



**YMCA DAY CAMP**

One-to-One Counsellor Support Program

# Child Guidance Policy

YMCA DAY  
**CAMP**

[ycamp.ca](http://ycamp.ca)



Shine On

# Child Guidance Policy

The YMCA is committed to creating a Day Camp environment where every participant feels safe, included, and supported. Our Child Guidance Policy promotes safety, inclusion, and enjoyment for all campers. We recognize that some expectations may be challenging for campers receiving one-to-one support due to individual needs. To address this, we have developed a version of the policy tailored to campers with unique requirements and are committed to offering flexibility and support wherever possible. However, any behavior that poses harm to oneself or others, or significantly disrupts the camp environment, will be addressed with a zero-tolerance approach to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants.

## Individualized Support

- Counsellors will review and follow each camper's **individualized care plan daily**, adapting activities and expectations as needed.
- Positive reinforcement strategies (beads, stickers, rewards) will be **personalized based on camper interests and sensory preferences**.
- Flexible transitions will be provided, including **extra time or alternative strategies** for campers who struggle with changes in routine.

## Communication & Collaboration

- **Daily Briefings:** Counsellors will check in with guardians at drop-off and pick-up to share successes and challenges.
- **Escalation Protocol:** If behaviour escalates beyond Yellow Light, staff will **contact guardians immediately before suspension**.
- **Team Support:** Camp leadership or one to one support program coordinators will be involved when repeated challenges occur.

## Safety

At all Y camps, we remain committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our campers, their families, and our staff team. We continue to work with provincial and local health authorities to ensure the safest possible camp experience.

*Please note that if YMCA camp staff do not feel the day camp staff can properly support the camper, it is our responsibility to communicate this to the guardians and the camper may not be permitted to return to camp.*

## Green, Yellow, Red-Light Practice

The Green-Yellow-Red Light approach ensures expectations are clear and responses to uncooperative behaviour are consistent. YMCA Camp staff work proactively with campers to reduce the likelihood of uncooperative behaviour and respond appropriately when it occurs.

To support positive choices and self-regulation, staff may use strategies such as:

- Positive reinforcement and reward systems
- Core value beads or stickers
- Value Contracts
- Incident reports
- Check-in Chats
- Parental meetings

These tools are designed to help campers learn and practice behaviors that align with our camp values. Our approach is to validate their feelings, while also holding important safety boundaries.

Please note: Any suspensions or expulsions from camp due to uncooperative behaviour will not be refunded.

## Green Light

Positive behaviours earn reinforcement such as beads, stickers, activity choices, and leadership opportunities.



- Caring
- Participating
- Respect
- Inclusive
- Sharing
- Honest

- Responsible
- Using kind language
- Following counsellors' instructions
- Using supports in care plan

## Yellow Light

Behaviour exhibited within the Yellow Light will be met with Check-in Chats and helping the campers to understand what the expectation is, and how to make better choices to avoid recurrence. Yellow light behaviours will be communicated at pick up to guardians.



- Disrespectful
- Not listening
- Not following rules
- Rough play

- Hurtful words
- Exclusive
- Ignoring care plan strategies

*At pick up if this is the case a YMCA staff member will check in with the campers' guardians to seek support/modifications.*

## Red Light

Behaviour exhibited within the Red Light will be met with Parental Meetings and Incident Reports, as well as immediate 1 day suspension from Camp. The opportunity to return to camp will depend both on the severity of the behaviour, other campers safety, as well as the willingness of both camper and parent to rectify the behaviour.



- Putting self and staff in harm by running away in dangerous situations (examples: running into the road/ parking lot)
- Fighting
- Repeated aggression
- Sexual behaviour
- Racism
- Verbal aggression
- Biting

\*\*If a camper is returning from a 1-day suspension, and any Yellow or Red-Light behaviours occur, the child will face expulsion. \*\*

## Return Policy

If a child is removed from camp during the current seasonal session, the family may attempt to re-register for a future session. Prior to re-registration, the family must meet with YMCA staff to review the policy and collaborate on expectations.