

UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON FORT DRUM

Child and Youth Services

Parent Handbook

2025



UNITED STATES ARMY
CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

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FACILITIES CONTACT INFORMATION

NOTE: Child & Youth Services (CYS) Programs are closed on all Federal Holidays. Reminders to parents will be posted in all CYS facilities prior to the hour adjustments and/or closures.

Name	Hours	Location	Phone
Child & Youth Services Administrative Offices	M-F 0800-1630	10799 North Riva Ridge	315-772-0015
Parent Central Services	M-F 0730-1600	10720 Mt Belvedere Blvd	315-772-8675
Chapel Drive CDC	M-F 0545-1745	10785C Chapel Drive	315-772-8676
Po Valley CDC	M-F 0545-1745	4225 Po Valley Rd	315-774-4831
South Riva Ridge CDC	M-F 0545-1745	10780 South Riva Ridge	315-772-1700
Memorial Drive CDC	M-F 0545-1745	10745 Enduring Freedom	315-772-1085
Family Child Care	M-F 0800-1600	10799 North Riva Ridge	315-772-7173
School-Age Center	M-F 0545-0830/1500-1745 School Days M-F 0545-1745 School-Out Days	10795 Chapel Drive	315-772-4411
Youth Center	M-F 1500-2000	10788 Chapel Drive	315-772-6719
YS Sports and Fitness	M-F 1130-2000	10790 Chapel Drive	315-772-6718
CYS Nurse	M-F 0730-1600	10720 Mt Belvedere Blvd	315-772-0269
CYS Nutritionist	M-F 0730-1600	10799 North Riva Ridge	315-772-7880
School Liaison Officer	M-F 0800-1630	10783 Chapel Drive	315-772-3214 315-772-0281



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Fort Drum Child & Youth Services (CYS). We recognize that the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families; we consider it an honor and look forward to supporting your Family readiness. CYS is an Army program that provides services to all Military, Department of Defense and Contract Agencies who support the mission of our Garrisons. Our highly trained staff are committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment that meets the holistic needs of our Children and Youth ages four weeks to 18 years old. Lastly, our programs and activities are specifically designed by early childhood and youth development specialists to meet the growing needs of 21st century Military Families.

CYS believes that parents are the most influential individuals in the lives of their Child/Youth. For this reason, our facilities and programs strive to create a family-friendly environment where parents and staff work in partnership in the positive development of their Child/Youth. Research shows that when Families and teachers work together in support of learning, it results in the Child/Youth remaining in school longer, performing better in school, and possessing a higher sense of self-esteem.

We thank you for partnering with Fort Drum CYS in the growth and development of your Child/Youth. We look forward to your visits and encourage you to become involved in the planned learning activities in the centers, in the home of your provider, or in the comfort and convenience of your own home.

Again, thank you for considering Child & Youth Services (CYS) as a support to your family!

Climb To Glory!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Stenfeldt".

Cathy Stenfeldt
Coordinator, Child and Youth Services
Fort Drum, New York

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Caregiver's Creed

I am an Army Caregiver, a professional trained in my duties. I serve Department of Defense Families who protect the nation, by protecting their children. I will always provide a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment. Never will I put children in harm's way or allow others to do so. I will build trust with parents so they can concentrate on their mission. I will always treat Families with the dignity and respect they deserve. Army Caregivers are key members of the Army Team. I am an Army Caregiver!



Customer Covenant

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) is committed to providing quality through service excellence to our Soldiers and Families commensurate with the quality of their service to our Nation. We understand that we create value for our customers through consistent and easily accessible service.

We will:

- Deliver quality products and services.
- Build relationships – with communities, with our customers, and with each other.
- Be kind and respectful to those we serve.
- Conduct ourselves professionally.
- Welcome and encourage feedback; we will communicate and listen.
- Provide neat, professional, and aesthetically pleasing facilities.
- Take ownership of our actions.

Mission

Our Mission is caring. We support the military lifestyle while reducing conflict between mission readiness and parental responsibilities. When a Soldier loses duty time during deployment, mobilization, or contingency situations due to a lack of childcare, it negatively impacts the military mission. CYS provides critical support services to mitigate such stressors.

Vision

CYS Programs are dedicated to providing:

- Seamless delivery systems for Child/Youth enrolled in CYS Family Childcare Homes and Child Development Centers
- Predictable services
- Safe, healthy, family-friendly environments
- Well managed programs
- Accountability for Army, Community, CYS Staff, Children and Youth, and Parents
- Satisfied customers – Children and Youth, Parents, Army, and Community
- Maintaining status as a “Benchmark for America’s Child Care” and becoming a “Benchmark for America’s Youth Programs”

Goals

Availability: Provide adequate program capacity and services with the right mix of age groups and spaces to support employment, deployment, health and fitness, youth development, instructional programs, and school transition/education.

Affordability: Operate efficiently within Army resource guidance. Establish fees that consider Army Family budgets and meet Army financial goals so that the CYS Program is affordable to both the Army and the Army Family.

Quality: To support the growth and developmental needs of every Child/Youth, regardless of age or program enrollment, in a safe and healthy environment, with trained and caring adult staff, volunteers, and contractors.

Accountability: To safeguard the Army’s resources by efficient management oversight, good fiscal stewardship, reducing waste, and protecting assets of programs and services to Soldiers and their Families.

Philosophy

CYS programs are designed to help your Child/Youth build within them a positive self-concept that generates feelings of acceptance and respect for individuality. We believe in designing programs where children/youth have opportunities to participate, individually or as a group, in age-appropriate developmental activities that allow for optimal social, emotional, physical, creative, and cognitive growth. We promote and cultivate safe learning environments where your Child/Youth can resolve conflicts through learning age-appropriate conflict resolution and mediation skills. We believe in partnering with parents and the local community to nurture a spirit of cooperation and self-respect for self and others, reinforce character building, and encourage positive parenting.

