

# YMCA: We build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

## PHILOSOPHY:

Child Watch is a limited service which focuses on providing a safe, caring, child's interest-driven environment that encourages children to learn by doing. This may be done through communication, projects, or through children's play and socializing with other children.

We believe the drop-in service should be a support network for families as well as a positive role model for building relationships.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Children between 6 weeks old and 7 years old, or before they start 1st grade, whichever comes first.

Parents, grandparents and legal foster parents may use this service—only while they are using the YMCA facility.

This free member service is available during Child Watch hours of operation only, for up to 2 1/2 hours total per day, per child. This service is on a first come, first served basis. Service is limited to space and adult/child ratios.

The YMCA does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex of a child, marital status or age of the parents.

## INELIGIBILITY:

We are unable to serve children other than those listed in our Eligibility Requirements.

Children who appear to be suffering from possible illnesses will be asked to leave immediately.

Children demonstrating behaviors that could affect the safety of themselves or others or deliberately harm property will be asked to leave for the day.

Parents owing money for late fees or diaper fees will need to pay these fines before being able to use Child Watch again.

## STAFF:

We are primarily staffed by a group of dedicated Volunteers. We also have a paid Staff available at all times. All caregivers have been screened using 2 background checks with local and state authorities. There is a minimum of 1 person in the room at all times certified in CPR, 1st Aid and Blood Borne Pathogens. We do not allow adults to be left alone with children at any time.

**Please Note: We are happy to have your family as a part of the YMCA Child Watch service; however, deliberate misuse of our services or caregivers could result in temporary or permanent loss of Child Watch's privileges.**

## POLICIES:

Signing In: Adults are required to show their Membership Card when checking in. Children must be signed in, with their food, personal belongings, and themselves labeled. Children can only be checked out by the person who brought them in, unless specified by parent in writing and the person picking up has legal photo identification. Parents must leave, in writing, all locations they will be in while children are in Child Watch.

Holidays: Child Watch will be closed on: Labor Day, the week before public school starts, Thanksgiving and the day after, December 24-26th, New Years Eve and New Years Day, Memorial Day, Good Friday, and July 4th.

Food: Snacks and drinks for your child is allowed. Please keep in mind that we do have children with allergies and small children. Nuts are healthy, but not necessarily a safe choice for this environment. Preheated leftovers will be disposed of, as will refrigerated foods that are not in re-sealable containers.

Not allowed: All Child Watch toys are cleaned and checked for safety regularly. Please leave toys, coins, candy, gum and other small objects at home.

Illness: All children must be current with immunizations. We cannot accept a child if they have the following symptoms within the last 24 hours: fever, green discharge from the body, diarrhea, cough, lethargy, unexplained rashes, and/or vomiting. Children suspected of illness will be sent home.

Crying/Upset Children: It is our policy to ask parents to come and get their child when that child is inconsolable for 10 consecutive minutes. Although this may be an inconvenience, this procedure will be followed for the comfort and best interest of your child and the other children visiting Child Watch.

Diapers: Parents are responsible for leaving their children in Child Watch wearing a clean diaper. They will need to leave an extra diaper in Child Watch for their child's use. If a diaper has not been provided by the parent, the YMCA will provide one at a cost of \$1.

Bathroom: Due to sanitary issues, children being potty trained must wear pull ups or plastic cover ups in Child Watch. If a young, potty trained child has a toileting 'accident' in Child Watch, we will request that they wear pull ups or cover ups for another 2 weeks when visiting Child Watch. This will hopefully give that child a chance to master their potty training.

## POLICIES (CONTINUED):

Clothing: Children able to walk must wear footwear.

Accidents/Injury: An accident report will be filled out after first aid is administered. The parents will be notified upon pick up or immediately if needed.

Emergencies: There will be at least one YMCA caregiver trained in CPR, blood borne pathogens, and first aid in the nursery at all times.  
Emergency Procedures -  
1. A parent will transport the child if available.  
2. The director or YMCA Professional staff will transport the child and have the parent meet them.  
3. The Rapid City Ambulance Service will transport the child in extreme emergencies.

Child Abuse: Cases of suspected neglect or child abuse will be reported to the proper authorities as outlined by state law. If a parent has been drinking and arrangements have not been made for someone else to pickup your child, the center is required by law to report this to the police department.

## FEES:

Members: Free

Program Participants: \$2.00 an hour, per child.

Late fee: A \$1 per minute, per child fee will be charged for children here beyond the 2 1/2 hr. time limit, children dropped off before Child Watch opens, or children not picked up at Child Watch's closing time—according to the clock displayed in Child Watch.

## HINTS FOR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE:

Children generally separate from parents easier if the parent refrains from returning to the child or room after saying their good byes.

Children enjoy bringing a snack to eat while here.

Due to adult/child ratios, it is sometimes necessary to put out the 'full sign'. In the event this happens, please inquire with our Child Watch Staff, as there may be space available for older children but not infants.

**Allergies: Due to the drop in nature of this service, we are unable to guarantee allergy inducing foods are not present in this room.**

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the YMCA Child Watch!

We are happy to be able to care for your child/children while you are using the YMCA facility.

This brochure was designed to give you important information as to the operation of this program. All of the procedures and policies were developed with the safety, wellbeing and comfort of all of the children using this facility in mind, while also offering this program to as many people as possible each day.

Please take the time to read the rules of this program so that you and your child's experience will be a positive one.

If you have not already signed our User's Agreement, please let a Staff person know.

We are looking forward to having your family as part of our program. Stop in and visit any time. If you ever have any area of concern, please feel free to visit with me in person or call me at 718-9622.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wells  
Child Watch Supervisor

# Rapid City YMCA

## Child Watch



Monday—Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

