

Welcome To The 2026-2027 School Year



**YMCA of Greater Westfield
Early Learning Center**

Beginning School

Beginning school is a very exciting and emotional experience for both you and your child. Because children need to get used to the school environment and bond with their teachers and classmates, we ask parents to encourage their child to sign in (trace/write name) independently. Your child's teacher will be there welcoming them and helping them to get involved with their morning activities. Although your child may get upset the first few days, we will be here to comfort them and they usually calm within a few minutes of your departure.

And remember, your child will mirror your behavior, so try your best to smile and show them how excited and confident you are that they are going to love coming to school!! It's going to be a great year!

Morning Sign In

School begins at 9:00AM.

Every morning when you arrive at school, please do the following:

- Have your child use the restroom and wash their hands **prior** to entering the classroom.
- Take backpacks, jackets, etc. and hang them on your child's hook in their cubby
- Walk your child to their classroom and sign them in.

Shoes

Students will have at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day. During the week we will be playing on the playground (weather permitting). All of this is in addition to regular fun learning, moving and grooving in our classroom. For this reason, please have your child wear appropriate footwear, **NO open toed or sling back shoes**. They are **NOT** safe for running.



Daily Schedule

Our schedule each day will vary slightly due to our specials. Schedules will be posted by your teacher for you to see outside of our classroom. Each day will consist of sign in, morning boxes, meetings time, physical activity, snack, small group activities, free choice play centers and end of day routines.

Specials

Swimming, yoga, and music are offered as a part of our program and your child will attend them weekly.

Letter Bucket

Once we have settled into our new routine, we will give special attention to a letter of the week. Each child can bring in something from home that begins with the letter of the week and can fill in a gallon ziplock bag which is labeled. This is an opportunity for your child to share with the rest of the group. If you forget on Monday, don't worry...we will be sharing the letter bucket each morning during meeting time.

Student Assessments

In addition to daily observations, formal student assessments will be conducted three times a year.

During that time, information will be gathered on a variety of academic, physical and social skills.

These assessments will be shared with you during conferences in February.

Parent Pick Up

At the end of each day, our number one priority is the safety of your child, and pick up time tends to be very busy. If for some reason, someone other than yourself is picking up your child, please notify the teacher. **If it is somebody that is not on your release form, please write a note giving us permission to release your child to that person.** Otherwise we cannot legally release your child to that person without written parental/guardian consent.

Outside Pick Up

Some classrooms will have pick up at the playground, weather permitting. **FOR SAFETY REASONS PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE PLAYGROUND AREA.** Your child will remain inside the fenced area until you have signed them out. Once signed out, your child will be released to you.

Health

It is our goal to keep everyone in our class (and our school) as healthy as possible. Please do not bring your child into school if they are not feeling well. PLEASE REVIEW THE COLORED SHEET FOR SCHOOL POLICY REGARDING ILLNESSES.

Clothes

We WILL get messy!! There will be messy art projects, outdoor play and the occasional “accident”. Please send your child into school in clothes that they can get dirty as well as a second set of clothes in a labeled Ziploc baggie to be kept in our classroom.

Birthdays

We love celebrating each of the children’s birthdays and making a big deal of them!

If you would like to provide a special snack to celebrate your child’s birthday, please think of bringing in your child’s favorite fruit or vegetable or whole-grain snack. Please let me know in advance if you plan to bring a snack so that we can plan accordingly.