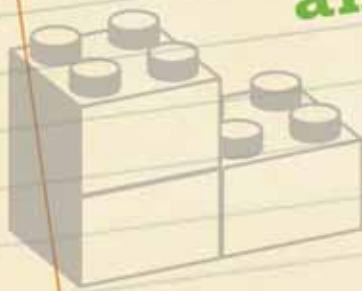


ywca of  
minneapolis  
early  
childhood  
education

Serving Infants through Third Grade

**Let us prepare  
your child to  
succeed in school  
and in life.**



eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

MINNEAPOLIS

ywca of  
minneapolis  
early  
childhood  
education

# letter

from the director

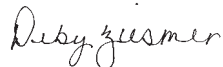
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The YWCA of Minneapolis believes all children deserve a high quality early childhood education. We back that belief with over 30 years of proven excellence and measureable results.

I'm proud to share that 100% of our preschoolers test ready for kindergarten! And YWCA teachers are some of the best and most experienced professionals in the field. The depth of their experience is evident in how they partner with families to prepare children to excel in school and life!

The YWCA provides your child every opportunity to grow and learn in an exciting and supportive environment.

Everyday, when I come to the YWCA, I am struck by the happiness and energy displayed by all the teachers and children. I know your child will grow and thrive at our Centers.



Deby Ziesmer,  
Director of Early Childhood Education

early start. strong finish.

**Hours:**

Monday – Friday  
from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Classroom**

**Ratios:**

Infants 1:3

Toddlers 1:4/5

Preschool 1:6-8

School Age 1:9-12



# quality care

**INFANTS** Babies thrive on individual nurturing from our teachers. All infant teachers are experts at meeting the needs of infants because of our small primary care group ratios - each teacher works with just three infants. Parents receive a note about their baby's activities every day.

**TODDLERS** At 16 months, children join our toddler program. One teacher and five children make up primary care groups that help youngsters sail through age two. This age is all about having fun while developing independence, control of their bodies, language and social interaction skills.

**PRESCHOOL** Our 3 and 4 year olds are bursting with imagination, creativity and responsibility. As they form friendships and develop conflict resolution skills, they also focus on early literacy and pre-math skills. By age 5 our preschoolers are fully ready to succeed in kindergarten.

**KINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOL AGE** School age children come before and after school and all day on school release and vacation days. Our School Age Summer Program includes sports, field trips and challenging activities. Our Downtown Center offers a full day private kindergarten program that gives children a unique small group preparation for first grade.

early start. strong finish.

YWCA of Minneapolis early childhood education Centers provide a high quality educational experience with exceptional child ratios – some of the best in the city. All classroom teachers maintain professional credentials and have extensive educational backgrounds. They bring a broad range of experience to their classrooms. Every teacher is an early literacy expert equipped to meet the needs of the children in their care, including children with special needs.



# excellent curriculum

School readiness begins at birth. Classroom teachers organize curriculum to nurture each child's development. Activities promote social and emotional development, language and literacy development, creativity and the arts, cognitive development, and physical and motor skills.

Our curriculum incorporates anti-bias values and conflict resolution skills that equip children for success. Teachers regularly assess all children to ensure age appropriate development and school readiness using national, research-based assessment tools. Progress is shared with families regularly.

Our program is enhanced because of the following community partnerships:

- Health Dimensions Rehabilitation (speech, occupational and physical therapy services for children)
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- MacPhail Center for Music
- Minnesota Literacy Council - Minnesota Reading Corps
- Hennepin County Master Gardeners

early start. strong finish.

*"At the YWCA, my daughter got access to music lessons, swimming lessons, and orchestra concerts; she went to the Farmers market every week during the summer, and had Computer Lab. I am proud to say that my daughter, with the help of the YWCA, is now in 2nd grade and reading at a 4th grade level."*

- Cassandra, parent



# involved families

Parents are an important part of their child's learning. We share a goal to give every child the best start possible, so they can achieve their highest potential. We stay in touch, with opportunities for family participation.

- Family dinners
- Parent newsletters and teacher conferences
- Support, resources and referrals
- Educational events
- Special fun events

Differences make the classroom a vibrant and interesting place. Classrooms are filled with diverse children and teachers. Children of all backgrounds feel accepted and affirmed and develop an appreciation for different cultures and languages.

Culturally diverse staff help children learn to respect and celebrate their differences and similarities. Teachers pay close attention to racial equity in the classroom and intentionally create an inclusive and nurturing environment.

early start. strong finish.

## Celebrating Diversity

Beginning with their own experiences, children gradually understand, accept, and celebrate the diversity of people through play on a daily basis. The YWCA promotes understanding within the classroom through dramatic play, stories, puppets and group discussions



# healthy children

We are the YWCA of Minneapolis and fitness is important to us! Children have access to indoor and outdoor play spaces, gymnasiums and pools. Field trips around the city take place regularly.

Daily activities help children develop coordination and motor skills. Nutritious and fresh family-style breakfasts, lunches and snacks provide the energy necessary for a successful day. Foods are allergy sensitive and culturally diverse.

The health of the whole family is important to the YWCA. All enrolled families are eligible for a discount on a health and fitness membership.

early start. strong finish.

*"Every child gets more attention and individualized care because of our low classroom ratios. I wish every child could attend a Center like ours."*

*- Tom, YWCA Assistant Toddler Teacher*



## Locations

Call for rates and to set up a tour!

### Downtown

*Offers full-day private kindergarten*  
1130 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
P: (612) 215-4189



### Midtown

**Hennepin County Strong Beginnings Center**  
*providing smaller class sizes and intensive support  
for all children and families to succeed.*  
2121 East Lake Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 215-4328



### Abbott Northwestern

*Featuring Spanish and Somali language immersion  
Bungalow Business Development model*  
800 East 28th Street #15103  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 863-0970  
Spanish: (612) 863-0981  
Somali: (612) 863-0973 or (612) 863-0975  
**NAEYC Accreditation and Parent Aware rating in process**

#### Childcare Subsidy Information:

Hennepin County Childcare Subsidy .....(612) 348-5937  
Jewish Vocational Services Child Care Assistance....(612) 692-8920  
Ramsey County Childcare Subsidy through  
Resources for Child Caring .....(651) 641-0332

#### CALL YOUR COUNTY FOR INFORMATION ON CHILDCARE SUBSIDIES.

*Limited funds are available through the YWCA of Minneapolis  
Early Childhood Education Scholarship Fund.*

