



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
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## Licensed Preschool Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### General Information

**Q: What are the program's operating hours?**

**A:** Our preschool operates **Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to - 6:00 PM**, from August through May, observing the following holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Easter, and Memorial Day.

**Q: Where is the preschool located?**

**A:** We are located at two Family YMCA locations

**Bob Gilbertson Central City YMCA-Preschool**

102 E. Palm Ave.  
Tampa, FL. 33602

**Camp Sierra YMCA**

4015 Ragg Rd.  
Tampa, FL. 33624

**Q: What ages do you accept?**

**A:** We accept children from 2 to 5 years old.

**Q: What are the staff-to-child ratios at your preschool??**

**A:** For our preschool, the staff-to-child ratios are as follows:

- For 2-year-olds, the ratio is 1 staff member for every 11 children.
- For 3-year-olds, the ratio is 1 staff member for every 15 children.
- For 4-5year-olds, the ratio is 1 staff member for every 20 children.

**Q: Does the program provide food?**

**A:** Parents are responsible for providing a nutritious breakfast (if arriving before 8:00 AM) and lunch for their child each day. Meals must comply with USDA nutritional guidelines (please refer to page 13 of the Parent Handbook for more details on our food policy). Please ensure your child's food is packed with appropriate items to keep it hot or cold as needed. The program will provide both a morning and afternoon snack. *Please note: We are a peanut/nut-free program.*

**Q: Toileting?**

**A:** We encourage children to use the toilet by themselves. We require children to be completely potty trained and independent prior to transitioning to a three-year-old room. Diapers and/or pull-ups are not allowed outside of the two-year-old room. Parents are required to provide diapers/pull-ups and wipes for their child. Please see toilet training for two-year-old in the Parent Handbook.

**TAMPA METROPOLITAN AREA YMCA**

Association Office

110 East Oak Ave., Tampa FL 33602

**P** 813.224.9622 **F** 813.229.5949 **W** [www.tampaymca.org](http://www.tampaymca.org)

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**Q: What do I need to bring?**

**A:** We ask parents to bring the following items:

- A sheet and blanket for nap time (these will be returned at the end of each week for washing)
- An extra pair of clothes
- Diapers, pull-ups, and wipes (if applicable for children aged 2)
- A daily lunch for their child
- Re-usable water bottle

**Enrollment**

**Q: How can I enroll my child?**

**A:** You can enroll your child by filling out our online application form on our website, [tampaymca.org](http://tampaymca.org). After submitting the application, we will schedule an orientation and a tour of the facility.

**Q: What is the cost?**

**A:** Tuition fees vary depending on the age of the child and the program selected. Please refer to our website [tampaymca.org](http://tampaymca.org), for detailed information.

**Q: How does payment plan work?**

**A:** We offer a payment plan through weekly drafts, which are scheduled two weeks in advance of each program week.

**For Summer:**

The total program fees for the 10-week period are divided into weekly payments, allowing for consistent and manageable payments throughout the summer.

The draft will be on Fridays and 10 days prior to the child(ren) starting. Please note that our fees are calculated based on the calendar year and are evenly distributed into weekly payments, regardless of the number of days in the week. We do not offer refunds for scheduled holidays, illness, vacations, pandemics, weather-related closures, or acts of God.

**Q: Do I need to provide my child's physical and Immunization?**

**A:** The program will need your child(ren's) current physical on the Student Health Examination Form DH3040 and immunization record Florida Certification Immunization Form DH680 upon enrollment.

**Curriculum**

**Q: What curriculum do you follow?**

**A:** Our Licensed Preschool utilizes the Creative Curriculum for Infant, Toddler and Two's and Preschool. Our preschool follows a developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to promote the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of young children. We incorporate activities that include arts and crafts, music, outdoor play, and early literacy and numeracy skills.

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**Q: How do you handle discipline?**

**A:** We use positive discipline techniques that focus on teaching children appropriate behavior through guidance, reinforcement and redirection. We do not use any form of physical punishment or harsh language. Please see the Parent Handbook for more information on our Discipline Practices and Procedures.

**Health and Safety**

**Q: What are your health and safety protocols?**

**A:** We follow strict health and safety guidelines, including regular sanitation of the facility, health checks for children, and adhering to all state licensing requirements. Our staff are trained in CPR and First Aid.

**Q: How do you handle food allergies?**

**A:** We take food allergies very seriously. Parents must provide detailed information about their child's allergies, and any medication needed. We are a peanut free program.

**Communication**

**Q: How do you communicate with parents?**

**A:** We keep parents informed and engaged through an app called ClassDojo, Newsletters and regular phone calls if needed, and provide a toddler report for the 2-year-old classroom (depending on location). Your child's teacher will invite you to ClassDojo to stay connected.

**Q: Can parents visit the preschool?**

**A:** Yes, parents are welcome to visit, but we do request that visits be scheduled in advance to avoid disrupting the children's routine.

**Staff**

**Q: What qualifications do your instructors have?**

**A:** We carefully select our staff based on their experience, competence, and education to ensure that we have the most highly qualified individuals to care for your children. We seek staff with a combination of childcare education, relevant certifications, ongoing training (45 DCF Training Hours), and practical experience in working with young children. Our staff members undergo continuous on-the-job training and gain valuable experience in youth development and family engagement. They participate in annual training courses to stay updated on the best practices in childcare.

**Q: How do you ensure staff quality and retention?**

**A:** We provide competitive salaries, benefits, and opportunities for professional growth. We also create a positive and supportive working environment to retain high-quality staff.

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## Additional Programs

### **Q: Do you offer any extracurricular activities?**

**A:** Being a Y program, we are looking into providing add-on classes such as swimming, little rookies (sports) tumbling (dependent on location), etc.

### **Q: Do you have a summer program?**

**A:** Yes, preschool registrants are given the option of a guaranteed spot in our preschool summer enrichment program. During the summer, families must commit to the minimum enrollment requirements at the time of registration. For children ages 2s and 3s, a minimum enrollment of three (3) consecutive weeks is required for summer programs. When registering, your child(ren) will be enrolled for the full summer program; however, families may inform the Program Director of the specific weeks they plan to attend (while meeting the minimum enrollment requirement), and registration will be adjusted accordingly.

### **Q: Do you have a Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program?**

**A:** Yes, we do offer VPK during the school year, and you can apply for a VPK certificate through the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) website <https://www.elhc.org/families/free-vpk-for-4-year-olds/> . For more Information about our VPK program please go to our website at <https://tampaymca.org/programs/children-teens/vpk> .

## Contact Information

### **Q: How can I get in touch with you for more information?**

**A:** You can contact us by phone (see below). You can also visit our website for more details and to schedule a tour.

### Main Office Contact Information Address:

110 East Oak Ave, Tampa, FL 33602  
Phone: (813) 224-9622

### Camp Sierra YMCA Address:

Contact: Jen Gossert  
4015 Ragg Rd, Tampa, FL 33624  
Phone: (813) 579-4051  
Email: [jen.gossert@tampaymca.org](mailto:jen.gossert@tampaymca.org)

### Bob Gilbertson Central City YMCA Address:

Contact: Maria Rodriguez  
102 E. Palm Ave, Tampa, FL 33602  
Phone: (813) 860-8818  
Email: [maria.rodriquez@tampaymca.org](mailto:maria.rodriquez@tampaymca.org)

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