



YMCA of Central Texas ChildWatch Guidelines

Last Updated January 9th, 2025

CHASCO/HUTTO/TWIN LAKES

Monday – Friday:
8am-12pm & 4-8pm
Saturday: 8am-1pm
Sunday: 1-4pm

HIGHLAND LAKES:

Monday – Friday:
7:45-11:30am & 4:30-7pm
Saturday: 8-10:30am
Sunday: CLOSED

WACO:

Monday – Friday:
8am-1pm & 4-8pm
Saturday: 8am-1pm
Sunday: 1-3pm

• ChildWatch General Information

- ChildWatch is a service provided exclusively for our YMCA of Central Texas Family Membership to use as drop-in care while they are in the facility.
- Members may only drop off the children listed on their account.
- Children ages 6 weeks to 13 years old are welcome in ChildWatch.
- Drop-off stops 10 minutes before ChildWatch closes.
- Parents must remain on-site at all times while their child is in ChildWatch.
- Nationwide and Guests are unable to use ChildWatch.
- ChildWatch is exempt from state licensing.

• ChildWatch Areas

- **Infant: Ages 6 weeks – 16 months (non-walking)**
 - 2-hour time limit per day- Max of 12 hours per week
 - Please make sure your children have a clean disposable diaper on. Staff will change diapers as needed; parents must supply own disposable diapers and wipes
 - Staff will bottle feed if water and formula are pre-measured; staff does not spoon feed or warm up meals but staff will give snacks that you provide
 - No glass bottles/containers allowed in ChildWatch
- **Toddler: Ages 17 months – 3 years (walking/not potty-trained)**
 - 2-hour time limit per day- Max of 12 hours per week
 - Please make sure your children have a clean disposable diaper on, staff will change diapers as needed; parents must supply their child with disposable diapers and wipes
 - Staff will bottle feed if water and formula are pre-measured; staff does not spoon feed or warm up meals but staff will give snacks that you provide
 - No glass bottles/containers allowed in ChildWatch
- **Kids Gym: Ages 3 years – 7 years (must be potty-trained)**
 - 2-hour time limit per day- Max of 12 hours per week
 - Must be fully potty trained; completely and independently able to use the restroom
 - Children (3 yrs+) wearing diapers/pull-ups or not fully potty-trained are not allowed in the Kids Gym Area
 - Any child (3 yrs+) experiencing three potty accidents within a month period will be returned to the Toddler Area for two-weeks
- **Zone: Ages 8 years – 13 years (7-13 yrs Twin Lakes Only)**
 - 2-hour time limit per day- Max of 12 hours per week
 - Electronic games are available
 - No outside electronics and or phones are allowed

• Drop-off Procedures

- Parents will scan their barcode to check-in child(ren) to ChildWatch, inform staff where they can be found, and leave a contact phone number.
- ChildWatch Lead staff will direct each child to their age appropriate area.
- Members may only check in/check out their child, the child must be listed on the YMCA Family Membership. Either parent on the membership may drop off or pick up from the ChildWatch area. (If you have guardianship or custody of another child other than your own, you must have a form showing proof of guardianship).
- Please bring your child well rested & fed (breakfast, lunch or dinner).
- Ensure your child's nails are trimmed, they are in dry clothes, and have a pair of shoes.
- Any child in diapers or pull-ups must have a clean, dry diaper before they may enter ChildWatch. Parents will provide a stocked diaper bag consisting of diapers, wipes, change of clothes, sippy cup/bottle and snacks.

• Pick-up Procedures

- The parent who signed in the child must be present when signing out the child.
- Please wait for staff to open the door and release your child, this is a safety check. Staff will complete the check out process for your child and give belongings back to parent.
- ChildWatch staff will do their best to to redirect an upset child. In the event a child is inconsolable for 15 minutes the parents will be called.

- **Snacks and Belongings**

- Snacks are allowed, keep in mind ChildWatch is a nut free area, NO PEANUT OR TREE-NUT PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED IN CHILDWATCH. Please label ALL children's belongings! NO OUTSIDE TOYS. The YMCA is not responsible for stolen or lost items. Please make sure no valuable items are left in your child's bag; lockers are available in the locker rooms. Snacks are available for purchase at SOME locations, so please see the member services desk to add money to their YMCA account for snack purchases. Please inform ChildWatch staff of any purchase restrictions.

- **Outside Play**

- Children may play outside, weather permitting, for up to an hour. We assume that if a child is at the YMCA, they are well enough to participate in outdoor activities. Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately (ex: shoes, jacket etc). All age groups may go outside.

- **Electronics**

- Electronics are not allowed in ChildWatch, this includes cell phones. Any electronics or cellphones brought into ChildWatch will be held at the ChildWatch desk and returned to the parent at pick up.

- **Illness**

- Please do not bring your child if he/she is not feeling well. Diarrhea, fever of 100.4 degrees or more, and vomiting are common symptoms for a child to be removed from ChildWatch. If your child has been diagnosed with pink eye, strep throat or any contagious illness, he/she must be excluded from ChildWatch for 24 hours after taking antibiotics or must be symptom free for 24 hours without medication. Head Lice and rashes requires a doctor's clearance.

- **Behavior**

- The following behaviors will not be tolerated & children displaying these behaviors must follow the steps of our disciplinary policy: theft or attempts to steal or damage to property, verbal abuse (belittling, humiliation, intimidation, or threatening) of counselor or other participants, physical aggression (zero tolerance), disruptive, defiant or disrespectful behavior, inappropriate touching/behavior, children leaving or attempting to leave ChildWatch area without an authorized escort, verbal threats of severe harm or death threats. Staff will handle these issues by:
 1. Talking problem over with child and discuss better choices & future consequences.
 2. Redirect/provide time away from the activity or other children.
 3. Notifying the parents of child's behavior. Parents/guardians will/may be contacted and arrangements will be made for immediate child pick-up. The child will remain in supervised "in-Y" suspension until the parent arrives.
 4. An incident/injury report will be filed for every incident.
- *After 3 behavior occurrences physical or verbal, the child may be suspended from ChildWatch for 2 weeks.
- *After 3 suspensions in 1 year, the ChildWatch Director will set up an action plan with the parents to prevent further behavior issues.

- **Late Pick-Up (applies to all ChildWatch programs)**

- A late fee of \$1.00 per minute/per child will be assessed after the time limit has been reached. Late fees must be paid to the YMCA of Central Texas branch before next drop off for ChildWatch or program.
- If payments are not made, the Y reserves the right to remove a child from the program. If a child is picked up late more than three times, he/she may be subject to removal from the program.
- If a parent is over 30 minutes late and cannot be reached by ChildWatch staff, authorities will be called.
- While exercising outside the building (on the property grounds), you must carry a cell phone and leave the cell phone number with ChildWatch staff in case you need to be contacted.

- **Property Grounds Description**

- Twin Lakes YMCA: Main YMCA Building/ Parking Lot, Trail, Sports Fields or Camp
 - CHASCO: Main YMCA Building/Parking Lot, Boles Sports Fields
 - Hutto: Main YMCA Building/ Parking Lot
 - Waco: Main YMCA Building
 - Highland Lakes: Main YMCA Building

- **Programs Offered**

- **Free Family Friday:**

- Members can take advantage of a free night out, one Friday per month from 4-8pm.
 - A pizza and juice meal is available for purchase at the time of registration. If sending a meal with your child, please make sure it is already prepared; we will not be able to refrigerate or microwave it. An extra hour from 8-9pm is available to purchase for \$5/child.