Families

Families are the first and primary teachers in their child’s life. We support Families in this role through a variety of services that address the specific needs of each family, to include both formal and informal education opportunities. Communication between the child’s primary teacher and Family, as well as management and support staff, is critical and includes an open, honest exchange of ideas, concerns, shared decision making, and respect for cultural diversity. We encourage Families to share their culture, heritage, and home language.

Confidentiality

Only authorized CYS staff will have access to patron files. CYS is committed to protecting the privacy of patron information. Medical information concerning patrons is confidential under state and federal law and may not be discussed at any time with any person under any circumstance.

Diversity/Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal Law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Department of the Army, Child & Youth Services prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, in employment, and in their program operations serving Soldiers, Families, and the community. The Department of the Army affirms its covenant to support and serve Family and MWR customers and employees.

Open Door Policy

CYS program level staff members are approachable and accessible to parent/guardians during the center's operating hours. Parents/guardians can voice their concerns, complaints, and/or compliments regarding their customer service experience. CYS offers a Family friendly environment that encourages parents/guardians to drop in to visit or observe their Child/Youth.

Army Family Covenant (AFC)

The Army Family Covenant institutionalizes a commitment by Army leaders to provide Soldiers and Families of all components with programs and services that maintain a quality of life commensurate with the quality of their service and sacrifice to the Nation.

Communication/Feedback

Parents/guardians who wish to post questions, comments, or concerns regarding Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR), CYS programs may do so at the following email address: USAGFortDrumFMWRCYS@army.mil If you do not have access to email, write your questions, comments, or concerns and place them in the designed drop box by the Parent Central Services office at Clark Hall. You may also complete an Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) survey on your garrison's website.

Chain of Command

The most effective way to resolve issues is to channel them through the CYS Chain of Command. Should all attempts at resolution fail, parents/guardians can elevate their issues or concerns up through the Chain of Command in the order below:

- Primary Program Assistant (Classroom Lead Teacher)
- Assistant Facility Director
- Facility Director
- Child Administrator: Christine Barton
- Chief, Child & Youth Services Division: Cathy Stenfeldt
- Director, Family and Morale Welfare & Recreation (FMWR): Sharon Addison
- Deputy Garrison Commander: Christopher Zimmer
- Garrison Commander: COL Matthew Meyer

CHAPTER 1- SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

Child Abuse and Neglect

- DoD defines reportable child abuse and neglect as follows: Child abuse and neglect includes physical injury, sexual maltreatment, and emotional maltreatment, deprivation of necessities, or combinations of these, by an individual responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating that the child's welfare is harmed or threatened. The term encompasses both acts and omissions on the part of a responsible person. A "child" is a person under 18 years of age for whom: a parent, guardian, foster parent, caretaker, employee of a residential facility, or any staff person providing out of home care, is legally responsible.
- Child Abuse Reporting: All CYS personnel are knowledgeable and considered "mandated reporters" who are required by law to report suspicions of child abuse or neglect. If CYS personnel notice suspicious bruises, cuts, or burns on a child, they must:
 1. Report incident to the installation Reporting Point of Contact (RPOC).
The RPOC # is: (315)772-5156.
 2. Notify the appropriate CYS program director after notification to RPOC.
 3. Report the incident to State Child Abuse Hotline.
- DoD Child Abuse and Safety Violation Hotline Posters are placed in visible and high traffic areas throughout all CYS facilities and Family Child Care (FCC) homes should a parent/guardian/staff need to report incidents of suspected abuse.
- Any CYS staff member (to include FCC Providers) who has been named in an allegation (institutional child abuse) will be removed and reassigned from direct contact in a program with parents/children/youth. In the event this pertains to an FCC provider, the FCC home will be closed immediately upon the allegation. The employee will not be authorized to return to the program and the FCC home will not be authorized to re-open until an "unfounded" determination is made in writing by ALL investigating bodies.
Contact numbers are as follows:
Reporting POC: (315)772-5156
DoD Child Abuse and Safety Violation Hotline number is: 1-877-790-1197
Fort Drum Family Advocacy Program (FAP) (315) 772-5914

Background Clearances

All individuals who regularly interact with children under 18 years of age in Army-sponsored and sanctioned programs are required to undergo detailed initial background checks as well as periodic reinvestigations.

Until all background checks are satisfactorily completed, individuals must volunteer/work within "Line of Sight Supervision" (LOSS) of a cleared staff member and are not permitted to be left alone with Child/Youth.

Staff under LOSS will be identified by nametags with first and last names, and either burgundy scrub tops, red bib aprons, or red polo shirts. Staff who have completed background checks will be identified by nametags with first and last names, and either green scrub tops, green bib aprons, or green polo shirt. Classroom leads will be identified by nametags with first and last names, and either blue scrub tops, blue bib aprons, or blue polo shirts. Management staff will wear nametags with first and last names, and appropriate business attire.

Sign In/Out of Facilities

To maintain a safe and secure environment, all visitors are required to sign in/out at the facility's front desk and obtain a visitor's identification badge. Parents/guardians simply dropping off or picking up their Child/Youth do not have to sign in at the front desk. Parents/guardians visiting the facility or a classroom greater than 15 minutes must sign in at the classroom and at the front desk.

Child Guidance and Touch Policy

Helping a Child/Youth understand and make appropriate choices is the basis for child guidance. When a Child/Youth misbehaves, CYS staff work with the Parent/Guardians using positive guidance (positive discipline, positive parenting, and gentle loving guidance) to identify the problem and find strategies that enable the Child/Youth to respond appropriately. Positive guidance is a belief that children should be treated with respect, free from fear of violence and shame, and guided with loving encouragement. Corporal punishment is not allowed in the CYS programs under any circumstances, even with parent approval.

Boundaries for appropriate and inappropriate touching are established to ensure clear understanding of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable. Inappropriate touching will be investigated and may be grounds for immediate closure of the FCC home or removal of a CYS staff member, contract employee, or volunteer.

