



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

KIDS CENTRAL HANDBOOK

Welcome to Kids Central! We want your child's stay to be safe and positive. This program will offer socialization opportunities and age-appropriate recreational activities for your child. Kids Central is provided for members from 1- 11 years old. Children may be left in our care for 1 hour. This service is intended to provide temporary, license-exempt care and is not a fully licensed childcare center.

Kids Central Hours and Usage:

Babysitting

It will be available for families with a Family-Children Plus and Single-Parent Family Children Plus memberships during the following hours for ages 1-11 years old:

Morning Hours:

Monday - Sunday: 9 AM - 12 PM

Afternoon/Evening Hours:

Monday - Wednesday: 3 - 6 PM

Thursday & Friday: 3 - 5 PM

Reservations are required and may be made on the website or by calling the Welcome Center at 973-822-9622. If you do not have a Plus membership, please contact the Welcome Center to upgrade.

If you cannot arrive during your reserved time slot, please cancel your reservation to ensure other families have the opportunity to participate.

- Each child must be individually registered. Registering more than one child? Register on the website or give us a call to sign up!
- Members can register for one hour during morning hours and one hour for the evening at this time.
- Parents must remain in the facility during their babysitting time slot.

Open Play

- Have a Family (with children) Membership? (not plus): Bring your children to Kids Central for Open Play and enjoy our indoor play space!
- Since Kids Central is technology free, parents and guardians should not be using their phones during this time. The YMCA reserves the right to revoke babysitting/ open play privileges if policies are not being followed.



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Morning Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Afternoon/Evening Hours:

Monday - Wednesday: 3 - 6 PM

Thursday & Friday: 3 - 5 PM

Saturday & Sunday: 12 - 2 PM

Registration is needed and is available 48 hours before each one-hour Open Play block through our [website](#).

- Open Play is limited to **one hour per day**.
- Parents/Guardians must remain **inside Kids Central** while their children are participating.
- If you cannot attend to your reserved time, please cancel your reservation so another family can participate.
- Members can register for one hour during morning hours and one hour for the evening at this time.
- **Guests are not permitted at this time.**

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedure:

Parents/guardians must personally drop off their children in Kids Central and always stay on the premises. The parent/guardian must pre-register using **GroupExPRO** and sign in once in the area with a staff member. Parents may observe or check on their child at any time. For the safety and well-being of all participants, parents are not permitted to remain in the room.

Room Setup, Space, and Capacity:

Kids Central provides short-duration, license-exempt care. Room capacity and staff-to-child ratios are closely monitored for safety. Admission will stop when capacity is reached. The YMCA may limit attendance as needed.

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 Kids Central.



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Dress:

Children must wear socks while in Kids Central for comfort and hygiene. (All adults who wish to enter the designated play spaces are required to wear socks, too.)

Bathroom and Diapering:

Staff do not change diapers or assist children in the restroom. Children who are not fully potty-trained or cannot use the restroom independently should arrive wearing pull-ups. Parents/guardians will be contacted to change soiled diapers or clothing. A changing table is available.

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. For safety reasons, Kids Central is a technology-free space so everyone can be fully engaged in play. Should your child need accommodation due to diverse abilities, please reach out to the staff and/or director.

As open play is a shared space, children and their supervising adults are encouraged to clean up toys and materials after use and return them to their proper places. This helps us keep the space safe, organized, and enjoyable for all families.

Snacks and Drinks:

Keep food and drinks outside of Kids Central to ensure a clean and allergy-safe environment.

Behavior:

Kids Central is committed to providing a safe, positive experience for all children. Staff will use redirection and positive reinforcement. If your child continues to struggle, displays unsafe behavior, or cannot adjust after 15 minutes, you will be contacted to pick them up.

Biting, hitting, pushing, running, and climbing are not allowed. A second incident may result in an action plan with the parent/guardian, and the YMCA may limit Kids Central access due to behavioral concerns.

Any questions, please contact Nina Reyes at nreyes@madisonymca.org.