



Frequently Asked Questions about the YMCA of Lethbridge Early Learning and Child Care(ELCC) Centre

About ELCC Centres: In June 2017, the Alberta Government signed a multilateral Agreement with the federal government, provincial and territorial partners to support affordable child care initiatives across Canada. The Alberta Government is using the funding to increase access to quality childcare by assisting with space creation in Alberta Early Learning and Child Care centres that cap parent fees at \$25/day. This funding is for 3 years.

The Alberta Government will use an evaluation to assess the next steps of the ELCC Centres. At this time the government has not released any information on funding more ELCC centres in the future.

As a result of the successful application to become a pilot project ELCC, the YMCA of Lethbridge will be opening a new 82 space childcare centre within the Lethbridge Centre building at 200-4 Ave South, in downtown Lethbridge.

When will the centre be opening?

We anticipate that the centre will be open by September 1, 2018.

Where is this centre located?

The new YMCA ELCC Centre will be located on the 2nd floor of the Lethbridge Centre building at 200-4 Ave South, in downtown Lethbridge.

What features are included in the centre?

This new \$1 million centre will have multiple program rooms for toddlers, preschool aged children and kindergarten aged children, all designed with the specific needs of young children in mind – lower sinks that children can reach, child sized toilets to encourage independent use and program supplies specifically selected for the developmental needs of young children in mind.

This centre has been designed and will be built to meet the most recent codes with respect to barrier free access.

All program rooms will have easy access to a fully secured outdoor playspace, and parking for child drop off and pick up will be located by the main childcare centre entrance.

Lethbridge Centre hosts many agencies that support the development of young children and provide supports to families, like the Family Centre, counselling services and several departments of Alberta Health Services.

Funding for this project was made possible through the ELCC pilot project funding and by generous donors to the YMCA Community Campaign that is now in progress. More information about this campaign can be found at www.ynow.ca



What would a typical day look like for my child?

This ELCC centre will adopt the Alberta Human Service's Play, Participation and Possibilities curriculum framework <http://childcareframework.com/play-participation-and-possibilities/>. This framework recognizes each child as a mighty learner who, when surrounded by knowledgeable and caring adults in a well designed environment, has unlimited potential to learn and develop. Your child's day will be full of opportunities to play, explore, and discover with their peers through fun and engaging activities and outdoor experiences that will support your child's overall development.

Who is eligible to receive \$25/day child care at the YMCA ELCC centre?

Anyone with children aged 19 months to 5 years (as well as kindergarten children that attend YMCA Early Years Child Care) can enrol in the ELCC centre are eligible for \$25/day child care.

What will the monthly fee be at this YMCA ELCC centre?

Fees will be charged on monthly basis on the 1st day of the month and the monthly fee for full time care at the centre will be \$546 per child per month. This is based on an average number of days per month per year x \$25.

Full time care is considered to be any schedule where the child requires regular care 4 or 5 days a week.

Is part time care available?

Yes. Part time care will be available and will be in full days not partial days. If you are interested in this option, please indicate this on the initial waitlist form at lethbridgeymca.org.

Part time care fees will be as follows:

1 day per week: \$109

2 days per week: \$218

3 days per week: \$327

To be eligible for part fees, the child/ren must attend the same days of care each week.

Availability for drop in spaces will be determined as centre enrollment is confirmed.

All children enrolled in this centre will be charged the same fee regardless of age. Full fees will be charged for children who miss any part of the month due to illness or vacation or choosing to not attend program field trips.

Is there a registration fee?

Once parents have been notified that a space has opened for their child/ren, a \$50 per space fee will be required to hold the space. This fee will be refunded to the parent via a fee reduction on their first month's childcare bill.



How will childcare fees be paid?

All families are required to have a valid Pre-Authorized Payment Plan with the YMCA, even if fees will be fully subsidized. If a child who has subsidy should not attend the required hours, families are responsible for paying the balance owing which will be automatically deducted through a Pre-Authorized Fee Withdrawal.

What is included in the monthly fee?

Fees include daily breakfast and afternoon snack. Lunch and transportation to schools will not be provided as a part of this pilot program, children will need to bring lunch daily.

How will childcare spaces be allocated?

Priority of children joining YMCA centres is as follows:

- Children of YMCA Staff
- YMCA Members
- Siblings of children already attending the program (as new spaces become open)
- General public waitlist

As a part of our commitment to accessibility for newcomers to Canada, a certain portion of spaces have been assigned to children of families that are newcomers to Canada.

What will the fees be if I have provincial child care subsidy?

If you qualify to receive provincial child care subsidy your parent portion will be adjusted accordingly. For those that receive maximum subsidy, the parent portion will be \$0. Maximum subsidy rates is \$546 for children 19 months up to grade 1.

For more information about childcare subsidy call 1-877-644-9992.

How do I register my child?

Anyone interested in having their child/ren considered for admission to the new ELCC Centre must complete the waitlist application at lethbridgeymca.org/childcare.

When will I know if my child has been selected for enrollment?

Parents of children selected for enrollment to the centre will be notified a month in advance of space becoming available. At that time, details regarding completion of enrollment packages, start dates and deposits for childcare spaces will be communicated.

Who will be employed at this facility?

This early learning and childcare centre is expected to employ 14 certified childcare staff members including a childcare centre director, assistant director and educators. If you are interested in learning more about employment opportunities, visit lethbridgeymca.ca/childcare



Will the YMCA be opening more ELCC centres?

In Spring 2019, the YMCA will be opening an additional 62 space childcare centre at the Cor Van Raay YMCA in ATB Centre, on the west side of Lethbridge for children ages 19 months to kindergarten age. At this time the government has not released any information on funding more ELCC centres in the future so it is not known if this facility will be an approved ELCC centre that also offers \$25/day childcare.

Details regarding fees and schedule for this centre will be known closer to the time of opening.

Parents interested in having their children considered for enrollment at this centre are encouraged to complete the waitlist application form at lethbridgeymca.org

Who can I contact with questions?

Please reach out to Jennifer at 403-942-3744 ext 20 or email jennifer@lethbridgeymca.org