Accommodation of Children and Youth with Special Needs or Behavioral Issues

- CYS WILL: Include children with special needs in all programs and services to the extent possible within resources available and based on each individual child's condition and safety considerations.
- CYS WILL NOT: Solely based on a diagnosis of special needs or medical condition, exclude, deny, or discriminate in any CYS program or activity.

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM) is the approval authority for accommodation or denial of care for children/youth with diabetes or other medical special needs. The Installation Management Command (IMCOM) G9 CYS Chief is the approval authority for denial of care for children/youth with persistent unsafe behavior. The processes applied in cases of reasonable accommodations will be communicated to parents through individual conferences and information provided at registration when special needs are identified by parents. In the event it is necessary to deny care, CYS will attempt to locate and refer parents to alternative care or services to the extent available.

Children and Youth with Persistent Unacceptable or Unsafe Behavioral Patterns

Children/ Youth who exhibit unacceptable/unsafe behavior patterns, which are deliberate or have a negative impact on other children, youth and/or adults, may need temporary, or permanent, alternative child care options. If the behavior is repetitive, the Facility Director and Trainer may contact the family to schedule a behavior support plan meeting to develop strategies to support the child/youth.

- The first step in the behavior support process includes a variety of classroom techniques for teachers to use with children.
- In the second step, the CYS behavior support team will conduct focused observations to determine the cause of the behavior. The Trainer will focus on the behaviors directly observed, both positive and negative, and provide the classroom teachers with feedback/suggestions for assisting your child. In addition, CYS will contact Kids Included Together (KIT) for recommendations for support. KIT is a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting acceptance of differences by teaching people how to meaningfully include children with disabilities or complex needs. KIT also helps organizations create and sustain inclusive environments in which all children can thrive.
- In the third step, we will share what has been learned through the observations and develop additional supports for your child/youth. At this meeting, we will discuss the outcome of the observations, recommendations from KIT, and use your input to create behavior modification strategies. We will meet with you to adjust the plan on monthly basis, or more often, if necessary, to meet the individual needs of your family or child/youth. If the support plan is effective, we will continue the behavior support strategies. If, however, the team determines your child/youth cannot safely be supported in care, CYS may assist you in finding alternate care options.

Biting

Children biting is unfortunately not unexpected in group child care, especially with pretoddlers/toddlers. Biting is a natural phenomenon that has little developmental significance. It is not something to blame on children, parents, or caregivers. A child who bites at a young age is not on the path to becoming a discipline problem. It is a behavior of a child not yet able to participate fully in social situations. Children may bite for any number of reasons such as teething, impulsiveness, lack of self-control, excitement, overstimulation, or frustration. When a child begins biting behaviors, the caregivers will track behaviors that lead to biting incidents and help the child avoid such situations. In most instances, biting will continue for a period and gradually lessen. Every effort will be made to help a child who is biting achieve socially acceptable behavior.

The following procedures will be followed in handling biting:

- When a child bites, an incident/accident form will be filled out on the child who bit as well as the child who was injured.
- Parents will be notified if a bite requires medical attention beyond first aid treatment.
- Immediate attention will be given to the child who has been bitten. This will let the biting child know that the negative behavior will not be reinforced.
- If a child continues to exhibit biting, every effort will be made to help the child. A parent conference will be scheduled with caregivers and management to discuss the behavior and develop strategies to extinguish it.
- Parents and caregivers will communicate daily on the child's progress. Additional conferences to discuss the progress of the behavior will be scheduled if necessary.

Closed Circuit TV (CCTV)

All CYS programs utilize a comprehensive video surveillance system. CCTV is designed to deter and reduce the risk of child abuse in CYS facilities; protect staff from unwarranted allegations of child abuse, provide Soldiers and Parents with “peace of mind”, and support CYS management staff in the exercise of program oversight.

The cameras record most activity areas in the interior and exterior of the buildings. You may request to view a portion of your child’s/youth’s time, with the Facility Director. Due to confidentiality reasons, copies of these recordings are not authorized to be given to parent/guardians. Recordings are released only to authorized personnel such as the Military Police and the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) for official business.

Adult/Child Ratios

Staff-to-Child/Youth ratios must be maintained at all times of the day except under rare conditions caused by compensatory enrollment as outlined in regulatory guidance (see AR 608-10 for more information). The intent is to always be at ratio and not over or under ratio. Volunteers, or other non-CYS staff not paid with CYS funding, may be used to supplement the ratio.

All rooms in a CDC/FCC home are multi-aged with a minimum age span of 18 months. Maximum group size is limited to two ratios of children/youth (e.g. two ratios of preschoolers = 20; a ratio of infants and a ratio of pre-toddlers =9).

In the Sports and Fitness Program, appropriate youth/adult ratios are maintained 100% of the time during all sports and fitness program operating hours. The adult/youth ratio is 1:15 at all times, indoor and outdoor. The National Governing Body rules determine adult staff/youth ratio for specific activities. Please consult the Youth Sports and Fitness Director for additional information.

Adult/Child Ratios are:

Childcare/SAC Center (Facilities)	
Adult/Child	Age
Infants 1:4	6 weeks to 12 months
Pre-toddlers 1:5	13 to 24 months
Toddlers 1:7	24 - 36 months
Preschoolers 1:10	3 to 5 years
Kindergartners 1:12	5 to 6 years
School-Age 1:15	1 st to 12 th grade

Family Child Care	
Adult/Child	Age
Multi-age 1:6	4 weeks to 12 years
Infant/Toddler 1:3	4 weeks to 3 years
Newborns 1:3	Birth to 12 months
School-Age 1:8	5 years-12 years

Training & Professional Development

All CYS personnel working directly with children/youth receive standardized orientation training before they are allowed to work directly with children. The orientation includes such topics as applicable regulation and installation policy; child health and safety; child abuse identification, reporting and prevention; age-appropriate guidance and discipline; parent and family relations; health and sanitation procedures, and position orientation. Training is ongoing and competency based. Assessments are completed to ensure staff comprehend and demonstrate the knowledge and skills learned from training. All other CYS professionals (Directors, cooks, etc.) complete an orientation and ongoing training as well.

