



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

LEARN GROW THRIVE

Kids Zone Handbook

KIDS ZONE HOURS

Monday–Thursday

8 am – 12 pm &

4 pm – 8 pm

Friday

8 am – 12 pm &

4 pm – 7 pm

Saturday

8 am – 12 pm

Lindsey Alexander

Director of Aquatics, Kids Zone & Esports

lindsey.alexander@gamountainsymca.org

5 Tips



FOR THE BEST KIDS ZONE EXPERIENCE

**EVERYONE MUST
WASH HANDS UPON
ENTERING**



**NO FOOD OR
DRINKS**



**NO PERSONAL ITEMS
OR ELECTRONICS**



**PLEASE LEAVE
A DIAPER
AND WIPES
FOR YOUR
CHILD**



**PARENTS MAY NOT
ENTER**



Kids Zone is a service offered to our members to provide a supervised environment for children while parents enjoy the YMCA facility and programs.

Available to children between 6 weeks and 12 years of age.

Please make a reservation online or with a Kids Zone Mentor.

Children may use this program for up to 2 hours a day,
but NO more than 10 hours a week.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Children **MUST** be signed in/out by a parent, legal guardian, or authorized member. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to check kids in and out of Kids Zone. You may be asked for your photo ID.
- Our Kids Zone is **NOT** a licensed childcare center. The parent, legal guardian, or authorized member dropping off the child are **REQUIRED** to remain on the property in case of an emergency.
- Kids Zone is restricted up to 2 hours a day and no more than 10 hours a week.
- Shirt, shorts, and shoes are required for all children who can walk.
- Children who arrive to Kids Zone asleep in a stroller or car seat will need to be removed before coming into Kids Zone.
- **NO** food, gum, candy, etc. is allowed in Kids Zone. Kids Zone staff are not allowed to bottle feed an infant. Please feed your child before they enter Kids Zone.
- Kids Zone children are not allowed to bring any personal belongings. Please leave any belongings in one of the cubbies located in the lobby of Kids Zone (The YMCA is not responsible for any lost or stolen items).
- For the safety of all children in Kids Zone, parents and members are **NOT** allowed inside of Kids Zone.

RESERVATIONS

We have a reservation system that allows parents to secure a spot in Kids Zone. Reservations are recommended BUT not required. Understand that you are not guaranteed a spot without a reservation. We will accept what staffing and ratio allows. If you make a reservation and do not show up, your account will be noted, and if no shows continue you will be penalized, including no longer having access to reservations.

HYGIENE

Staff and children must wash hands when entering Kids Zone, before any sensory activity, after using the bathroom, sneezing, and wiping your nose.

Kids Zone staff are permitted to change diapers. We ask that parents bring diapers, wipes, and a change of clothes labeled with their child's name. If your child has a soiled diaper and doesn't have a new diaper, we will contact you.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is an essential element of any program. Give any information about your child that may be valuable while he or she is in our care.

At pick up, staff will share pertinent information with you about your child's time in Kids Zone.

MEDICATION

Kids Zone staff CANNOT administer medication. Medication needs of a child should be arranged before or after participation in Kids Zone.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

We make every effort to make Kids Zone an illness free area. Children who are showing signs of illness will not be allowed in Kids Zone. Please DO NOT bring a child who has any of the following symptoms: fever within the last 24 hours and/or a fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, croup, rash, or sore throat pink eye or other infections.

For the safety and health of the other children, if a child exhibit any of these symptoms we will ask that the child is removed from Kids Zone until symptom free. Also, please notify us if your child contracts a communicable disease so that we may appropriately notify the parents of children who may have been exposed.

*The YMCA reserves the right to request a note from a physician before the child returns to Kids Zone.

In the event of an accident, your child/children will have a Kids Zone "OUCH" report explaining what happened and what action was taken. If a medical incident requiring more than basic First Aid happens, a child's parent will be contacted immediately, and a Kids Zone mentor will call 911 when deemed necessary.

DISCIPLINE

Our Kids Zone staff may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction. That may include the following: using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only on unacceptable behavior, redirecting behavior using positive statements, reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements, and/or using brief supervised separation or time out from the group, only when appropriate for the child's age development.

If these techniques are not successful and your child poses a danger to self or to others, we will notify you immediately. A Childcare Parent Communication form will be filled out explaining what happened and what action was taken. Please understand that biting, hitting, running, climbing, pushing, yelling, or disrespecting mentors and children is NOT tolerated in Kids Zone.

*YMCA reserves the right to suspend or dismiss a child immediately if the behavior does or may inflict harm to self or others, destroys property or conflicts with the mission and values of the YMCA.

Kids Zone mentors try every effort to keep your child/children happy and excited, but in the case that they become inconsolable, after 10 minutes, you will be contacted to come get your child. You can then calm them down and try to put them back in Kids Zone. If they continue to cry after they have re-entered Kids Zone, we will then have to ask you to remove your child for the day.

PROGRAM REMOVAL

If your child shows a trend of negative behavior (kicking, biting, hitting, running, screaming, pushing, bullying of any kind) the YMCA reserves the right to suspend/remove your child from our program.

A retry opportunity will be given after a suspension, but if the aggressive behavior continues, your child will be permanently removed from the program.

If your child receives 3 parent communication forms, they will be suspended until a parent meeting takes place. At the parent meeting, it will be decided if your child will be able to return to the program and/or form a plan on how we want to continue.

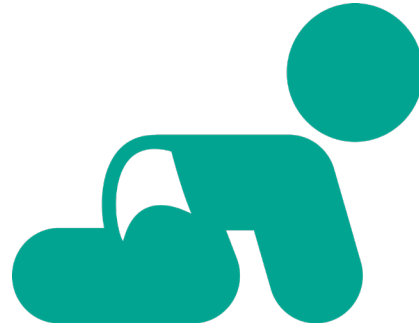
ACTIVITIES

INFANTS



- shaking rattles
- engaging with toys hanging from mobiles
- playing peek-a-boo
- exploring cause and effect toys
- listening to music
- being read books/looking at pictures in books

TODDLERS



- stacking toys
- introducing coloring/writing on paper with crayons
- using push toys
- communicating with other children and adults
- dancing
- reading books

PRESCHOOLERS



- using Legos, Playdough, etc.
- creating craft/art projects
- dancing and singing to music
- playing in cooperative play with peers
- building with blocks
- imaginative play
- engaging in outdoor play
- putting simple puzzles together

SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN



- reading books
- playing with board games
- creating craft/art projects
- participating on the playground or in organized sports
- using small Legos, Zoob Builders, etc.
- putting harder piece puzzles together

PARENTS NIGHT OUT & PARENTS MORNING OUT

Our Parents Night Out and Parents Morning Out is a service provided to our family members and is available to children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age. We offer crafts, activities, games, and swimming for children ages 3 years and older.

Dinner is provided and a menu will be emailed to you. If your child has a food allergy, please advise us so that we can adjust the menu accordingly.

Children who may need their own dinner provided may do so. We ask that it is prepared and labeled in a lunch bag. If your child requires a bottle, please have it prepared and labeled. We can warm it upon request.

You may cancel your child/children's space for a PNO or PMO up to 48 hours prior to the night or morning of the program. Failure to do so will result in a \$10 fee per child to your account. If you fail to notify the YMCA, it can result in not being able to sign up for more.