

YWCA of Central New Jersey
Early Childhood Learning Center

Our Program

The YWCA Early Childhood Learning Center is an educational program which is designed to provide infant, toddler, and preschool/pre-K services to families in Central New Jersey. The Center, located in the historic YWCA facility in Plainfield, is newly constructed and a state-of-the-art design which enhances the nurturing and learning environment for our children.

In this our first year, the Center will prepare for National Accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This accreditation process is very important to us, and demonstrates our commitment to the guidelines set forth in the State of New Jersey Department of Education Adopted Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality.

Our program components:

- Parent/Family Involvement
- Health, Safety and Physical Education
- Music
- Creative Art
- Science
- Social Studies
- Social/Emotional Development
- Technology
- World Languages
- Mathematics
- Language Arts Literacy

The instructional component consists of six (6) hours of instruction 180 days per year aligned with the school district calendar. The Center offers a summertime program so that it operates 12 months a year.

Curriculum

The YWCA Early Childhood Learning Center uses the "Creative Curriculum" for Infants & Toddlers and the "Creative Curriculum" for Preschool. In addition we use "Explorations with Young Children", A Curriculum Guide from The Bank Street College of Education. The preschool curriculum will also use "Everyday Mathematics for Pre-k" and the **Children's Literacy Initiative** "Message Time Plus". These are math and literacy curriculums specifically designed to introduce and support critical math and literacy concepts in the early years. The curriculums are designed to reach children across the developmental continuum.

Assessment

Assessments will be ongoing through natural as well as targeted observation of children in the learning environment. Outcomes will be shared between faculty and families to inform educational practices and to support children's learning. A curriculum and assessment tools are used to track teaching and learning outcomes.