Parent Involvement

Parent /Guardians are encouraged to participate in the planning and evaluation of programs through the annual Garrison Multi-Disciplined Team Inspection (MDTI) program surveys, NAEYC Accreditation, and Family Advisory Boards. These processes help ensure the safety of children/youth while improving administrative policies and programming issues, geared toward program quality. Moreover, parent/guardians who participate in the program may earn points toward fee reduction on their childcare. For detailed information on the various ways parent/guardians can participate in CYS programs and activities, contact your Parent Advisory Council representative or Facility Director.

Regulations & Inspections

Regulations and services apply uniformly throughout the DoD and Army; however, commanders have the discretion to modify specified guidance to meet the appropriate requirements. In order to provide consistency, all Army CYS programs are inspected annually and required to be in compliance with the following Army Regulations (AR), Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI), and Public Law (PL) including but not limited to:

AR 608-10, Child Development Services

AR 215-1, Military Morale, Welfare and Recreation Activities and Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentalities

DoDI 1015.2 MWR Programs

DoDI 6060.2, Child Development Programs

DoDI 6060.3, School-Age Programs

DoDI 6060.4, Youth Services Programs

DoDI 1402.5, Criminal History Background Checks on Individual in Childcare Settings

DoDI 6025.18-R Privacy of Health Information

PL 101-647 Crime Control Act

PL 106-104 Youth Sponsorship

PL 104-106 – Military Child Care Act

PL 104-201, Sec 1044: Cities concern for lack of support for DoD Youth Programs

PL 106-65, Sec 584, Expanded Child Care and Youth program services

PL 106-79, Conference Report – DoD Report on Family Childcare Subsidy/Access to Military Child Care

PL 101-366 American with Disabilities Act

IMCOM 608-10-1, Child Development Services

Accreditation

Accreditation is an activity, not a status. The benefits of accreditation are the external mark of quality, high standards, process improvements, and support. CYS programs undergo a rigorous national accreditation process. The Child Development Centers and School Age Centers as well as many of our FCC Homes are fully accredited programs through the following entities:

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) - sets professional standards for early childhood education programs age (age 0-5 years) and helps families identify high-quality programs for their young children.

National After-School Age Alliance for School Age Services (NAA) - The Council on Accreditation (COA): Afterschool Program Standards include After School Administration (ASP-AM), After School Human Resources (ASP-HR), and After School Programming and Services (ASP-PS). The Administration Standards cover practices related to continuous quality improvement, financial management, risk prevention, and management and ethical practice. The Human Resources Standards address recruitment and selection, training and professional development, support, and supervision.

The Programming and Services Standards set forth additional recommended practices for working with children and youth during out-of-school time.

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) - Awarded to Family Child Care providers who meet the eligibility requirements and the Quality Standards for NAFCC Accreditation. Accreditation reflects a high level of quality through a process that examines all aspects of the Family Child Care program, i.e. relationships, the environment, developmental learning activities, safety and health, and professional and business practices. Once Family Child Care providers become Accredited, they agree to abide by the standards set forth, and to be measured against those standards with periodic integrity and compliance reviews.

CHAPTER 2- REGISTRATION PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

Global Data Transfer (GDT)

This database makes it possible for Families relocating to a new duty station to forward their child's/youth's registration records to their next duty assignment prior to arrival. Upon arrival the Parent Central Services at the new duty station need only import the patron's information (e.g. names, birth date, child's health records, etc.) that is stored in the database. Families will provide needed updates upon arrival at the new location. Contact Parent Central Services for details on how to take advantage of this convenient tool.

Patron Eligibility

CYS accepts children as young as four weeks in Family Child Care homes and through eighteen years old in CYS programs. Eligible patrons of Department of Defense (DoD) Child Development Programs (CDP) include Active-Duty military personnel; DoD civilian personnel paid from both appropriate funds (APF) and non-appropriate funds (NAF), reservists on Active Duty or during inactive duty personnel training and DoD contractors. The first priority is childcare for Active-Duty military and DoD civilian personnel. Each Installation Commander and Defense Agency Directors and/or Commanders shall establish a priority system under which access to CDPs shall be determined.

The purpose of the CDP and School Age Center (SAC) programs offered by the DoD Components is to assist DoD military and civilian personnel in balancing the competing demands of family life and the accomplishment of the DoD mission, and to improve the economic viability of the family unit. Child Care and SAC are not considered an entitlement. (Reference: DODI 6060.2 and 6060.3, #4 Policy.)

Foreign Military Service members assigned to the Installation/serving the Department of Defense will pay the child and youth fee based on their Total Family Income (TFI). The eligibility criteria and priority are the same as any other Active Duty Soldier or DoD Civilian. Per Army Regulation, Military personnel of foreign nations and their Families when on orders from the U.S. Armed Forces, or in overseas areas when the overseas commander grants privileges in the best interest of the United States, will be eligible for care within CYS Facilities (Reference: AR 215-1 and local policy).

Coast Guard when activated are eligible patrons. The eligibility criteria and priority are the same as any other Active-Duty soldier. Fees are based on their TFI.

Retired military personnel are eligible to use youth programs. Child care programs are provided for retirees on a space available basis. Retired military personnel are eligible to use SKIES and Sports and Fitness programs where fees are not based on TFI.

Definition of Parent

A parent or legal guardian is defined as the biological mother or father of a child; a person who by order of competent jurisdiction has been declared the mother or father of a child by adoption or the legal guardian of a child.

In Loco Parentis- When an individual acts "in loco parentis" as the parent, this can only exist when the individual undertakes care and control of another (child/ren) in ABSENCE of such supervision by the natural parents and in absence of formal legal approval. When the parent is still in picture no such "in loco parentis" relationship exists. The IMCOM Office of Staff Judge Advocate has provided this guidance.

