

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Lisa Desatnik, 513-984-5474

YMCA Valley Early Learning Center Receives Star Quality Rating

The YMCA Valley Early Learning Center located in Valley Shopping Center has received a two-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."

To earn two stars, more than half of the Roselawn Center have a credential and/or degree, and staff receive more specialized training and benefits. It also has a lower staff to child ratio, and teachers use the Ohio Early Learning Content standards in their planning.

"YMCA Early Learning Centers have always been focused on providing quality care that helps children of all backgrounds and abilities to grow to their fullest potential," said Susan Stai-Zureick, YMCA Child Development Services executive director. "Our teachers' goals are to teach children important developmental skills that will help kids to succeed when they enter kindergarten."

At all YMCA Early Learning 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. 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. Most of its Early Child Development Centers participate in Ohio's Early Learning Initiative, which provides a higher level of program performance and credibility, and all are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Only 7% of centers nationwide receive that recognition.

Located at 7617 Reading Road, the YMCA Valley Early Learning Center is now enrolling children for the fall. Government subsidy and YMCA or United Way scholarship assistance is available to those who qualify. For more information, families can call 513-761-2219.

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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