse

The State of California requires that parents of children enrolled in preschools receive information about child sexual abuse. At this time the official pamphlet is being revised and is unavailable. Schools have been instructed to provide the following information in this format until the new brochures are completed. Please return the tear-off to the school office after you have read the information.

What is Sexual Abuse?

The sexual abuse of a child occurs whenever any person forces, tricks, or threatens a child in order to have sexual contact with him or her. This contact can include such "non-touching" behavior as an adult exposing himself or asking a child to look at pornographic material. It includes behavior ranging from the sexual handling of a child (fondling), to actual genital contact, to intercourse, to violent rape. In all instances of child sexual abuse, the child is being used as an object to satisfy the adult's sexual needs or desires.

*'Candy is my best friend. I play at her house a lot.
Today her daddy asked us to look at some pictures.
They were nasty pictures of people with no clothes on. He said, 'Doesn't that look like fun?'
I didn't think so, but I said, 'Yes.'*

Who Gets Sexually Abused?

Any child of any age is a potential victim of sexual abuse. Some important facts to keep in mind:

- Although the majority of adults do not sexually assault children, most sexual abuse occurs with an adult the child knows and trusts.
- Most sexual abuse goes unreported and undetected.
- Although we do not have exact numbers, some studies have found that one out of every four girls and one of every ten boys become victims of child sexual abuse by the age of eighteen.
- Children often keep sexual abuse a secret.

*When Mommy goes to work, I stay at Mrs. Jenkin's house. I wish I didn't have to.
Mommy says Mrs. Jenkins is a real nice lady, but Mrs. Jenkins' son Ralph
sometimes makes me do bad things. Yesterday he made me take off my underwear,
and he put his finger in my privates.' He said, "You better not tell."*

Children may keep a sexual assault a secret for many reasons. They may fear rejection, blame, punishment, or abandonment; they may think people won't believe them. Boys are less likely to report an abuse than girls. The closer the relationship of the offender to the child, the less likely it is that the child will report the incident.

How Can You Determine If Sexual Abuse Has Taken Place?

First and foremost, if your children confide that they have been sexually assaulted, believe them! Children very seldom lie about such a serious matter. Also be aware that most sexual abuse does not result in the child being violently attacked or hurt physically. Often there is no physical evidence a child has been molested. Fondling,

involvement in child pornography and oral sex usually present no physical signs of abuse. But, if a child has been physically harmed as a result of sexual abuse, the following may be signs of this occurrence.

- A discharge from the vaginal area or penis
- Injury to the genitals or anus
- Pain, itching, or bleeding in the genital or anal area
- Discomfort in walking or sitting
- The discovery of a sexually transmitted disease

Children, especially very young children, are many times unable to verbalize that they have been molested. The following are some indicators that sexual assault may have taken place:

- Nightmares and sleep disturbances
- Bedwetting
- Fear of certain places or certain people (such as a day care center or friend)
- Loss of appetite
- Clinging to a parent more than usual
- Behaving as a younger child (such as an older child sucking his or her thumb)
- Unexplained changes in behavior at school, day care, or in relations with peers
- Withdrawal
- Acting out the abuse with dolls, friends, or through drawings
- Excessive masturbation

While everyone should report child abuse and neglect, the California Penal Code provides that certain professionals and laypersons must report suspected abuse to the proper authorities. The mandated reporters include:

- Any Child Care Custodian (teachers, licensed day care workers, foster parents, social workers)
- Medical Practitioners (physicians, dentists, psychologists, nurses)
- Nonmedical Practitioners (public health employees, counselors, county welfare department employees)

Failures to report suspected abuse by a mandated reporter (listed above) within 36 hours is a misdemeanor punishable by 6 months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

(Please sign the Child Abuse Prevention Pamphlet Receipt in the Enrollment Packet)

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PAMPHLET RECEIPT

This will acknowledge that I/WE, the parents of _____, have received a copy of; *"Facing the Facts: A Parents Guide to the Understanding of Child Sexual Abuse"* from the licensee or authorized representative of The Family YMCA of the Desert.

Signature

Date

No need to sign, this is your copy for reference.
You already signed this page in your registration packet.

YMCA SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Sexual Harassment Includes:

- Unwelcome or unwanted sexual advances
- Requests or demands for sexual favors

Engaging in sexually oriented contact that interferes with another's work performance.

