Transitioning Into the YMCA Daycare

Separation and Attachment

Here at the YMCA Daycare we understand that transitioning or starting daycare can be a trying and emotional time for the child and parents. We want the transition to be as easy and smooth as possible. Below you will find some tips that may help you and your child.

- If possible, start gradually with your child coming to the center. We have an open-door policy so you and your child could stop by for short visits before they start full time at the center.
- Fill out the registration packet in as much detail as possible. This will help the caregiver to know more about your child before coming into the center.
- Communicating with the caregiver about your child's night/morning at drop off or on Class Dojo is also important. This helps the caregiver to plan for the day.
- Talk with your child about the upcoming transition to your daycare/new classroom. You can leave a picture of your family or something cuddly for them to be able to hold onto during difficult times.
- Attachment items (blankets, pacifiers etc.) are never taken from a child when they are transitioning into a classroom or the center. Children are weaned off the item at an appropriate time.
- Make drop-off and pick-up a happy time and help to build a familiar routine with your child at drop-off time. Allowing enough time at drop off helps your child to feel secure and get engaged in the classroom. Sneaking off is counterproductive to this process. Make sure that you have said good-bye to your child. (Trust that your child care provider will help your child settle down once you leave.)
- You can call the center at any time to check on your child and speak to your child's teacher. We also have an online site that you can download an app called Class Dojo. This is a wonderful tool for communicating with your child's teacher during the day.