



YMCA Early Years Waitlist Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do the YMCA Early Years waitlists work?

A. The YMCA manages over 800 licensed child care spaces for 0 to 5 year old children at 25 locations throughout Metro Vancouver.

Our wait lists do not operate on a “first come – first served” basis.

There are a number of priorities taken into consideration for enrolment such as:

- siblings of current participants
- children who are transferring from one YMCA Child Care program to another
- partnership agreements

Q. When can I join the Early Years waitlist?

A: Families are welcome to join the Early Years waitlist at any time. If you have a confirmed due date for your child you can apply while pregnant.

Q. Is there a fee to join the school age waitlist?

A: No, however, a \$200 non-refundable registration fee is due if a space is offered and your child registers in a program.

Q. How long do I have to wait in order to get a child care space?

A: The length of time is different for each location. Waitlist times can vary from 1 year to 3+ years. It is very difficult for us to predict when a space might become available for you, as there are many factors which are used to offer spaces (i.e.: the date you applied for the waitlist, the type of program you are looking for, etc.). Typically, the majority of spaces become available between July and September of each year. You will remain on the wait list until you are offered a space, request to be removed or your child ages out.

Families will only be contacted when a space becomes available. Please note, we contact families via email so please ensure you use an email address that is checked often when applying for care.

Q. What if I accept a child care space and then decide that I don't want it?

A: We have a 45-day withdrawal policy that applies to all parents who accept a space. If you accept a space and then change your mind, we require 45 days written notice on the 1st of the month. If notice is not received on the 1st of the month, you will be responsible for the monthly fees. Families are welcome to re-join the wait list.

Q. What if I am offered a space and decline?

A: Due to the length of each waitlist, if you are offered a space and decline, you will be removed from the list but are welcome to re-join.

Q. Can I find out where my child is on the waitlist?

A. It is difficult to forecast when your child can expect to receive an offer for a space. We do not provide families with waitlist numbers and we are unable to respond to requests related to where your child is on the waitlist.

Q. Are child care spaces full time or part time?

A. Priority is given to families requiring full time care, however if space is available, we can offer care for either 2 or 3 days a week.

Q. What is the difference between your full day 3-5 program and pre-school programs?

A. The only difference is the hours of operation and the staff ratio.

Q. What if I applied for an infant or toddler program and don't get offered space, do I need to apply for the 3 to 5 age group?

A. Families should submit only 1 wait list application per child/per location, multiple entries will be removed. There is no need to reapply as the child ages up.

Q. I no longer require space for my older child, can I update this application to a sibling/friend/relative?

A. No, families should submit 1 wait list application per child/per location. Waitlist spaces are not interchangeable.

Q. Once my child is registered into an Early Years program, is their space held until Kindergarten?

A. Children registered in the infant/toddler group are prioritized for space in the 3-5 groups. We can't 100% guarantee space in the next age group but children in the programs usually move up when children withdraw and age up in the program. If there was any reason we could not offer you a space in the older group we would support in finding you a space in one of our other programs.

Families with a child who is eligible and enrolled in kindergarten for the upcoming school year are required to withdraw their child from our YMCA Early Years program by August 31st each year.

Q. What if my child has additional support needs?

A. The YMCA is an inclusive environment and we welcome children with additional needs. If your child has additional support needs, we will work with you and any other service providers involved to:

- assess your child's strengths, interests and needs
- determine how our program might meet these needs
- identify the supports that would be needed to successfully include your child in our program

This planning can take some time so we will contact you in advance of a space becoming available.

Q. Do you accept children who are eligible for the Affordable Child Care Benefit?

A. Yes, the government Affordable Child Care Benefit is available to families based on provincial eligibility requirements. More information can be found on the government website by clicking [here](#)

Q. What should I do if I need to update information on my waitlist application?

A. Please email your updates to childcare@gv.ymca.ca