Creating a work environment that is intimidating hostile, or offensive because of unwelcome or unwanted sexually oriented conversation, suggestions, requests, demands, physical contacts, attentions or the presence of sexually oriented materials.

Complaint Procedure:

Any parent, general public, or employee who believes he/she has been harassed by a co-worker, supervisor, member/participant, volunteer, vendor, teacher or any employee of the YMCA shall promptly report the facts of the incident to Human Resource Department and/or the Executive Director.

**Paula Simonds, Executive
Director (Chief Executive
Officer)
43-930 San Pablo
Avenue, Palm Desert, CA
92260
(760) 341-9622**

**Amanda Henn, Human Resources
Director (Chief Operating Officer)
43-930 San Pablo Avenue, Palm
Desert, CA 92260
(760) 341-9622**

Any employee who has knowledge of any harassment of employees, parents or the general public must immediately bring such information to the attention of Human Resource Department or the Executive Director.

Human Resource Department will promptly investigate all such claims and take appropriate corrective action. All complaints are investigated confidentially to the degree possible. The YMCA will not tolerate any type of retaliation against any person who, in good faith, brings forth information regarding alleged harassment.

CHILD CARE CENTER NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS' RIGHTS

PARENTS' RIGHTS

As a Parent/Authorized Representative, you have the right to:

1. Enter and inspect the child care center without advance notice whenever children are in care.
2. File a complaint against the licensee with the licensing office and review the licensee's public file kept by the licensing office.
3. Review, at the child care center, reports of licensing visits and substantiated complaints against the licensee made during the last three years.
4. Complain to the licensing office and inspect the child care center without discrimination or retaliation against you or your child.
5. Request in writing that a parent not be allowed to visit your child or take your child from the child care center, provided you have shown a certified copy of a court order.
6. Receive from the licensee the name, address and telephone number of the local licensing office.

Licensing Office Name: Community Care Licensing-Inland Empire Regional Office

Licensing Office Address: 237 Main Street, Suite 710, Riverside, Ca 92501

Licensing Office Telephone: 951-782-4200

7. Be informed by the licensee, upon request, of the name and type of association to the child care center for any adult who has been granted a criminal record exemption, and that the name of the person may also be obtained by contacting the local licensing office.
8. Receive from the licensee, the Caregiver Background Check Process form.

NOTE: CALIFORNIA STATE LAW PROVIDES THAT THE LICENSEE MAY DENY ACCESS TO THE CHILD CARE CENTER TO A PARENT/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IF THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PARENT/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE POSES A RISK TO CHILDREN IN CARE.

For the Department of Justice "Registered Sex Offender" database, go to www.meganslaw.ca.gov

LIC 995 (9/08)

(Detach Here - Give Upper Portion to Parents)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS' RIGHTS (Parent/Authorized Representative Signature Required)

I, the parent/authorized representative of _____, have received a copy of the "CHILD CARE CENTER NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS' RIGHTS" and the CAREGIVER BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS form from the licensee.

Name of Child Care Center

Signature (Parent/Authorized Representative)

Date

NOTE: This Acknowledgement must be kept in child's file and a copy of the Notification given to parent/authorized representative.

For the Department of Justice "Registered Sex Offender" database go to www.meganslaw.ca.gov

Family YMCA of the Desert
Licensed School Age Program Locations

Amelia Earhart Elementary

760-902-1746
45-250 Dune Palms Rd.
Indio, Ca 92201
7:00 am-6:00 pm
Lic. #334810126

Carter Elementary

442-933-9120
74-251 Hovley Ln
Palm Desert, Ca 92260
7:00 am-6:00 pm
Lic. #334803331

Ford Elementary

760-902-1754
44-210 Warner Trail
Palm Desert, Ca 92260
7:00 am-6:00 pm
Lic. #334800967

La Quinta Development Center

760-564-2848
49-955 Moon River Drive
La Quinta, Ca 92253
7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Lic. # 335803769

**All sites are grades TK-5th grade, this took
effect starting with the 2023-2024 school year.**

**We will also not provide transportation or
students from other schools. Sites will only
provide care for students at their home site.**

Any questions, comments or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me by phone or email.
Phone: 760-341-9622 Ext 239
Email: Justinhickey@desertymca.org

Justin Hickey - Community Program Director