Parent Central Services (PCS)

Parent Central Services, commonly referred to as the "Gateway to CYS," is the first place a Family visits at a new installation to obtain information and register for CYS programs.

CYS Parent Central Services:

- Verifies a patron's eligibility using the DoD ID Card (Military, Civilian DoD contractor assigned to the Garrison, Reservist/National Guard, Active-Duty soldier on orders, etc.)
- Determines services patrons needs (Wait list, hourly, part day, full day, SAC, MS/T, SKIES, Sports, etc.)
- Explains age-appropriate programs associated with patron's children.
- Conducts a search for care in CYS for immediate openings.
- Conducts initial and re-registration of patrons into all CYS programs.
- Explains Wait List polices and assists with wait list placement.
- Determines patron fee category IAW with the latest fee policy.
- Schedules new patrons for program orientations.
- Sends e-News publications and messages and communicates websites of interest to parents.

Items Required for Child/Youth Registration

Children/Youth must be fully registered before they can use any CYS programs. Contact your local Parent Central Services Office to set up an appointment to complete your registration. Limited "walk-in" services may also be available.

To expedite or avoid delay of the registration process, please have the following available:

- Proof of Eligibility – Identification Card (Sponsor or Spouse)
- Parent(s) Current Home and Work Address
- Health Screening Tool
- Medical Action Plan (MAP)/Special Diet Statement (SDS) if needed
- Proof of Child Eligibility (i.e. Legal Guardianship papers, Child Military ID Card, or Tricare card or DEERS printout from Soldier's AKO)
- Official Immunization Record or transcription
- Proof of Parent(s) Income: (i.e. Leave and Earning Statements/Pay Vouchers or proof of fulltime school enrollment)
- Health Assessment/Sports Physical Statement or Well Baby Check Up (due within 30 days of registration)
- Local Emergency and Child Release Designee (minimum of two)
- Family Care Plan (Dual/Single Military Only)
- USDA Income Eligibility Form
- Military Orders

Signed and Dated Forms Required to Complete Registration

- DD FORM 2652
- Application for DoD Child Care Fees
- Liability Wavier
- Teen Self Registration Form (if applicable)
- Family Care Plan (dual/single military only)
- Health Assessment /Sport Physical Statement
- Health Screening Tool (SNAP) Form/MAPS

Immunizations

Children/Youth accepted for childcare in CYS programs must be free from communicable diseases such as measles, mumps, hepatitis, scarlet fever, and strep throat, and have written documentation of all age-appropriate immunizations. Child/Youth immunizations must be up to date in order to participate in CYS programs. This includes the flu vaccination.

Per AR40-562 "Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis," flu shots are required for both Child & Youth Services Staff and children. CYS parents will be required to provide CYS with documentation that their child has received an annual flu vaccination no later than December 1st of each year. As with any vaccine, a waiver may be requested for those with medical or religious objection. A request for a waiver based on a medical condition must be accompanied by a signed, stamped, and dated statement from a credentialed medical provider documenting why the child is exempt. A request for a waiver based on a religious objection must be accompanied by a signed statement of the parent specifying and detailing the religious objection.

Health Assessment/Sports Physical Statement

A current health assessment/sports physical statement, within one (1) year of registration, is required for children sixth (6th) grade and under. If a current health assessment/sports physical statement is not available at registration, it is to be completed within 30 days of enrollment. Health Assessments/Sports Physical Statements are good for three (3) years, as long as the child does not have any major health status changes.

Well baby exams or school athletic physicals can be used in place of the health assessment if dated, signed, and stamped by the health care provider and parent within one year. Children/Youth participating only in the Middle School/Teen program and SKIES Unlimited programs are exempt from this requirement. Tricare or other health insurance organizations will only authorize and pay for one Child/Youth health/sports physical assessment per calendar year.

Sports Physical

A sports physical must be completed annually, prior to the start of the sports season. The form must be completed with a doctor's signature and stamp, then submitted to Parent Central Services during registration. No Child/Youth will be authorized to play, practice, or participate in games until a valid physical has been furnished. The form must be signed by a licensed health professional and certify the Child/Youth is physically fit to participate in chosen sport(s) and address any pertinent medical condition and/or constraint such as asthma, heart murmur, allergies, etc. The sports physical must remain current throughout the season.

Children with Special Needs

The Army Child and Youth Services Screening Tool is required to be completed by parents to screen all children for special needs at initial registration and annually thereafter. Upon identification of special needs, supporting documentation must be submitted with the screening tool, and forwarded by CYS to the Army Public Health Nurse (APHN) for review. If your Child/Youth has a disability or other special needs, the parent/guardian may be asked to participate in the Multidisciplinary Inclusion Action Team (MIAT). Children and youth with the following conditions might be referred to the MIAT:

- Allergies
- Special Diets
- Respiratory Diagnosis
- Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder
- Diabetes

Multidisciplinary Inclusion Action Team (MIAT)

The MIAT is a multidisciplinary group that explores installation childcare and youth supervision options for children that have been diagnosed with life-threatening conditions, functional limitations, or behavioral/psychological conditions. The team determines childcare and youth supervision placement and considers feasibility of program accommodations and availability of services to support Child/Youth needs. Parent participation is crucial to the success of the MIAT. Every effort is made to accommodate children/youth with special needs.

Special Diet

Children/youth with life threatening food allergies or special dietary needs must provide a statement from their health care provider specifying (1) which foods the child cannot consume, (2) the resulting allergic reaction if ingested and (3) if applicable, any allowable food substitutions. Children/youth may not be eligible for services without appropriate documentation. Children/youth who have special diets due to religious reasons must have a representative from their religious institution provide a statement specifying which foods should be eliminated as well as allowable substitutions. For more information, please contact Parent Central Services.

