

YMCA BC Child Care: Waitlist and Registration Information for Northern BC and Interior Programs

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in YMCA BC Child Care. YMCA BC Child Care is quickly expanding across the province. Thank you for your ongoing patience as we improve our systems.

Please take a moment to review our Frequently Asked Questions regarding Child Care waitlists and registration for our Northern BC and Interior Programs. Please note, YMCA BC reserves the right to make changes at any time.

How do I join the YMCA BC Child Care waitlist in Northern BC and Interior?

All families must join the waitlist to be considered for a child care space at any of our programs.

Please visit [YMCA Prince George](#) for programs in Northern BC and [Kamloops YMCA-YWCA](#) for programs in the Interior region including Kamloops and Princeton.

When can I join the waitlist?

Each YMCA BC Child Care location and program (Infant Toddler, 3 to 5 Years, Before & After School, etc.) has their own waitlist. Families may join a waitlist as soon as they are expecting, please ensure you tell us your preferred start date. See below if you are an adoptive and/or a foster parent or guardian.

Please note, if you are waitlisting your child for an Early Learning program, please also ensure you are waitlisting for a Before & After School program (if this is required) as these operate independently from each other. Age ups from Early Learning to School Age are not guaranteed and are based on availability and waitlist application dates.

I am an adoptive and/or foster parent, and the child's date of birth is unknown. How am I able to join the waitlist if this is a required field?

We welcome all families to join our child care waitlists. A parent may join a YMCA BC Child Care waitlist once an expected date of birth is known or from the date, a parent is approved for an adoption and/or becomes a foster parent.

If a date of birth is unknown, the parent will select a check box to identify they are seeking an adoption/foster child. Once selected a prompt will ask the adoptive/foster parent to enter a placeholder date and to contact the YMCA BC child care registration team regarding next steps and support.

Can I make changes to my waitlist application later?

Application dates are non-transferrable and cannot be changed by system administrators. If you need to update your contact info, please get in touch and our administration teams would be happy to assist.

Where am I on the waitlist?

Child Care space offerings are based on several factors including available spaces, application dates, priority, age eligibility and preferred start date to name a few.

For these reasons, child care spaces are not offered on a first come, first served basis and there is no way for us to know your exact position on the waitlist. In many cases, our programs are full with long waitlists. Child care vacancies are often dependent on other children leaving care, which we cannot predict.

Unfortunately, in some situations, due to lack of movement we cannot guarantee families will be offered a child care spot before their child has aged out. Due to very high demand across the regions, joining a child care waitlist does not guarantee that a child care space will be offered.

Are there any registration priorities?

Child Care spaces are offered based on a series of varying priorities across the regions. They are subject to change at any time without notice.

1. Partnership Agreements

Several programs operate in partnership with municipalities and other organizations and as such, priority is offered to families who meet certain criteria based on their priority answers on their profile and the partnership agreement.

2. Age Ups

Children who are actively enrolled in a YMCA BC Early Years program will be considered for age up. For example, a child who is actively enrolled in an Infant/Toddler program will be considered for a spot in the 3 to 5 year old program (at the same location only) once they are age eligible.

Age ups are non-transferrable between 3 to 5 years/Preschool Programs and Before & After School Programs. Please ensure you have waitlisted your child accordingly if you require before & after school care later.

3. All other waitlist applications for age eligible children with current preferred start dates.

Once a child is age eligible for a child care space, they will be considered for a space based on your original application date and preferred start date.

Are there any registration priorities and/or discounts for siblings?

Registration priority and/or discounts for siblings are not being offered currently.

My child is currently registered in another YMCA BC Child Care program. Can I transfer to another YMCA BC location? Do I have priority?

Program to program transfer priority is not currently being offered. If you are planning to move to another area or region, for example, please ensure you have joined the waitlist for any YMCA BC Child Care programs in that area.

How will I be notified that a space has become available? What is the process to accept the space?

Families will receive an email from one of our two centralized emails below;

- north.childcare@bc.ymca.ca for all programs in Northern BC
- interior.childcare@bc.ymca.ca for all programs in Kamloops & Princeton

Please keep an eye out for any communication from this email address especially in your junk mail and/or please add us to your contacts. YMCA BC does not take responsibility for families who do not check their email. In some circumstances families may receive a phone call, however, we are moving away from this practice due to limited resources starting July 1, 2025.

If you are offered a child care space the email offer will contain information about who the offer is for, program name, enrollment type, hours of operation, cost per month, effective date, etc.

Families will also be asked to create a community account in our registration system, provide a method of payment* and complete the required registration forms.

*All families are required to provide a method of payment even if they are fully funded other by 3rd party groups/persons including the Affordable Child Care Benefit.

A member of the YMCA BC Child Care operations team may connect with you if they have follow-up questions regarding your child's health or inclusion support needs. This is on a case-by-case basis to ensure our teams can provide your family with the right level of support.

I received a child care offer and I don't want to accept the spot. Is there anything I need to do to decline?

If you received an offer and you do not wish to accept the space, please let us know. If we do not hear back from you, your child will be removed from the waitlist once the offer has expired without notice. Families are welcome to reapply to the waitlist at anytime.

