



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# IT'S FUN TO PLAY AT THE Y

**SIMI VALLEY YMCA**  
**Parent Handbook**  
**KIDS' ZONE**



## WELCOME TO THE KIDS' ZONE

*The Kids' Zone is a service provided to YMCA members. Children may be placed in the Kids' Zone while a parent or guardian is present within the YMCA facility. The following is a list of guidelines developed to ensure a safe, enjoyable atmosphere for children while maintaining the convenience of this service for parents.*

The Kids' Zone is free and available to all YARROW YMCA members for children ages 6 Weeks to 11 years.

## RATIO, CAPACITY, and TIME LIMIT:

Ratios are as follows-

- 1 to 5 (6 weeks -24 months)
- 1 to 10 (3 years- 11years)
- The maximum amount of infants (6 weeks- 18 months) and Toddlers (18months-2yrs) permitted in the Kids' Zone at one time is 5
- The maximum amount of children (3yrs-11years) is 10.

## SPACE IS LIMITED.

We may not be able to accommodate your child if our room has reached its maximum capacity. This is for the safety of everyone. It is possible that the Kids' Zone capacity may be reached on any given day. If this happens you may be put on a waiting list and called when a spot is available.

There is a 120minute (2 hour) per time slot limit for a child to be in the Kids' Zone. It can be used consecutively or broken between the two daily time slots the space is open.

## CHECK IN & OUT

- You must sign your child in and out of the Kids' Zone to attend. You must indicate where you will be inside the facility. Children may only be signed into the Kids' Zone by someone on the corresponding membership. The same adult checking in the child must be the same adult checking out the child.
- Parent/Guardian must remain inside the Y facility during the child's entire stay in the Kids' Zone.
- For the safety of all the children in the Kids' Zone, parents may not remain in the Kids' Zone for more than 5 minutes, with the exception of a first time child. In the case of a first time child, a parent may, for the child's first stay in the Kids' Zone, stay a maximum of 15 minutes. It is also requested that you check in on your child occasionally to ensure that they are adjusting well within the environment.

## WHAT TO BRING AND WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

- Infants, toddlers, and children are not permitted to bring outside toys, electronics, games, books, or mobile devices to the Kid's Zone.
- All items brought into the Kids' Zone must be labeled. The YMCA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or missing items.

**For the safety of all children, including infants and toddlers and children with mild to severe allergies, food snacks and/or meals are not permitted into the Kids' Zone. Water bottles with lids, and baby bottles\*/ sippy cups for infants/toddlers are always okay.**

**\*Staff are not responsible for feeding infants or toddlers during the time in KidZone. We ask that infants and toddlers are feed prior to being checked into Kidzone.**

## WELL BEING and SAFETY

- It is the policy that the YMCA staff members do not change diapers. Parents will be called upon to change all diapers in the restroom.
- Toddlers learning how to walk may go without shoes if they are wearing socks with no slip treads. Infants must wear socks at all times.

## CHILD HEALTH POLICY

Now, more than ever, keeping all participants, members, and staff healthy is important to the day-to-day operations of Kid Zone. A child who is ill may not be checked into Kid Zone. If a child becomes ill while in Kid Zone, a staff member will contact the parent/guardian, and request that the child be taken home immediately. A child is considered ill when the following symptoms are present:

A doctor's note may be requested to participate in Kid Zone, in order to protect all members.

### Symptoms:

- Fever (100.4 or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell

### Other symptoms:

- Communicable disease
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Persistent runny nose
- Conjunctivitis

## BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Our Kids' Zone staff use redirection and positive reinforcement while working with your child. If these techniques are not successful and your child poses a danger to self and others, we will notify you immediately. We will share information concerning any behavioral issues upon request.

YMCA has a zero-tolerance policy for serious behavior infractions. Since the goal of the YMCA is to provide a healthy, safe and fun environment, inappropriate behaviors have no place. The behaviors listed below may be grounds for immediate removal from the Kids' Zone for any set amount of time (as determined by the Senior Program Director). Each incident will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if the child is capable of functioning in a group setting while at the Y.

\*Behavior that endangers the health and safety of children or staff members

\*Inappropriate touching of other children or sexual misconduct

\*Theft, defacing or destruction of property belonging to the YMCA or others

\*Verbal abuse or treats, bullying, or name-calling

\*Any kind of physical assault such as hitting, kicking or biting

\*Children found with weapons, drugs, live animals or dangerous objects may be subject to immediate termination from our program

Kids' Zone staff will contact the parents of children who are having troubles adjusting. In the case of uncontrollable crying or unruly behavior, we will ask you to pick up your child.

For the safety and well being of all children using the program, inappropriate behavior (i.e. spitting, biting, inappropriate language, harm to self, harm to other or property or intentionally not listening to the Kids' Zone staff) may lead to a loss of Kids' Zone privileges for your child and family.

## MEDICATIONS and ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Kids' Zone staff members will not administer medications to children in the Kids' Zone, with the exception of life threatening reactions such as an allergic reaction or nebulizer. If your child requires medication, please contact the Kids' Zone Program Director. The Yarrow Family YMCA Kids' Zone welcomes all children. To the extent it is reasonably able to do so, the YMCA program will provide services to children with disabilities or any special needs in the same manner as services provided for other children or comparable age.

## **HOURS OF OPERATION**

**MONDAY– SATURDAY**      8:00AM to 11:00AM

**MONDAY– THURSSDAY**      3:00PM to 7:00PM

**YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

**Tori Cusack**

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