



## **YMCA of Niagara Child Care Re-Opening Prioritization Policy**

As child care centres re-open under Phase 2 of Ontario's Re-Opening plan, there will be reduced capacity in each centre. Children will be placed in cohorts of no more than 10, including staff.

The YMCA will use the following criteria to plan the return of children to the centre.

*Direction: As care for each family is assessed through the following criteria, a 'yes' answer moves the family to the next criteria, a 'no' answer means the family does not qualify at this time.*

### **Full Time Status**

Families who were full time at the point of closure in March and wish to continue with full time care receive priority.

### **Parent/Guardians Working or in School**

Families where all parents/guardians are working or in school will receive priority.

### **Prioritization**

Spaces will be filled according to the order of the sequential priority list as directed through the Ministry of Education Guidelines during COVID-19 Outbreak:

1. Returning YMCA children served through Emergency Child Care
2. Families where all parents/guardians must return to work or school outside of the home
3. Families with Special Circumstances that would benefit from returning to care, such as children with special needs
4. Families where parents/guardians work or school inside the home

### **Duration of Care as Final Determining Priority**

If, after the above three criteria are applied, there are still more families that wish to return to child care than there are spaces, then families will be prioritized based on those that have been in care the longest.

### **Future Start Dates**

For families that choose to not yet return to care, spaces will be held until August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 as per MEDU Guidelines, or families who do not have a space in the initial re-opening of the centre at this time: as the Ministry extends child care capacity we will use the criteria above to bring more families back to the centre.

**Requests to Change Care**

Families should submit any changes to their care needs to their Supervisor on the Request for Change of Registration form (ask your Supervisor for the form). As we are required to hold spaces at this time for all families registered at the time of closure, we will only be able to assess requests for changes once capacities have been expanded by the Province; full time takes priority over part time.

**New Enrollment**

New families must place themselves on our online waiting list for the centre; go to <http://niagara.onehsn.com> . You will be contacted once a space becomes available. There is no fee for a family to place themselves on a waiting list.