PATHWAYS PROGRAM

YMCA OF GREATER CLEVELAND

YMCA Pathways provides a safe, convenient environment for members while they participate in other YMCA programs. Serving children ages six weeks through 12 years of age, parents can feel at ease knowing their children are in the hands of caring, friendly and qualified staff. Through fun, hands on activities, we foster an environment for positive social skills, growth and imagination.

PATHWAYS HOURS:

Hours vary for each location. Please contact your local YMCA for specific hours of operation. The YMCA reserves the right to cancel programming at its discretion and close Pathways Centers one-half hour early if no children are present.

CHILD WATCH POLICIES:

General Information:
• Children are welcome in Pathways Centers up to 2 hours per day
• You must remain in the building while your child is in the Pathways Center
• Children participating in the Pathways Center must have a youth or family membership
• Children must be signed in/out of the Pathways Center by an adult

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- Children must be picked up by the adult dropping them off, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- The use of cellular phones or other devices with cameras are prohibited in the Pathways Center areas.
- You must register at least 24 hours ahead of time if you plan on bringing an infant (6 weeks – 12 months) into the Pathways Center.
- All children participating in the Pathways Center must have a completed Child In-Take Form on file before their first day in the program.
- Staff are not permitted to change diapers.

**Staff:**
- Staff are at least 18 years of age.
- At least one staff on site is trained in First Aid and CPR.
- Each staff have had a background check completed.

**Sick Children:**
Sick children will not be permitted into the Pathways Center. This is for the health and safety of all children, including your own. We reserve the right to turn away any child that is perceived as being sick. Keep your child home if they are experiencing:
- Fever
- Rash
- Open sores
- Yellow/green runny nose
- Excessive cough
- Diarrhea and/or vomiting
- Communicable diseases

Employees may not administer medicine. Please do not bring any medication, prescription or over the counter, into the Pathways Center.

We ask that you notify the Pathways Center if your child has come down with a communicable disease and was in the center during the incubation period. A sign will be posted to alert parents of the possible exposure.

Open wounds or skin irritation must be covered while in the Pathways Center. Please ask a Pathways staff if your child needs a band aid.

**Clothing:**
- Proper clothing and undergarments are required in the Pathways Center. Please keep in mind the temperature inside may vary.
- All children need to wear shoes, socks or sandals; bare feet are not permitted.
- Some locations may go outside; please dress your child accordingly.

**Snacks/Food:**
Snacks/food will not be given to children while in the Pathways Center. Please do not bring any food into Pathways Center.

**Please help us by:**
- Bringing your child to the Pathways Center clean, dry and fed.
- Informing us of any special needs your child may have.
- Bringing any source of comfort for your child.
- Utilizing the toys we have in the Pathways Center and leaving personal toys at home.

**Behavior:**
In order to ensure all children in the Pathways Centers are safe and having a positive experience, we will utilize the following behavior management techniques: Setting limits, Modeling desired behavior, Positive attention, Redirection, One on One Discussions, Cool Down Time.
If the techniques described above do not significantly decrease the inappropriate behavior, the following procedures will be put into place:
- Parents will be required to participate with staff on determining a plan of action to address the behavior. This plan of action must be adhered to by all parties involved.
- Plan of action will be reviewed daily and modified as needed.
- After the above steps have been taken, if unacceptable behavior persists, causing a health or safety risk, the child will be withdrawn from the child watch program and you will be asked to find alternative care while you utilize the YMCA.

If your child cries in excess of 15 minutes, we will ask you to leave your activity to comfort them.

Responsible use of equipment and supplies is expected of all participants. Parents/guardians of children who willfully damage equipment or destroy property will be held responsible for replacement.

**Emergency Procedures:**
The Center will take the following action in case of Emergency and/or Accident:
- YMCA staff will give appropriate first aid immediately.
- If it is determined that a physician’s care is needed, the parent will be notified immediately.
- In the event of a fire or pulled fire alarm, your child will be evacuated to a designated area outside. Please ask your local branch as to where their designated area is. This is where you will be able to pick up your child.