

St. Kateri's Out of School Care Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the program located?

Our St. Kateri Out of School Care Program will initially operate from designated spaces within Father Leonard Van Tighem School from approximately September to December 2026. Upon the opening of St. Kateri School, the program will transition to its permanent location within the school.

Program spaces may include the gymnasium, common areas, classrooms, and outdoor playgrounds/fields.

When will my child be formally enrolled?

As the school continues to be constructed, the YMCA must first obtain its child care license before formal enrollment can occur. Once the license has been approved, enrollment packages will be sent to all pre-enrolled families.

We anticipate sending enrollment packages by June 29, 2026, with completed forms due by July 13, 2026.

All families who completed the pre-enrollment Microsoft Form, will be invited to register their child. Enrollment packages not returned by the assigned deadline may result in the space being offered to a family on the waitlist.

Please Note: The YMCA's cancellation policy requires a minimum of 30 days written notice for all confirmed enrollments.

Examples:

- To cancel care effective September 2026, notice must be received by August 1, 2026.
- To cancel care effective October 2026, notice must be received by September 1, 2026.

How much does the program cost?

Kindergarten

- Parent Fee: \$326.25/month
- Full Child Care Fee: \$966.00/month (prior to Affordability Grant)

Kindergarten children are not eligible for Alberta Child Care Subsidy.

Grades 1–5

- Before School Care Only (School Closure Days Not Included): \$275/month
- After School Care Only: \$555/month
- Before and After School Care: \$605/month

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All YMCA Out of School Care programs provide:

- High-quality child care programming
- Professional and experienced educators
- Daily snack service
- Access to Cor Van Raay YMCA amenities during PD Days and school closure days, including the Aquatics Centre and Indoor Playground

How do payments work?

Payments are arranged during the enrollment process and can be made through either credit card or pre-authorized debit (PAD).

If a third-party agency or organization will be paying all or a portion of your child care fees, please contact the Centre Director directly to make the necessary arrangements before care begins.

Is subsidy available?

Yes. Alberta Child Care Subsidy may be available for eligible families with children in Grades 1–5. Eligibility is determined by the Government of Alberta based on factors such as household income and family circumstances.

To learn more about eligibility requirements and to apply, please visit the Government of Alberta's Child Care Subsidy program.

Children enrolled in Kindergarten are not eligible for Child Care Subsidy; however, they automatically receive the Affordability Grant, which reduces the parent fee to \$326.25 per month.

Is food provided?

Parents/guardians are responsible for providing their child with healthy lunches and snacks to support them throughout the day. Tables will be set up for the children to sit to eat their food items.

What facilities are available to children attending the program?

Children will have daily access to school facilities, including the gymnasium, common areas, and outdoor playgrounds.

The program may also offer optional field trips to the Cor Van Raay YMCA and other community locations.

The YMCA is currently exploring opportunities for children to regularly visit the Cor Van Raay YMCA, where they may enjoy:

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- The Indoor Playground
- Aquatics Centre
- Rec Room
- Other age-appropriate recreational spaces

What curriculum will the program use?

Our program follows A Place to Connect™, the YMCA's nationally recognized curriculum designed specifically for school-age children. This curriculum emphasizes child-led learning experiences that support healthy development through play, exploration, and meaningful relationships.

Children participate in a variety of activities facilitated by YMCA educators that promote:

- Physical activity and healthy lifestyles
- Social and emotional development
- Creativity and self-expression
- Problem-solving and critical thinking
- Positive relationships with peers and caring adults

Through A Place to Connect™, children are encouraged to explore their interests, build confidence, develop new skills, and create a strong sense of belonging within a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment.

Who will be caring for my child?

The YMCA of Lethbridge employs qualified Early Childhood Educators who are trained, experienced, and passionate about supporting children and families.

Our educators have backgrounds in:

- Child and youth development
- Program planning and implementation
- Building positive relationships with children

The YMCA meets or exceeds Alberta Child Care staffing requirements, maintaining a minimum ratio of 1 educator for every 15 children, with group sizes not exceeding 30 children.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

A designated entrance for YMCA program participants is being established in collaboration with school administration. This entrance will be clearly identified and easily accessible for families.

When dropping off a child:

- Parents/guardians must sign their child into care with a YMCA educator.
- Children may not be dropped off on school property and enter the program independently.

These procedures are required under Alberta Child Care Regulations and align with the YMCA's commitment to child safety.

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When picking up a child:

- Adults must provide government-issued photo identification when requested.
- All individuals authorized to pick up a child must be listed on the child's approved pick-up authorization form.

Transferring Between the Program and School

YMCA educators and school staff will work together to ensure children are safely transferred between the Out of School Care Program and their classrooms each day.

Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying both the YMCA and the school when their child is absent from either school or the Out of School Care Program.

While YMCA staff will collaborate with families and school personnel whenever possible, the YMCA cannot assume responsibility for communicating attendance changes to the school on behalf of families.

How does care work for Kindergarten children?

Kindergarten children may attend the YMCA Out of School Care Program; however, families are responsible for arranging transportation between the school and the YMCA KinderCare during the portion of the day their child is not attending Kindergarten.

- **Morning (AM) Kindergarten students** may attend Before School Care at the School. Once their Kindergarten Day has ended, families are responsible for arranging transportation from the school to the YMCA KinderCare Program for the remainder of the day.
- **Afternoon (PM) Kindergarten students** may attend care at the YMCA KinderCare during the morning. Families are responsible for arranging transportation from the YMCA to the school at the start of their Kindergarten program. Children may attend After School Care following the end of the school day if care is required.

What happens if St. Kateri School does not open as planned?

The YMCA will continue operating the Out of School Care Program from Father Leonard Van Tighem School until St. Kateri School is ready for occupancy. Families will receive regular updates regarding timelines and any changes that may affect program operations. This ensures continuity of care for all enrolled children.

For more information, please contact G-Nel Nelson g-nel.nelson@lethbridgelymca.ca