Medical Action Plan (MAP)

Maintaining the health and safety of every participating Child/Youth in CYS programs is of utmost importance. If the Child/Youth has a medical condition/diagnosis, such as allergies or asthma, that may require him/her to take medication while participating in an activity, the parent/guardian will be asked to complete a Medical Action Plan (MAP). Medical Action Plans (MAPs, 7625-3 or Tool #2) are valid for one year or until notified of health status changes, based on the date signed by physician (MAPs) or APHN (7625-3, or Tool #2). This plan is completed by the child's/youth's health care provider to ensure CYS staff is aware of the proper medication and the necessary course of treatment for the Child/Youth.

Reasonable Accommodation

These are basic adjustments, supports and/or modifications that may be needed by a Child/Youth with special needs to facilitate access to a program on an equal basis to their non-disabled peers. Accommodation for children/youth with special needs is not considered reasonable if it imposes an undue hardship on the operation of the program, requires fundamental alteration of the program, or poses a direct threat to the health or safety of the Child/Youth with special needs or others.

Wait List

Because of the high demand for childcare, it is not unusual for families to be placed on a waiting list. Patrons can access this service by visiting MilitaryChildCare.com. This Department of Defense (DoD) program makes it easier to find the child and youth care your family needs. Now military and DoD civilian families can search for child and youth care options through a single website. Using MilitaryChildCare.com, you can find comprehensive information on child care programs worldwide, conduct a customized search for the care you need, and submit a request for care at any time and from any location.

Note: It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to confirm interest in remaining on the MilitaryChildCare.com waitlist every 45 days. Failure to do so will result in removal from the wait list and patrons will have to submit a new request for care.

When a space is offered in a viable care option (CDC, FCC, etc.) parent/guardians are given twenty-four (24) hours to accept or decline the space. If the viable care option is declined, then the child's/youth's name will be moved to the bottom of the wait list you are on. If Parent Central Services is unable to contact the parent/guardian, the space will be made available to the next eligible Child/Youth on the wait list. Contact Parent Central Services to discuss the available wait list options.

Middle School/Teen Registration

Middle school/teens may self-register as a guest for CYS Youth programs by completing the one-page registration form. Forms are available at the Youth Services facility. Youth may attend the regular Youth Programs (not field trips or special events until registration is finalized) as a guest member immediately upon receipt of completed form. CYS staff will validate the registration form. If registration is not validated within 5 working days from receipt of form, youth's guest membership will be cancelled. Once registration is validated (and, if required, DA 7625-1 is completed and returned), an annual pass will be issued to youth.

Some special events and field trips may cost a nominal fee, but participation in these events is not mandatory. In the case of field trips, written parental permission must be granted before a youth is allowed to participate. To enroll in a team sports program, a sports physical is required in addition to this registration. Sports fees may also apply.

CHAPTER 3 - DAILY OPERATIONS

Daily Admission/Release

Arrival & Departure Procedures: Under no circumstance will a Child/Youth be released to any person who is not authorized to pick up the Child/Youth. Positive control of Child/Youth will be maintained at the classroom level.

Upon entering the CYS facility, parents/designated representative will swipe their child into the Child Youth Management System (CYMS) at the front desk before proceeding to their child's classroom. Under no circumstance will the parent/designated representative move beyond the front desk without first swiping in their child. After swiping in at the front desk, the parent/designated representative may proceed to the classroom. Upon entering the classroom, the parent/ designated representative will sign the child in, annotating his/her name, date, time, and signature.

School age children may be swiped in by their parent/designated representative or the Child/Youth will key their personal identification number (PIN) into CYMS, and the parent/designated representative will then sign the Child/Youth in, as above.

Middle School/Teens (MST) youth participate in an open recreation program, which means they are allowed to enter and depart the facility without a parent/designated representative.

MSTs will swipe their key fob or enter their PIN and sign in before they may participate in the CYS program.

For pickup of child(ren), parents/designated representatives will follow the same procedures listed above.

Parents/guardians and visitors will enter and exit CYS Facilities through the front entrance/reception area, except during emergency evacuation and fire drills. During evacuations/fire drills, patrons will follow designated facility evacuation procedures.

Unless prior written arrangements have been made with CYS personnel, only parents or parent designees shown on DA Form 4719-R may take a child from a CYS program. Children may not be released to siblings or other children under age 13 unless approved by the program director on a case-by-case basis.

School-age children may not leave a program unaccompanied without written permission from the parent.

No parent may be denied access to a child, including the right to pick up a child from a CYS program or FCC home, unless a copy of the custody agreement or court restraining order that relinquishes such parental rights is on file at the care giving site. Parent and guardians will be required to wait until the completion of an emergency drill to pick up their child from care.

Denial of Child Care Services

CYS takes all reasonable precautions to offer a healthy environment. To ensure the safety of all enrolled children/youth, the staff will observe children/youth for signs of illness or symptoms of contagious disease upon arrival, while they are in care, and before they leave. Parents/guardians must pick up their Child/Youth that becomes ill while in care within 1 hour after being notified. Children/Youth who appear to be ill or show visible signs of fever will be screened closely and may be denied admission based upon the following symptoms:

- Inability to participate in daily activities.
- Signs of illness such as:
 - Temperature above 100.5° F (38.06° C) for children 3 months or younger or above 101.0° F (38.3° C) for children older than 3 months. Exclusion criteria for children/youth during the influenza season (1 October 31 May) include: having a fever of 100° F or above and at least one respiratory symptom such as runny nose, cough, congestion, or sore throat and/or intestinal upset or diarrhea.
 - Impetigo—Red oozing erosion capped with a golden yellow crust that appears stuck on.
 - Scabies—Crusty wavy ridges and tunnels in the webs of fingers, hand wrist and trunk.
 - Ringworm—Flat, spreading ring-shaped lesions.
 - Chicken pox—Crops of small blisters on aired base that become cloudy and crusted in 2 to 4 days.
 - Head lice—nits—Whitish—grey clot attached to hair shafts.
 - Culture—proven strep infections that have not been under treatment for at least 24 hours.
 - Conjunctivitis (pink eye)—Red watery eyes with thick yellowish discharge.
 - Persistent cough, severe diarrhea, or vomiting.
 - Symptoms of other contagious diseases such as measles, mumps, hepatitis, and strep infections.
 - Pinworm infestation.

