

For Immediate Release
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Clermont Family YMCA New Beginnings Receives Star Quality Rating

The Clermont Family YMCA New Beginnings, a childcare center that cares for children ages six weeks to five years of age, has received a star rating through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Step Up To Quality Program. The rating is given to early care and education programs that exceed quality benchmarks over and above the minimum health and safety licensing standards.

"The goal of the program is to promote school readiness by improving the quality of early care and education for all children," said ODJFS Director Barbara Riley. "These ratings can help parents make informed decisions about the programs that they place their children in."

New Beginnings earned its star rating for having lower staff to child ratios, administrators and teachers with higher qualifications and more specialized training, increased administrative supports in benefits and compensation, and teachers who are familiar with Ohio's Early Learning Content standards and infant toddler guidelines which outline what children should know and be able to do when they enter kindergarten.

"Our staff develop lesson plans for each age group to teach important developmental skills that will help kids to succeed when they get into classroom settings," said Tracy Sparrow, director of the Clermont Family YMCA New Beginnings that has an average tenure of more than eight years.

At all YMCA Early Childhood Centers, play and exploration is used to engage and nurture children's thinking abilities while fostering social and emotional growth and confidence. Age appropriate interactive stations in classrooms encourage learning to count, analyze, read, draw, and imagine. All the while, teachers may engage them with open ended questions where no answer is wrong but every try is rewarded. At the Clermont Family YMCA New Beginnings, kids from infants to five years of age, of all abilities and backgrounds, are included together, fostering an environment of acceptance.

The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is the largest provider of child care programs in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area, with 60 locations. All of its Early Child Development Centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Only 7% of centers nationwide receive that recognition.

Located at 2085 B. Frontwheel Drive in Batavia, the Clermont Family YMCA New Beginnings is now enrolling children in Clermont, Brown, and Highland Counties. Government subsidy and YMCA or United Way scholarship assistance is available to those who qualify. For more information, families can call 513-724-3232.

With more than 83,000 members across the Tri-State, the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati has grown to operate 111 program child care, CincyAfterSchool, and 21st Century Community Learning sites in addition to its 17 branches and summer camp locations. The YMCA of Greater Cincinnati is the largest non-governmental, non-profit community services organization in this area that is committed to helping everyone reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind, and body – regardless of their ability to pay. Each year tens of thousands of people from children to seniors are able to participate in YMCA programs and services because of financial assistance, including health and wellness, active older adult programs, youth

and teen camp, swimming and water safety lessons , teen achievers, college readiness, and job preparedness. More information can be found at www.myy.org.

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