



Access to Child Care Spaces and Prioritizing Families

The YMCA strives to accommodate all families who want to return at this time. The [Ministry of Education's Operational Guidelines during Covid-19](#) document states, however, that the maximum number of children in a classroom is 15. Centres will be permitted to operate at full capacity beginning September 1, 2020. Until then, we will have limited capacity in our centres.

Priority placement principles will be considered when registration demand is higher than current spaces available. These principles could affect the order in which children are invited back into care.

We will be taking into consideration the same percentage of fee assisted families, children with special needs, and families that have multiple children registered in a YMCA child care program.

Priority principles:

- Children who attended Emergency Child Care and need to return to their original YMCA child care centre,
- Children who attended Emergency Child Care and still require child care services,
- Children whose parents/guardians must return to work outside of the home,
- Children of YMCA of Greater Toronto employees that must return to work outside of the home,
- Children with siblings registered in YMCA Child Care programs,
- Children registered in a full-time program (5 days per week) at the point of closure and wish to continue in full time care will receive priority over children registered in a part time program,
- Children registering for multiple weeks in a Kindergarten/School Age licensed Summer Program will be given priority,
- Children that have an active registration, and will continue to be registered in a YMCA child care program beyond September 4, 2020,
- Children currently registered and attending their home school where the child care program is located,
- Other circumstances under the Child Care Supervisor's discretion will be considered.

If after the principles above are applied and there are still more families that wish to return to child care than there is space, families that have been in care longer will be prioritized.

Keeping your child care space on hold:

The Ontario Government and Minister of Education has announced that all licensed full-day child care and Before & After School programs will be permitted to operate at full capacity beginning September 1, 2020. In accordance with this announcement, families whose child care or Before & After spaces have been on hold since March have until August 21, 2020 to confirm or decline their child's return to care on, or before, September 8, 2020. Child care spaces will not be held after that date.

New Enrollment:

Child care space are currently available. [Visit our website](#) to learn more. For centres currently at maximum capacity, families will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted once a space becomes available.