



Y ACADEMY

EARLY EDUCATION

FAMILY HANDBOOK



YMCA OF GREATER NASHUA



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Y Academy Early Education!

Welcome to a new year of learning, discovery, and growth! We are honored that you have chosen Y Academy Early Education Center to be part of your child's early learning journey.

This year marks an exciting new chapter as YMCA Merrimack Early Education Center becomes Y Academy Early Education Center. While our name has changed, our commitment remains the same—to provide a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where every child can learn, grow, and thrive.

Guided by the New Hampshire Early Learning Standards, our program supports children from infancy through Kindergarten with meaningful, play-based learning experiences that encourage curiosity, creativity, confidence, and independence. Through caring relationships and hands-on exploration, children develop the social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive skills that build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

At Y Academy, our YMCA core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility are at the heart of everything we do. We believe families are a child's first and most important teachers, and we value the partnership we build with you. Open communication and collaboration help us create the best possible experience for every child. This handbook is designed to answer many of your questions about our programs, policies, and daily practices. Please use it as a resource throughout the year, and know that our team is always here to support your family. Thank you for trusting Y Academy Early Education Center with your child's care and education. We look forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, laughter, and lasting memories.

Welcome to the Y Academy family!

Warm regards,

Carlisa Choate M.Ed.
Vice President of Youth Development & Achievement
cchoate@nmyymca.org
(603) 689-2430

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER – MERRIMACK Y

OUR MISSION & COMMITMENT

The Merrimack YMCA Early Education Center supports the mission of the YMCA of Greater Nashua by helping children develop a healthy spirit, mind, and body. We recognize that every child grows and learns at their own pace, and our curriculum is designed to nurture each child's unique strengths and abilities.

Our goal is to provide a safe, caring, and enriching environment where children feel valued, families feel supported, and learning happens through meaningful experiences. We believe strong partnerships with families, open communication, and continuous improvement are essential to every child's success.

We hope each family feels confident in their childcare choice and that every child leaves our program with happy memories, meaningful relationships, and a lifelong love of learning.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Early Education Center – Merrimack Director: Elizabeth Witmer – ewitmer@nmymca.org

Elizabeth is your primary point of contact for program-specific communication and family concerns.

Administrative Assistant: Andressa Brenner – abrenner@nmymca.org

Please contact the Administrative Assistant for assistance with registration, financial questions, schedule changes, or program withdrawals.

Vice President of Youth Development & Achievement:

Carlisa Choate – cchoate@nmymca.org

Please contact Carlisa with concerns that require further support beyond the site level or if issues have not been resolved through the Director.

PROGRAM POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

DEFINITION OF FAMILY

Throughout this handbook, the term **family** refers to parents, legal guardians, or any individual responsible for the care and well-being of a child enrolled in our program.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY & BELONGING

The Merrimack YMCA Early Education Center is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive community where every child and family feels respected, valued, and supported. We celebrate diversity in race, culture, ethnicity, language, religion, family structure, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic background, and ability.

We provide equal educational opportunities for all children and make reasonable accommodations to support each child's individual needs. Our curriculum encourages children to appreciate differences, build empathy, and develop respect for others through books, music, activities, conversations, and cultural experiences.

We welcome families to share their traditions and cultures, enriching our classrooms and helping children develop an understanding of the diverse world around them. Our holiday celebrations and classroom activities are planned to honor and respect the many cultures, beliefs, and traditions represented within our community.

Together, we strive to create an environment where every child feels a sense of belonging and every family is valued as an important partner in their child's education.

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

To maintain a safe, professional environment and protect the privacy of our children, families, and staff, Y Academy Early Education Center employees are expected to maintain appropriate professional boundaries with enrolled families.

