



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FAMILY YMCA OF MARION & POLK COUNTIES
685 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301
503.581.9622 | www.theYonline.org

FAQ's

Quality Enrichment Programs are more than just a safe place for kids to hang out after the bell rings. YMCA after school programs nurture potential, improve academic engagement and achievement, build confidence and character, and support healthy development in spirit, mind and body. Whether stimulating the mind through arts, getting physically active to improve healthy or getting out into the community to support neighbors, YMCA after school programs give kids a sense of the world around them and the role they can play in that world.

What are your hours of operation and calendar?

We start the day at 7AM until school starts, and then begin again once school finished, until 6PM. We operate during the school year and offer full day care, 7AM – 6PM, on in-service days and most holidays. We work with the school regarding classroom and/or gym availability during non-school days. If the school is unable to provide us with space then we hold our program at the downtown Salem Family YMCA.

What is your student to teacher ratio?

We are a licensed childcare program and licensing requires that we operate on a 1 staff to 15 children ratio. However, we try to operate on a 1 staff to 12 children ratio, and we always have at least two staff operating the program. This means that we would add a third staff once we have 30 children enrolled in the program.

What is your discipline policy?

It is our goal to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all participants. Children who attend the program are expected to follow our Core Values and to interact appropriately in a group setting.

CORE VALUES:

- Caring: We will care about ourselves and those around us.
- Respect: We respect each other and the environment.
- Honesty: Honesty will be the basis for all relationships and interactions.
- Responsibility: We are responsible for our own actions.

We promote a safe and nurturing environment where we teach children to use alternative methods for conflict resolution. We use the “No Kidding About Bullying” curriculum throughout the year to help teach children about appropriate behavior. We communicate with parents at the end of each day, both regarding any positive and negative behavior. In the event that chronic poor behavior problems develop, incidents will be documented and communicated to the parent. Our aim is to work with the parent and the school to help the student manage and correct poor behavior. In the rare event that inappropriate behavior becomes too extreme to be controlled, parents will be called and asked to pick up their child within 1 hour. The YMCA has a Zero Tolerance policy for violent and/or inappropriate actions. In addition, the YMCA strictly enforces all rules and regulations set by local school districts. Staff work with parents to determine the outcome that is best for the child involved and the program. Possible consequences could be suspension from the program and if the problem persists, the child may be dismissed from the program.

What are the activities you offer during the program?

- STEM: Each month has a theme, and each week we participate in a hands-on STEM activity related to the theme.
- CATCH: 45-minutes of planned, intentional vigorous activity.
- READING: We spend 30 minutes reading each day.
- HOMEWORK HELP: We work on homework, but do not guarantee completion.
- SERVICE LEARNING: This is student run and organized, and we help to facilitate regular community engagement.

At the Family YMCA of Marion & Polk Counties, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY is our cause. We make a difference by focusing on three key areas: Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility. By investing in our kids, our health and our neighbors, the YMCA ensures that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to thrive.

What is your philosophy around being a part of an elementary school team?

We would like to be as active and involved as possible. Our staff should be checking in with the school's office staff on a regular basis. In a perfect world we hope that you will consider us as part of your team. We want to work together, communicate any issues, discuss and resolve the issue, and ultimately make sure that we are having a positive impact in every child's life. We would much rather receive some constructive feedback, so that we can adjust and fix, than to let issues build.

What are your safety policies?

All YMCA staff are trained in our standard procedures for emergencies, which are practiced on a monthly basis. Each emergency is different and does vary by situation. Examples of safety procedures are listed but please note, this is not a complete list. For more information, please contact the School-Age Director.

- Emergency Drills: including fire, earthquake, lock downs.
- Emergency Equipment: Each site has an emergency backpack filled with first aid supplies and all students' health forms.
- Transportation: Including arrival and departure procedures, driving standards, and emergency plans.
- Information: Staff have immediate access at all times to children's forms including health information, adults authorized to pick up each child, and signed release for medical treatment.
- A parent's or person picking up a child identification is checked during check out and then verified with the child's registration form. If the person picking up the child is not listed on the form, we will call the parent. If the parent cannot be reached, we will not release the child.
- Health and Safety: Each staff is certified in CPR/First Aid, procedures for injuries and illness.
- Attendance: Staff is trained on roll call procedures, head counts, and plans for staff on field trips and on-site to guarantee that the location of each child is known at all times.
- Programming: Staff is trained in the activities and structure of our programs, as well as what is appropriate for working with children of varying age levels.

Describe your communication with parents and the school's staff?

We believe in open communication. Each school and parent is given contact information for the School-Age Director and the Vice President of Youth Development. We check in with parents and school staff on a regular basis, often informally, but will also make deliberate check-in phone calls to the school's staff to make sure we are meeting expectations. We believe that open, honest, and respectful communication is key to our providing a successful program.

What financial support do you offer?

The Family YMCA of Marion & Polk Counties provides financial assistance to qualified households and families, through a confidential application process. The YMCA awards assistance ranging from 20%-50% off of the program fees. Financial assistance is awarded based on the need of the individual applicant. Ultimately, we like to have a conversation with the person registering their child, and simply ask, "What can you afford?" It is not our role to judge, but to help, and to make sure our programming is available to all.

In addition to offering its own financial assistance, the Family YMCA of Marion & Polk Counties is also happy to work with DHS and other third party billing arrangements.

What supports are offered for non-English speaking parents?

We still have a lot of work to do in this area – our flyers are produced in English and Spanish. We are on the lookout for a volunteer who can help us translate our parent handbook and our registration material. Additionally, we are always eager to hire bilingual staff.

Additional Information

- Three enrollment options
- Snack provided after school, and lunch, along with AM & PM snack provided on all day care days
- Deliberately seek out volunteers to help with the program
- All staff are CPR & First Aid certified, hold a current Food Handlers certificate, have gone through Mandatory Reporter training, participate in 32+ hours of training a year, and are on the Oregon Childcare Registry.

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