Re-Admission after Illness

CYS staff will provide Parent/Guardian with an illness/injury readmission form (AE Form 608-10-1B) detailing criteria for readmission. The Child/Youth's health care provider should use the form to indicate when it's safe for the Child/Youth to return to the program. However, a note alone from the health care provider will not automatically re- admit the Child/Youth into the program or override Army regulations. The Child/Youth may only return to the CYS program when the following conditions exist:

- Readmissions to care are subject to Army Public Health approval on an as needed basis.
- Fever has been absent for 24 hours without the use of antipyretic or fever reducing medications (ex. Tylenol or ibuprofen).
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea has stopped for 24 hours.
- The appropriate number of doses of an antibiotic has been given over a 24-hour period for known strep or other bacterial infection.
- Chicken pox lesions have all crusted, usually 5-6 days after onset.
- Scabies is under treatment and a physician's note.
- Lice are under treatment and a physician's note.
- Pinworm treatment has occurred 24 hours before readmission and a physician's note.
- Lesions from impetigo are no longer weeping.
- Ringworm under treatment and a physician's note. The lesions must be covered. If lesions cannot be covered, Child/Youth will not be admitted until lesion has shrunk.
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) has diminished to the point that eyes are no longer discharging.
- Hand and foot mouth disease - fever subsides usually 2 to 3 days; rash is not contagious.
- The Child/Youth has completed the contagious stage of the illness and a physician's note.
- The Child/Youth is able to participate in the normal daily activities.

Returning to Care After Injury

Any injury that requires stitches, glue, cast, sling, crutches, etc. will need doctor's note indicating the level of activity permitted and any special care required during the healing process. Management will review to determine if the child can be accommodated prior to being accepted for care.

Returning After Surgery/Medical Procedure

Any medical procedure performed requires doctor's note indicating the child is cleared to return and resume activities. If medical devices are needed, the note must explain the reason, duration, and limitations, as well as any specialized training that would be required and contact information in the event of questions. This note/information must be provided before the child returns for care. The CYS Nurse, Army Public Health Nurse, and Management will review to determine if the child can be accommodated. Please note, it may be a few days until the process is completed and the child is re-admitted. Parents may be asked to provide staff training if needed.

Basic Care Items

Acceptable basic care items are limited to topical items used for the prevention of sunburn, diaper rash, teething irritation, lip balm, insect repellants, and lotions. Products such as these are limited to those identified in AR 608-10 and must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). An authorization form must be obtained from the parent/guardian prior to initial use. Basic care items will be in their original container and stored out of reach of children. Each item should have the child's first and last name legibly written on it, as well as on the outside of the bag. Contact your FCC Provider or Facility Director for a listing of approved basic care items.

Administration of Medication

- Certain medications may be administered in the CYS setting when it is not possible for Parents/Guardians to be present.
- All medication (to include OTC medication) must be checked in at the front desk and reviewed/signed off by a member of management. No medication (to include OTC medication) is authorized in the classrooms unless it is prescribed by a physician and has been properly documented on all CYS required documentation.
- All medication must be stored out of reach of children and therefore may not be left in your child's bag.
- Only prescribed antibiotics, antihistamines, decongestants, and topical medications from health care providers and U.S. medical treatment facilities may be administered to Child/Youth who are enrolled in full-day, part-day, or regularly scheduled school-age programs.
- Medications not on the approved medication list must have a medication Exception to Policy in place from Higher Headquarters Installation Management Command which can take approximately four (4) weeks to process.
- Medications that are prescribed as needed (PRN) will not be given in programs, except for rescue medications.
- Parent/guardians will complete and have the health care provider sign the corresponding Medical Action Plan (MAP) for any required rescue medication.
- All medications must be in the original container, have a current prescription label, and if not listed on the "approved medication list" should be accompanied by proper dosing syringe/cup/spoon.
- A Child/Youth must be taking the medication for at least 24 hours prior to re-admission into a CYS program.
- Parent/Guardians will complete and sign a CYS Medical Dispensation Record, DA Form 5225-R, for each approved medication, this must be completed prior to being administered in care.
- This policy will be discussed during the Parent/Guardian orientation. Please contact the individual program for further information.

Self-Medication

- School age youth can self-medicate if the Child/Youth's health care provider determines that it is developmentally appropriate, and the youth knows enough about the health condition and the treatment procedure.
- Self-medication in CYS programs requires written instructions from the youth's health care provider clearly spelling out what and when self-medication is allowed, and under what circumstances the youth must refer to the parents and health care provider for assistance.
- Parent/Guardians and youth are responsible for notifying the program staff of any medication that will be brought to CYS programs.
- Youth must self-administer all medications in the presence of CYS staff who will then document the incident.
- If a youth (6th–12th grade) cannot self-medicate, then a MIAT review is required.

Rest and Nap Periods

- Child/Youth enrolled in CDC and FCC full-day programs or hourly care will have a rest period, usually following lunch.
- Child/Youth wishing to nap can do so, while other Child/Youths engage in some other quiet activity (e.g. read a book, coloring, etc.).
- Infants are allowed to follow their own resting/napping patterns.

Personal Items from Home

- Clothing:
 - Children should come to the center dressed appropriately for the weather (e.g.) jackets and hats for fall and spring; coats, boots and snow pants, gloves/mitten for winter). Children should come in "play clothes" so that they feel free to participate in indoor and outdoor activities. Long dresses are not permitted for safety reasons.
 - Washable clothing is recommended as children may be involved in messy developmental activities (e.g. art, cooking, water, and sand play). Two changes of clothing for all children under school-age are recommended. All clothing and accessories should be labeled with your child's full name.
- Shoes
 - Children's footwear should have rubber soles and be suitable for running, climbing, and jumping. For safety reasons, flip-flops, thongs, open heeled shoes, or wedged heels are not allowed.
 - Jewelry: accessories such as rings, bracelets, necklaces, and barrettes are not permitted for children under three or children who are in multi-age rooms with children under three.
- Sleep Aids
 - If your child is over 12 months of age and has a special soft toy or blanket that he/she naps with, it may be brought to the program. It is not recommended that children younger than 12 months sleep with soft toys. The naptime toy or blanket will be put in the child's cubby and be made available for use during naptime. These items will need to be taken home for weekly laundering. Please ensure all personal items (i.e., book bags, books, school supplies, clothing, and blankets) are labeled with your child's full name.