Employees and their immediate family members may not provide outside childcare or babysitting services for children enrolled in our program. Employees are also prohibited from socializing or communicating with the families of currently enrolled children outside of normal Center interactions, including through personal social media. These policies help prevent conflicts of interest, protect privacy, and reduce potential liability for both families and the Center.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Your child's records and personal information are confidential. Information will not be released without your written consent, except as required by law or authorized regulatory or partnering agencies.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PUBLICITY

The YMCA may photograph children participating in Center activities for use within the Center, on YMCA social media, or in promotional materials. If you do not want your child photographed, please notify the Center in writing.

ENROLLMENT, TUITION & PAYMENT

ADMISSION & ENROLLMENT

Enrollment is completed annually. All required forms must be submitted at least two weeks before your child's start date to avoid a delayed enrollment.

Required forms include:

- Enrollment paperwork
- Food Program Application
- Immunization record
- Required waiver forms

TUITION & PAYMENTS

The Early Education Center operates 51 weeks per year. Enrollment is maintained from September through August unless withdrawn or terminated.

Tuition is based on your child's age as of **October 31** and remains the same for the entire program year, even if your child changes classrooms.

Payments are automatically drafted each Wednesday for the upcoming week from your authorized payment account. Weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly payment options are available.

Accounts must remain current for continued enrollment in all YMCA childcare programs, including summer camp.

No tuition credits or refunds are provided for:

- Holidays or scheduled Center closures
- Inclement weather or emergency closures
- Illness or absences
- Partial weeks of attendance

A full week is defined as **Monday through Friday**.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

A written two-week notice must be submitted through the Brightwheel Admin Portal before withdrawing your child. **Verbal notice or Brightwheel messages are not accepted.** Families who do not provide two weeks' written notice will be charged two weeks of tuition.

Enrollment may also end if:

- Your child graduates from kindergarten.
- Tuition becomes delinquent.
- Registration requirements are not met.
- Childcare services are discontinued due to disciplinary reasons.

VACATION POLICY

Families may take **up to two tuition-free vacation weeks** each school year (September through mid-June). An additional **two tuition-free vacation weeks** are available for families enrolled during the summer program (late June through August).

Vacation requests must be submitted at least **two weeks in advance** through the Brightwheel Admin Portal. **Verbal requests and Brightwheel messages will not be accepted.**

The Center, this year is closed the week following Christmas (December 28 – January 1, 2027). Families are not charged during this scheduled closure. Annual closure dates are published on the Center calendar.

Additional vacation weeks may be taken; however, regular tuition is required to hold your child's enrollment.

LATE PICK-UP POLICY

The Early Education Center closes promptly at **6:00 p.m.**

Enrollment may also end if:

- **\$20** per child beginning at **6:05 p.m.**
- An additional **\$5 per child** for **every five minutes** thereafter

Late fees will be charged to the payment method on file the following day. Childcare services may be suspended until outstanding fees are paid.

If your child has not been picked up and we have not heard from you, staff will attempt to contact you and your authorized emergency contacts. **If no one can be reached within one hour after closing, the Merrimack Police Department will be contacted.**

Please notify the classroom staff as soon as possible if you anticipate being late. Occasional emergencies will be considered at the Director's discretion. Repeated late pick-ups may result in a written warning and possible dismissal from the program.

Kindergarten Program Hours: Children enrolled in the part-time Kindergarten program may arrive no earlier than **8:30 a.m.** and must be picked up by **3:00 p.m.**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The YMCA is committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to participate in our programs. Financial assistance is available through the Y Cares Financial Assistance Program for families who qualify.

Applications are available at the Merrimack and Nashua YMCA Welcome Centers. Once all required documentation is received, applications are typically processed within two weeks. Assistance is awarded based on eligibility and available funding.

Childcare financial assistance must be renewed annually. YMCA membership financial assistance must be renewed every six months.

For more information or to apply, please visit one of our YMCA Welcome Centers, or visit our website at: <https://nymymca.org/membership/financial-assistance/>.

DAILY OPERATIONS & FAMILY INFORMATION

ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE & TRANSPORTATION

Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their child to and from the Early Education Center.

The Center is open **Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Please do not arrive before your scheduled time or after your scheduled time or closing.

Parents/guardians must:

- Escort their child into the classroom.
- Help unpack belongings.
- Sign their child in and out using Brightwheel.

