

## The Difference Between Kinder Connections and YMCA Day Camps

As you transition from YMCA Kinder Connections to YMCA Day Camps, it's important to understand the key differences.

	YMCA Kinder Connections	YMCA Day Camps
<b>Regulated by:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Education under the <i>Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accredited camp with OCA (Ontario Camps Association)</li> </ul>
<b>Registration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avocado Parent Portal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CampBrain Portal</li> </ul>
<b>Licensed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> </ul>
<b>Age Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children ages 4-5 years who are presently in Kindergarten or attending Kindergarten in September</li> </ul> <p><b>*Note:</b> if your child turns 6 years of age during enrolment they may finish the current month but must transition the following month.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children ages 6–12 years (varies by camp)</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed child care spaces within select schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community centers, schools, and conservation area</li> </ul>
<b>Staff Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) or staff with Director's approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff must be a minimum of 17 years of age.</li> <li>Camp staff trained in YMCA Canada Working with Children curriculum, Standard First Aid and CPR, and child supervision</li> </ul>
<b>Ratios</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 staff to 13 children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 staff to 10 children</li> </ul>
<b>Children with Disabilities or Additional Needs: Staffing Support Availability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced-ratio support may be available (limited).</li> <li>1:1 support by YMCA staff not available.</li> <li>Families may choose to provide a support person, in accordance with YMCA policies. All screening requirements must be completed and approved before the support person attending.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YMCA 1:1 staff support for up to 2 weeks; space limited.</li> <li>Families may choose to provide a support person, in accordance with YMCA policies.</li> <li>All screening requirements must be completed and approved before the support person attending.</li> <li>No additional ratio adjustments beyond 1:1.</li> </ul>

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<b>Programming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows <i>How Does Learning Happen?</i> and YMCA A Place to Connect® curriculum, emphasizing play-based learning and social-emotional development</li> <li>Neighborhood walking excursions</li> <li>Guest speakers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on recreation, outdoor activities, sports, arts, and team-building rather than formal curriculum</li> </ul>
<b>Hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM – 4:00 PM;</li> <li>*Limited extended care available for purchase (7:00–9:00 AM and 4:00–6:00 PM) at select locations</li> </ul>
<b>Safety &amp; Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet all licensing requirements for health, safety, nutrition, and programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows YMCA safety policies and ratios, and OCA guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>Parent Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weemarkable App</li> <li>In person communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call Camp Senior Staff to ask questions</li> <li>Community Camps -speak to Senior Staff at drop off and pick up</li> <li>Call Day Camp Office</li> </ul>
<b>Food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring lunch</li> <li>Snacks provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring lunch</li> <li>Bring snacks</li> </ul>
<b>Billing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CWELCC Funding</li> <li>Parent/guardian payment</li> <li>Regional Fee Subsidy eligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent/guardian payment (regional fee subsidy may apply in some cases)</li> </ul>