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

We understand that plans may change. If this is the case, please be aware that once you have completed the registration questions, signed the child care agreement and have provided us with a payment method - you have accepted the child care space.

Once a spot is accepted, withdrawal policies will apply (even if your child is scheduled to start later). Fees for an additional month will be collected if the terms for cancellation are not met.

What is the YMCA BC Child Care withdrawal policy?

Notice for withdrawal is required a minimum of 30 calendar days from the start of the month. For example, to cancel effective January 1st, 2026 notice is due no later than December 1st, 2025.

For September withdrawals at Before & After School and Preschool programs, notice is required by June 30th.

Is payment required at the time of registration?

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 and a \$35.00 + GST facilities enhancement fee will automatically be collected from your pre-authorized payment method. All deposits will be credited to the first months' fee.

Enhancement fees are not collected at \$10-a-Day child care programs.

Is there Transportation provided and how much is it?

YMCA BC provides transportation services at select locations for an additional cost, where eligible.

What is a Non-Instructional Day (NID) and how do I sign up?

Non-Instructional Days (NID) are school closure days that are not included in the monthly childcare fees. They are available for registration at an additional cost. Communication is shared with families every August/September with information about dates, cost and registration timelines. Registration for NIDs is only available for children who are currently enrolled in a YMCA School Age program.

Where can I find information about licensed Day Camps? Winter, Spring and Summer?

Please visit us online seasonally for information about our opening dates and program information. These are subject to change from year to year.

Once locations, fees and hours have been confirmed for each break program session, information will be made public on our website.

[Northern BC](#)
[Interior \(Kamloops & Princeton\)](#)

How do I sign up for licensed Day Camps?

Children who are currently enrolled in a school age program will be given a priority window for day camp registration on a first come, first served basis. Registration is at an additional cost, per child, per week.

Internal families will be notified in advance when registration is scheduled to open, and dates will be posted on our regional websites. Any remaining spaces after the priority window has closed will be offered to the community through a waitlist. Waitlists for day camps will be made available online seasonally once registration is scheduled to open. It is not open year round.

We are currently working to provide families with an online registration experience in 2026. Thank you for your patience.

Can I tour the program?

Tours are not currently offered. We have received your feedback and are working to improve this experience in 2026.

Where can I find the monthly child care costs for each location?

Due to many factors such as staffing and rental costs, etc., monthly child care fees can vary from location to location and change from year to year. We are actively working to improve how monthly child care fees are communicated to families in advance. Families are provided with the cost of care at the time of offer.

What is the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI)?

The Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) is a Provincial Government program that helps reduce child care fees. The CCFRI discount is based on the age of the child and their enrollment type. CCFRI discounts are applied automatically at the time of registration and no action is required by the families. CCFRI discounts are not applicable at \$10-a-Day programs across the regions.

For more information regarding CCFRI, please [click here](#).

My fees will be paid by another 3rd Party. How do I set this up?

If you are working with a 3rd party payer, please contact us directly for assistance, once your child has been registered. Families are not able to make these updates through their child care account. YMCA BC will not engage in disputes regarding custody agreements and all 3rd party payers must provide a method of payment and consent to be set up as a payer. The primary account holder (the person who accepts the space) is responsible for ensuring all funding has been set up accordingly.

How do I apply for the Affordable Child Care Benefit?

Once your child is formally registered, we are happy to support you with your Affordable Child Care Benefit Application.

For more information about the Affordable Child Care Benefit, please [click here](#).

Are all YMCA BC Child Care programs participating in the \$10-a-Day program?

There are many child care locations that are participating in this program. However, not all programs are opted in. YMCA BC makes every effort to apply each time there is an opportunity to do so.

For more information regarding \$10-a-Day programs in BC including which locations are opted in, please [click here](#).

How do I update my payment information?

If you need to update your method of payment, please get in touch with us directly for support.

Do you offer Drop In?

Drop in care may be offered at select locations on a case by case for an additional cost. Spots are dependent on availability and other factors such as staffing. If drop in is available, payment is required in full at the time of sign up and fees are non-refundable should you wish to cancel later. Please get in in touch with us to inquire. Drop in availability is not guaranteed from day to day.

Are there any other resources I can look at?

Yes. If you would like more information about our child care programs to determine if we are a good match for your family, we invite you to read our Family Handbooks.

School Age Child Care

[School Age Family Handbook](#)

Early Years Child Care (Under 5 Years)

[Early Years Family Handbook](#)

Preschool (3 to 5 Years)

[Preschool Family Handbook](#)

Contact Us!

Please feel free to connect with us for support regionally at:

Interior Regions: interior.childcare@bc.ymca.ca

Kamloops & Princeton

North Region: north.childcare@bc.ymca.ca

Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Prince George, Pouce Coupe, Tumbler Ridge, Smithers, Vanderhoof

Office Hours:

Administrative offices are open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (excluding holidays).

Thank you for your interest in YMCA BC Child Care. We look forward to welcoming your family into the YMCA BC community and providing your child(ren) with quality child care experiences.