Children may attend a maximum of **10 hours per day**. Additional time may result in an extra fee.

For everyone's safety:

- Enter through the childcare entrance under the blue awning using your security clearance (new system in place this year).
- Park only in designated parking spaces.
- Never block the fire lane.
- Observe the **15 MPH** parking lot speed limit.

Parents or guardians have a legal right to unlimited, unannounced access to the Early Education Center during normal operating hours.

BRIGHTWHEEL

Brightwheel is the Center's primary communication and attendance system and is required for all enrolled families. Brightwheel is an application (app) that allows us to send real-time messages, emergency alerts, and newsletters all from one platform.

Staff are encouraged to communicate with parents/guardians during program hours. Please note that **staff are not available on weekends or after 6:00 PM on weekdays**. They have family and other outside commitments, however they will respond to you as promptly as possible. You can also send messages via Brightwheel or email.

For urgent matters, please notify the Site Director on Brightwheel or email, which are the most effective ways to reach our directors.

Click here to download Brightwheel: www.mybrightwheel.com.

Through Brightwheel, families can:

- Sign children in and out securely.
- Receive classroom updates, photos, meals, diapering/toileting information, and daily notes.
- Communicate directly with teachers and Center staff.
- Receive reminders, announcements, and emergency notifications.

Please use Brightwheel to report absences or late arrivals after **10:00 a.m.**

AUTHORIZED PICK-UP & CUSTODY

Children will only be released to parents/guardians or individuals listed as authorized pick-up contacts. Anyone unfamiliar to staff must present a valid photo ID.

Parents are responsible for keeping authorized pick-up information current.

For your child's safety, the Center may refuse to release a child if staff believe the person picking up the child is impaired or unable to provide safe transportation. In these situations, staff may contact emergency contacts or local authorities if necessary.

Unless legal documentation states otherwise, both parents have equal custodial rights. Copies of current custody agreements, visitation orders, or restraining orders must be provided to the Center and kept on file.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

Please notify your child's teacher or the Director of any significant changes at home that may affect your child's well-being or behavior, such as:

- Birth of a sibling
- Illness or hospitalization
- Family separation or divorce
- Death of a family member or pet
- Moving or changes in caregivers

Likewise, the Center will communicate any significant events that may affect your child while in our care. All shared information is kept confidential.

ATTENDANCE, WEATHER & HOLIDAYS

Please notify the Center through Brightwheel if your child will be absent or arriving after **10:00 a.m.** If your child has a communicable illness, please let us know so we can meet public health notification requirements.

In the event of severe weather or emergency closures, families will be notified through Brightwheel. Closure information will also be posted on the YMCA website and social media. If the Center closes early, families are responsible for arranging prompt pick-up.

The Center is closed on scheduled holidays and professional development days listed on the annual school calendar. Tuition is not prorated for scheduled closures.

TRANSITIONS

We strive to make each child's transition into the program and between classrooms positive and successful.

Before enrollment, families are invited to tour the Center, meet teachers, and discuss their child's individual needs.

Children typically transition to new classrooms once each year, although changes may occur based on developmental needs or enrollment. Families will be notified in advance and children will have opportunities to visit their new classroom before transitioning.

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

We maintain an Open Door Policy and welcome families to visit the Center during operating hours. Nursing parents are welcome to feed their infants in the classroom.

Because teachers' primary responsibility is supervising children, lengthy conversations may need to be scheduled outside classroom hours. Conferences are always available upon request.

STAFF & CHILD GUIDANCE

Our teaching staff meet or exceed New Hampshire licensing requirements and complete comprehensive background checks, health screenings, Infant and Child CPR, Pediatric First Aid certification, and ongoing professional development.

We use positive guidance techniques to help children develop self-control, responsibility, and respect for others. Our approach emphasizes prevention, consistent expectations, problem-solving, and building positive relationships in a safe, caring, and inclusive environment.

