



YMCA Kids First Program

Program Details: The Kids First program is designed for children with special needs or considerations between the ages of 4 and 12 that can succeed in a 1 to 3 ratio. This program is designed to allow children to develop fundamental movement skills and social skills, and building relationships with their peers and having fun.

Participants are asked to bring a bathing suit and towel, healthy snack, water bottle, outdoor apparel and indoor running shoes to the program.

Daily Activities: Activities include swimming, gym activities, outdoor activities (weather permitting), creative projects, fundamental movement activities, and special events.

2017-2018 dates:

September 30

October 14, 28

November 11, 25

December 9

January 13, 27

February 10, 24

March 10, 24

April 7, 21

May 5, 26

Hours & Location: Kids First runs from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Walker Family YMCA in St. Catharines. Drop off and pick up for this program is in the Child Care Centre.

Staffing and Ratio: All YMCA Staff are required to have a current Criminal Reference Check with vulnerable sector search, Standard First Aid and CPR C. The Kids First staffs have experience supporting children with a wide range of needs and abilities, in a variety of environments. The program ratio is 1 staff for every 3 children.

Participants requiring a smaller support ratio will have the opportunity to bring their own support worker, and pay 50% of the program fee. Please note that independent support workers must be arranged in advance through the YMCA and meet YMCA's requirements including a clean Criminal Reference Check –Vulnerable Sector Search issued within the past year, and YMCA Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult training, etc. For more information, or to make arrangements for an independent support worker please contact Lauren Burke.

Fees: The fee for participants is \$31.00 per session. Payment will be accepted by cash, debit, Visa, Master Card or cheque. If your child is funded through another agency, please have the agency contact Lauren Burke directly to set up invoicing.

How to Register: Registration is on a first come first serve basis. All registration must be completed the Wednesday prior to the program date in order to ensure appropriate staff to participant support ratios. Registration can be done in person at any YMCA of Niagara Membership desk or online at www.ymcaofniagara.org

If your child is a new participant to the program, you will be asked to meet with a Kids First staff to complete a profile prior to their first day of program. The profile will provide the staff with the necessary information on how to successfully support your child. To set up a profile appointment please contact Lauren Burke at 905-934-9755 ext 282 or via email at helping.hands@niagara.ymca.ca

Cancellation Policy: We will give families a full refund or credit for any cancellation done 3 days before the program date. This will provide adequate time for us to offer the spot to another child. After this period, refunds or switches will not be permitted.

Contact information: During the week please call Lauren Burke at 905-934-9755 ext 282 or email helping.hands@niagara.ymca.ca. On Saturdays afternoons please call the Walker YMCA at 905-934-9622 and ask to speak to the duty manager.