



**Seasong Child Care Centre
Operated by the YMCA of Greater Vancouver**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How many child care spaces will be available at Seasong Child Care Centre and for what ages?

A: There will be 37 spaces in total, with 12 spaces designated for children ages 12-36 months and 25 spaces for children ages 3-5 years.

Q: Are child care spaces full-time or part-time?

A: Full time spaces are given priority. Some part-time spaces will be made available.

Q: What are the days and times that the program is open?

A: The centre's operating hours will be Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will be closed for statutory holidays including Easter Monday and Boxing Day.

Q: Is there priority access to child care spaces?

A: Yes, the following priorities for spaces are:

1. First priority for spaces will be given to people who live and/or work in Richmond.
2. Second priority will be given to the general public.

Q: How will the spaces be allocated when the program opens?

A: Spaces will be allocated by a lottery process. Applications for spaces will be accepted from March 5-19, 2018. At the end of that period, applications will be drawn by priority, randomly and placed on a wait-list in the order that they are drawn. Families will be contacted in the same order that names were drawn until all spaces are filled.

Q: When the program opens, who will get priority when vacant spaces become available?

A: Vacant spaces will be filled in the following priority:

First priority will be given to siblings of children currently enrolled at Seasong Child Care Centre. A sibling is given priority as long as the first child is still enrolled at the child care centre on the start date for the sibling.

Next priority is given to children attending other YMCA child care programs that wish to transfer to Seasong Child Care Centre.

Followed by the priorities as outlined above.

Q: What is the YMCA's child care philosophy?

A: All YMCA Early Learning programs provide children with environments that:

- Recognize each child as an individual
- Recognize each family has different needs, interests and expectations
- Include children from diverse cultures and abilities
- Develop personal growth in spirit, mind and body
- Are caring, supportive and secure
- Involve children in learning through active hands-on play, exploration and discovery
- Develop self-esteem, self-confidence and self-reliance
- Develop the values of caring, respect, honesty and responsibility
- Develop social and emotional competence
- Involve children in philanthropic activities, such as our YMCA Strong Kids campaign

Q: Does the YMCA have a curriculum in place?

A: Yes. YMCA **Playing to Learn** is our national early learning curriculum, which is an approach to learning that is research-based and focused on the best practices in the field of early childhood education. YMCA Playing to Learn provides an understanding of how play provides the foundation for learning to read and write, and for learning mathematics, science and technology and is closely aligned with the BC Ministry of Education's Early Learning Framework.

Q: What is the YMCA's child guidance philosophy?

A: We believe in helping children become self-regulated and to develop socially acceptable and appropriate behaviors. Our program provides an environment where children are treated with respect, adults are caring, and activities are planned based on children's interests and developmental needs. We recognize that each child is an individual whose age, experience, environment, developmental level and background influence his/her behavior. Staff are trained to use positive and proactive strategies for guiding children's behavior.

Q: What is the staff to child ratio?

A: Our programs follow the Provincial Child Care Regulation. In our 3-5 year old program, we have one YMCA early childhood educator for every eight children, and in our Toddler program, we have one YMCA infant toddler/early childhood educator for every four children.

Q: What qualifications and training do YMCA staff have?

A: All YMCA Early Childhood Educators are certified and qualified as per Provincial Child Care Licensing Regulations. Most staff have degrees, certificates or diplomas in Early Childhood Education, while others are in the process of completing classes with a certificate, diploma or degree as the goal. Additionally, all YMCA Early Childhood Educators participate in our national YMCA Playing to Learn curriculum training. All employees have had a criminal record check, three character reference checks and completed first aid certification.

Q: What support is available for families?

A: YMCA Child Care programs are open to all children including those children with special needs. The YMCA works with each family to identify children's needs and requirements to ensure they are successful and supported in our programs. This includes what the program can do to meet these needs, external support services required and who is responsible for requesting external support services (e.g. family, program or both).

Q: What is the YMCA's gradual entry process?

A: Although your child may have had other group experiences, this is a new group and environment with unfamiliar faces. The gradual entry process allows time for your child to feel comfortable, to start developing friendships and to become familiar with staff. We recognize that this process can be stressful for parents but by experiencing this process your child will feel more comfortable when it comes time to leave them for a whole day. If this process is difficult for you to arrange, we recommend you have a friend or family member substitute for you. Our gradual entry process is as follows (flexible to meet child and parent needs):

Day One

Child attends for two (2) hours, parent remains with child.

Day Two

Child attends for the morning and lunch, parent stays as long as child needs them but should leave for at least one hour.

Day Three

Child attends for a longer day, parent stays for a short time until their child is comfortable. Child should be picked up shortly after nap time.

Day Four

Regular Day.

Q: What do I do if my child is ill? Can I bring my child to the YMCA Child Care program?

A: If a child is ill and cannot participate in our regular daily activities, including daily outdoor play, then we ask that parents please keep their children at home to prevent the spread of illness to other children and staff. Parents will be contacted to remove their child from the program if the child:

- Exhibits vomiting, fever, diarrhea or a new unexplained rash or cough
- Requires greater attention than can be provided within licensing ratios, compromising the care of other children in the program
- Displays any other illness or symptom that a staff member knows or believes may indicate a health risk to persons on the program's premises

Q. Will my child be provided with snacks?

A: Yes, we provide two snacks each day—once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Snacks provided follow recommendations from the Canada Food Guide and contain a minimum of two food

groups. Snack menus are posted on the parent board and work on a rotating basis. Lunch is to be provided by the family.

Q: When do the children nap? Does my child have to nap?

A: Napping requirements are different for each child. Some children require shorter nap times or less frequent naps. Children who do not need to nap have the option to have a shorter quiet time or to participate in small group activities. YMCA staff will be happy to discuss your child's needs for napping with you.

Q: My child is toilet training. How will this be managed in the program?

A: Staff are happy to support your toilet training goals. Please speak to YMCA staff to ensure that your child's individual requirements can be supported.

Q: Do you accept children who are eligible for Ministry subsidy?

A: Yes, the government Child Care Subsidy Program is available to families based on provincial eligibility requirements. Please contact the Ministry at 1-888-338-6622 for more information.

| For more information, please contact seasong@gv.ymca.ca