CHILD PROTECTION

As mandated reporters, all staff are required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate state authorities. The Center will cooperate fully with any investigation while maintaining confidentiality as required by law.

The YMCA of Greater Nashua is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for all children, families, staff, and volunteers. New Hampshire State Law requires

all YMCA staff and volunteers to be mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect. If staff suspect any form of abuse, neglect, or inappropriate behavior, they are legally required to immediately report it to their supervisor and the appropriate state authorities.

Our Early Education Center programs follow the YMCA of Greater Nashua Child Protection Policy, which outlines clear expectations for supervision, staff conduct, abuse prevention, reporting procedures, and overall program safety standards. Families are encouraged to review the full policy for more detailed information on these protections and procedures. [Click here to review the full policy.](#)

CLASSROOM POLICIES & DAILY ROUTINES

CLASSROOM RATIOS

The Early Education Center follows all New Hampshire child-to-staff ratio requirements.

Age	Ratio	Maximum Group Size
0–12 months	1:4	12
13–24 months	1:5	15
25–35 months	1:6	18
36–47 months	1:8	24
48–59 months	1:12	24
60 months and older	1:15	45

OUR LEARNING PROGRAM

Our curriculum is developmentally appropriate and based on the belief that children learn best through play and hands-on experiences. Daily activities encourage creativity, independence, problem-solving, decision-making, self-expression, and respect for others while allowing children to learn at their own pace.

Communication with families is an important part of our program. Brightwheel is our primary communication tool and is used to share daily updates, classroom activities, newsletters, calendars, and important announcements.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Families are valued partners in their child's education. We encourage participation through classroom visits, family events, volunteer opportunities, and feedback.

Opportunities for involvement include:

- Parent/Teacher Group (PTG)
- Family Nights
- Classroom events and celebrations

Each classroom also maintains a family information board with the daily schedule, menu, newsletters, and other important announcements.

Donations of books, toys, and classroom materials in good repair are always appreciated but please ask before donating.

DAILY CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Please leave personal toys at home unless requested for a classroom activity or show-and-tell. Children may bring one small stuffed animal that fits in a backpack for rest time.

Children who attend **five hours or more** participate in a daily quiet rest period. Children who do not fall asleep after approximately 30 minutes will be offered a quiet activity.

Families are responsible for providing labeled bedding (except for infants). Bedding is sent home weekly for laundering and should be returned the following school day. The Center provides sanitized cots or mats for all children.

DIAPERING, TOILET LEARNING & CLOTHING

Children in diapers are checked and changed at least every two hours or as needed. **Families must provide diapers, wipes, and extra clothing.**

Toilet learning is a partnership between families and teachers and begins when a child demonstrates developmental readiness. Staff will communicate your child's progress through Brightwheel and during daily conversations.

Please dress your child in comfortable, washable clothing suitable for active play. Children go outdoors daily, weather permitting, and should be dressed appropriately for the season. Closed-toe shoes are required.

Please keep **two complete changes of labeled clothing** at the Center and replace items as needed throughout the year.

OUTDOOR PLAY & SUN SAFETY

Outdoor play is an important part of every child's day. Children who are well enough to attend the program are expected to participate in outdoor activities unless otherwise directed by a physician.

Outdoor play may be limited during periods of extreme heat or cold at the discretion of the Director.

Families should provide weather-appropriate clothing, including:

- Coat, hat, mittens, boots, and snow pants in winter
- Sun hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent (if desired) in warmer months

The Center applies sunscreen to children over six months of age when the UV Index is 4 or higher. **Families may provide labeled lotion sunscreen or choose to use the Center's sunscreen for an annual fee.** Aerosol sunscreen is not permitted.

If you do not want sunscreen applied to your child, written notification is required.

REST TIME STAFFING

In accordance with New Hampshire licensing regulations, classrooms serving children two years of age and older may operate with one fewer staff member during scheduled rest time while remaining in compliance with state ratio requirements.

CURRICULUM, HEALTH & WELLNESS

CURRICULUM & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Early Education Center follows the **New Hampshire Early Learning Standards**, providing developmentally appropriate, hands-on learning experiences that support each child's individual growth.

