Caring for Children with Special Needs Policy

Childcare programs provide public accommodation and therefore must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Childcare programs should be committed to meeting the needs of all children, regardless of special health care needs or disabilities. As the number of children with chronic health conditions such as asthma, allergies, and diabetes increases, as well as the number of children with emotional or behavioral issues, the ability of programs to plan for and include all children is critical. Inclusion of children with special needs has been shown to enrich the child care experience for all staff, and children and families of enrolled children.

1. Children with special needs will be accepted into our program under the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
2. All families will be treated with dignity and with respect for their individual needs and/or differences.
3. The YMCA of Lenawee County will be responsible for ensuring that confidentiality about special needs is maintained for all families and staff in the program.
4. The YMCA of Lenawee County will ensure that when a child with a special need is identified will be given a Getting to Know Me form to be filled out by the family collaboratively with a member of the childcare program staff.
5. Children with special needs will be given the opportunity to participate in the program to the fullest extent possible. To accomplish this, the YMCA may consult with the Lenawee Intermediate School District, Community Mental Health, Catholic Charities, and the Department of Human Services as needed, provided parental permission is granted. Inclusion of program staff on IFSP and IEP case conferences is desired to ensure the YMCA childcare program provides the most supportive environment possible.
6. All staff will receive general training on the benefits of inclusion of children with special needs and training on specific accommodations that any child in their classroom may need.
7. The individual written plan of care for children with special care needs will be followed in all emergency situations.

Expulsion
Our staff is committed to working with all children and their parents to improve any behavioral difficulties we may encounter in a positive, nurturing manner. However, if the behavior exhibited poses a health or safety risk for the child, other children, parents or staff, the YMCA reserves the right to expel any child from programming immediately without following the disciplinary actions listed in the handbook. At our discretion, we may consider a child for reapplication into a YMCA licensed program on a probationary basis providing that the parent/guardian can show professional counseling or behavior modification techniques have been successfully implemented. There will be no refunds issued (including registration fees) when a child is suspended or expelled from a child care program.

Parent Signature____________________                  Date_______________________