

## Our Mission

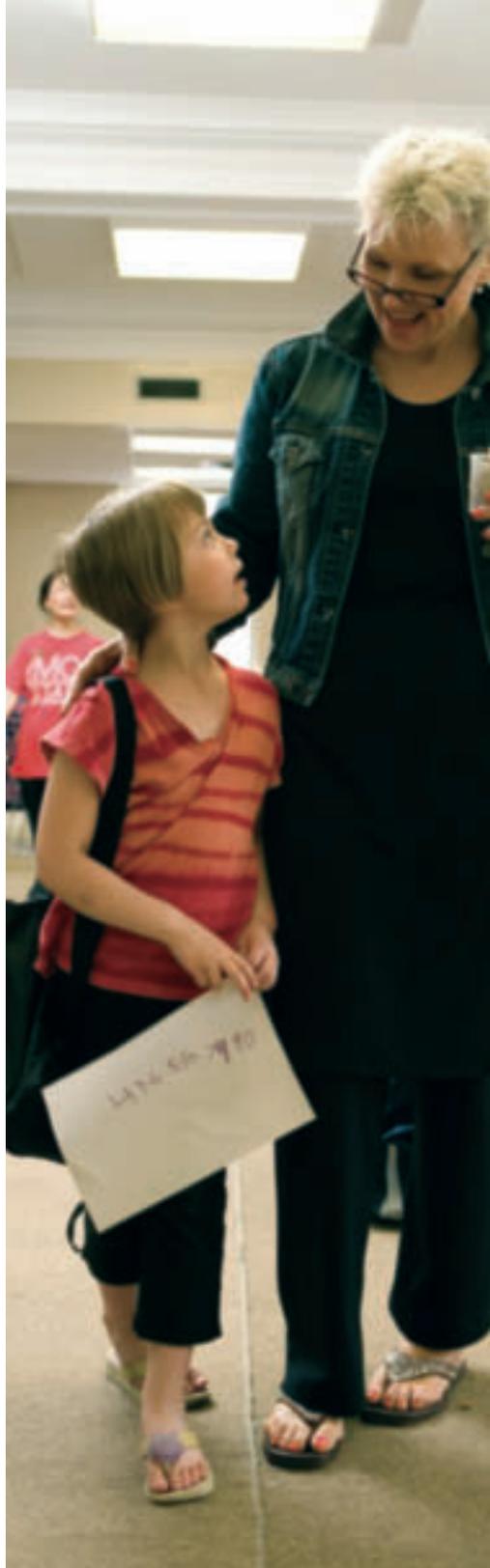
The YMCA-YWCA of Guelph is a catalyst for our community's well-being through high quality programs and services that meet the needs of a growing and diverse community.

## Our Vision

The YMCA-YWCA of Guelph will be a leader and valued partner in building one of the healthiest and most engaged mid-sized communities in Southwestern Ontario.

## Our Core Values

- Caring
- Honesty
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Well-being
- Inclusiveness
- Stewardship



# YMCA-YWCA of Guelph

## A Place to Connect

School Age Curriculum



A YMCA guide to quality care and meaningful relationships



YMCA - YWCA of  
Guelph

"The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all we do."

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 3, Section 1



This YMCA school-age curriculum, *A Place to Connect*, is created for staff working with children aged 5 - 12 years old who attend YMCA Before and After School programs.

The YMCA published the *YMCA Playing to Learn* curriculum in 2001, for child care staff working with children from birth to 6 years of age. This school-age curriculum builds on many of the principles that guide *YMCA Playing to Learn*.

*A Place to Connect* is based on research from the fields of developmental psychology, human development, neuroscience, education, risk management, diversity and social inclusion, social services and child care.

Just as importantly, this curriculum has evolved from the YMCA's long and rich history as one of the largest providers of programs for children and youth in Canada. It is designed to ensure that the YMCA Mission, Vision and Values guide every aspect of our work.

This curriculum will assist YMCA staff working with children to deliver a comprehensive program that adopts a holistic approach demonstrated through planning, programming, and high-quality interactions. We recognize the important role families play in our programs. At the YMCA we're committed to on-going communication about your child's participation and development.

Curriculum is an essential component in creating a high-quality school-age program. The approach we follow with school-age children is to adopt a 'living curriculum'. It is not a static set of unit outlines with rigidly- defined outcomes, but a flexible framework that assumes that "learning is a natural process occurring through self-directed experience...optimized by a supportive environment as well as positive interaction with adults". *YMCA Playing to Learn*