Teachers observe and assess each child's development throughout the year to individualize instruction and monitor progress. Families receive regular updates on their child's development, and conferences are offered to discuss progress, goals, and any concerns.

Developmental screenings are completed with written parent/guardian consent and, when appropriate, in collaboration with the child's primary care provider, early intervention specialists, and other professionals. If additional screening or services are recommended, families will be provided with information about available community resources.

INCLUSION & INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

We welcome children of all abilities and are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment. When appropriate, we work collaboratively with families and community providers to make reasonable accommodations that support each child's success. Staff receive ongoing professional development in inclusive early childhood practices and special education. In the event that we are unable to accommodate a child's specific needs we will communicate with the family in a timely manner and assist with providing information about available community resources.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Children participate in a variety of enrichment classes that extend classroom learning, including:

- **Swim** (ages 3 and older) Safety Around the Water (In the Pool and on land instruction).
- **Gym**
- **Music/Creative Movement**
- **Art**, culminating in an annual student art show

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Before enrollment, families must provide a current physical examination, immunization record, and all required health forms. Physical examinations must be updated annually. The Center follows New Hampshire licensing requirements regarding immunizations, including approved medical and religious exemptions.

ILLNESS & EXCLUSION

To protect the health of all children and staff, children who are ill should remain at home.

The Center may exclude or send home a child who:

- Is unable to comfortably participate in daily activities.
- Requires care beyond what staff can safely provide.
- Has symptoms of a communicable illness.

Children should remain home or will be sent home for conditions including:

- Fever of 101°F (oral/forehead) or 100°F (underarm) until fever-free for 24 hours without medication
- Vomiting until symptom-free for 24 hours
- Diarrhea until symptom-free for 24 hours
- Unexplained rash (requires medical clearance)
- Pink eye, impetigo, strep throat, or other contagious illnesses until treatment requirements have been met
- Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease until fever-free for 24 hours and all sores are closed
- Head lice until treated and free of live lice and nits

A physician's note may be required before returning to the program.

Families remain responsible for tuition during illness-related absences.

Children diagnosed with a reportable communicable disease, including COVID-19 or other diseases identified by state health authorities, must provide written medical clearance before returning to the Center.

HEALTH, SAFETY & MEDICATIONS

The Center follows strict health and sanitation procedures, including frequent handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting classrooms, diapering areas, toys, sleeping equipment, and food preparation areas in accordance with state licensing regulations.

Prescription and non-prescription medications will only be administered with a completed medication authorization form and in the original labeled container.

Emergency medications, including inhalers and EpiPens, must be accompanied by a current physician's action plan. Without the required documentation, staff cannot administer medication.

All medications are securely stored and administered following the "Five Rights" of medication administration:

- Right child
- Right medication
- Right dose
- Right time
- Right route

INJURIES & EMERGENCIES

Safety is a top priority. Staff conduct daily safety inspections of classrooms and playgrounds.

If a child becomes injured or experiences a medical emergency, staff will provide immediate first aid, notify the parent/guardian, and contact emergency medical services when necessary. If a parent cannot be reached, staff will contact the emergency contacts listed on the child's enrollment forms. A staff member will accompany the child if transportation by ambulance is required.

NUTRITION

The YMCA participates in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and provides a nutritious breakfast, afternoon snack, and milk each day.

Families are responsible for providing a healthy lunch. Lunches may be heated if needed.

The Early Education Center is a **nut-restricted environment**. Additional classroom restrictions may be implemented to protect children with food allergies, such as gluten.

Children have access to drinking water throughout the day. Only water is permitted in classroom water bottles.

To reduce choking hazards for children under three years of age, please do not pack popcorn, marshmallows, gummy candy, hard chips or pretzels, seeds, or whole round foods such as grapes, cherry tomatoes, cherries, raw carrots, or hot dogs unless they have been cut into small, age-appropriate pieces.

SAFETY, BEHAVIOR & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

RESPECTFUL CONDUCT

The Early Education Center is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for children, families, staff, and visitors.

We expect everyone to treat one another with courtesy and respect. Hostile, threatening, or aggressive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the premises or dismissal from the program.

SMOKE-FREE, DRUG-FREE & WEAPON-FREE CAMPUS

To protect the health and safety of our community:

- Smoking, vaping, and the use of tobacco products are prohibited on YMCA property.
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, and unauthorized intoxicating substances are prohibited.
- Children will not be released to anyone who appears to be impaired.
- Weapons of any kind, including firearms and knives, are prohibited on YMCA property, except for authorized law enforcement officers.
- coat, hat, mittens, boots, and snow pants in winter
- Sun hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent (if desired) in warmer months

The YMCA reserves the right to contact law enforcement whenever the safety of children, families, or staff is threatened.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Early Education Center maintains a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan in partnership with New Hampshire licensing and emergency management agencies.

Staff receive ongoing training and children participate in regular emergency drills, including:

- Fire evacuation
- Relocation and evacuation
- Shelter-in-place
- Lockdown
- Secure campus
- Reverse evacuation
- Drop, Cover, and Hold (earthquake or tornado)
- Bomb threat procedures

Fire drills are conducted monthly, and additional emergency drills are practiced throughout the year.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE

Our goal is to help every child develop self-control, kindness, responsibility, and respect for others through positive guidance and strong family partnerships.

Teachers support positive behavior by:

- Redirecting children to appropriate activities
- Teaching problem-solving and conflict resolution
- Setting consistent, developmentally appropriate expectations
- Modeling respectful behavior
- Using positive reinforcement and logical consequences
- Creating classroom environments that encourage success

Corporal punishment, humiliation, or other inappropriate disciplinary practices are never used.

CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS

When a child demonstrates ongoing challenging behavior, staff will partner with the family to develop appropriate strategies for success.

This may include:

- Ongoing communication through Brightwheel and conversations with families
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Individual behavior support strategies
- Referrals to community resources or specialists, when appropriate
- Follow-up meetings to review progress

Biting is recognized as a common developmental behavior among infants, toddlers, and some preschoolers. Staff will immediately care for the injured child, support the child who bit, document the incident, and communicate with both families. Our focus is on teaching appropriate behavior—not punishment.

If a child's behavior continues to present a significant safety risk after all reasonable interventions have been implemented, enrollment may be suspended or terminated in accordance with New Hampshire licensing regulations. Families will receive written notice and, whenever possible, two weeks' advance notice. Every reasonable effort will be made to support the child's continued success before dismissal is considered.

Y ACADEMY EARLY EDUCATION CENTER GRIEVANCE REPORTING

The YMCA of Greater Nashua is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all members, participants, families, and guests.

If you have a concern, we encourage you to first speak with an Early Education Center staff member or leadership team. If you are not comfortable doing so, if your concern involves a staff member, or if the issue is not resolved, you may contact YMCA leadership or submit a grievance form. Anonymous reports are accepted.

Please report concerns as soon as possible and include as much information as you can, such as the date, location, people involved, and a description of what happened.

All concerns are reviewed promptly and fairly. Confidentiality will be maintained whenever possible, and appropriate action will be taken when needed. The YMCA strictly prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports a concern or participates in an investigation.

GRIEVANCE REVIEW PROCESS

This may include:

- Report concerns to Early Education Center staff, leadership, or through the grievance form.
- Human Resources reviews all concerns and begins an investigation when appropriate.
- Investigations are completed as promptly as possible, generally within 10 business days.
- Follow-up is provided when appropriate while maintaining confidentiality.

[YMCA of Greater Nashua Grievance Form: Fill Out Form](#)

HANDBOOK REFERENCE

Please review this handbook for future reference. If you have questions or need clarification about any policy or procedure, we encourage you to contact the Director at any time.

Thank you for choosing the Y Academy Early Education Center – Merrimack. We look forward to partnering with your family and providing a safe, nurturing, and enriching experience for your child.