Diapering/Toileting Training

- Diapers
 - For health and sanitation reasons, only disposable diapers are permitted in our programs. Cloth diapers are only allowed when the use of disposable diapers creates a health risk for the child, and the parent/guardian submits a health care provider's statement to that effect. Diapers are checked and changed promptly if they are wet or

soiled. Diapers and baby wipes should be labeled with the child first and last name.

- Toilet Training
 - Toilet training is a natural developmental process. Peak readiness is typically at 2 ½ years but will vary with each child. We will not force children to use the toilet, nor will we punish a child for lapses in toilet training. Planning a consistent toilet routine for home and center will go a long way in helping your child accomplish this developmental milestone. You must provide sufficient changes of clothing and training pants.

Transitions

Children are closely supervised at all times, and environments are structured to facilitate staff visibility and access to children. Extra vigilance is given during transition periods, i.e., arrival, departure, employees shift changes, etc.

Celebrations

Birthdays and Holidays: CYS recognizes that religious, ethnic, and seasonal celebrations are a part of valuable traditions. Parents/guardians are encouraged to coordinate plans with the program director and staff in advance of the event. Coordination is necessary as appropriate items for celebration vary based on age and developmental stages of children/youth. All food items must be store bought and approved in advance by the Director and/or Nutritionist prior to serving to children. Food items may not be prepared at home or in unapproved facilities.

Special Events

Throughout the year, CYS sponsors special events and awareness campaigns such as Month of the Military Child and Army Birthday. Senior Commanders from Active Army, Guard, and Reserve and other branches of service; congressional delegates, local district officials and other key stakeholders plan and engage in observance of these events.

Emergencies Closures/Evacuation/Mobilization

In the event of emergency, mobilization, or other contingencies in which the facility needs to be evacuated, CYS staff will follow a written CYS Emergency Response Plan. Specific information can be obtained from your local CYS program. Children/youth may be moved to the designated evacuation sites for safety and supervision if the emergency is not post-wide and only affects one facility. Causes for evacuation could be a fire, bomb threats, explosion, flood, severe thunderstorm, severe winter storm, hurricane, tornado, toxic fumes, electrical failure, or structural failure. Parents/guardians and military police will be notified.

Emergency Response plans are developed considering three scenarios of Evacuation

Shelter In-Place Evacuation

Keeping children/youth and staff in place, but securing the location for the emergency at hand, e.g., tornado and chemical release. Shelter in place in the facilities are mainly for areas away from windows (such as hallways).

On-Site Evacuation

Movement of children/youth and staff out of affected buildings and relocate them to other areas on the installation (if needed). Designated Safety Area is approximately 50 feet from the facility. Each program (CDC, SAC, YC, and Sports) has established a designated safe area outside the 50 feet perimeter. Please note: No child/youth will be dropped off/picked up during evacuation procedures (this applies to drills as well). Parents may remain with child during evacuation procedures. Children may return to the room/facility when they are instructed that it is safe to go.

Lockdown

If a "Lock-Down" order is given, children will be moved to a safe location in the building. Please note that during a "Lock Down" parents will not be allowed in or out of the facility until the all-clear is given.

Monthly Fire Drills

Practicing various drills is a critical step in ensuring our children and staff can react quickly in case of an actual emergency. By regulation, CYS is required to complete monthly drill evacuations. This requires all children and staff to exit the building even during inclement weather. According to IMCOM Regulation 608-10-1 children and staff will exit the building, leaving all their belongings to include coats, hats, mittens, and backpacks. The priority of these monthly fire drills is to ensure all children and staff exit the facility safely, they will meet at the designated safe zone that is predetermined with the assistance of the Fort Drum Fire Prevention Office.

Emergencies

In the event of illness, emergency, or facility closure, CYS will make every attempt to contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be located to pick up the Child/Youth, the following procedure will be put into action:

- The emergency notification child release designee on record will be called. If the center is unable to contact him/her, the next designee listed will be called.
- If none of the designees can be contacted, the military police will be notified, and their procedure will be followed in reference to locating the parent and custody of the Child/Youth.

Minor Accident /Emergencies

In the event of a minor accident resulting in injury to a Child/Youth requiring medical treatment, the CYS staff will immediately contact emergency services, followed by notification of the Parents/Guardian. CYS personnel or FCC Providers will accompany the Child/Youth immediately to the nearest emergency room by ambulance. The staff or provider will remain with the Child/Youth until the parent/Guardian arrives at the emergency room. CYS policy requires written incident/accident reports for falls, scratches, bruises, bites, and scrapes that occur while your Child/Youth is in our care to include emergency situations. Parents/guardians will be informed of the incident/accident and will be asked to sign the report. All reports are kept in the child's/youth's folder.

Transportation Policy

CYS staff are trained to operate government vehicles to safely transport children/youth on post. Our safe passenger rules must be adhered to at all times, please review them with your Child/Youth. Failure to follow these safety rules may result in the suspension of a child's/youth's transportation privileges. CYS does not provide/utilize bus monitors to and from school at CYS expense.

- Seatbelts must be worn at all times in mini buses.
- Everyone must remain seated and facing forward on buses.
- Buses will not move until everyone is properly seated.
- Inside voice is to be used at all times in vehicles.
- Eating, chewing, and drinking are prohibited in vehicles.
- No objects (including body limbs) shall be extended out a window.
- Littering is prohibited. Trash should be placed in designated trash containers.

Field Trips

As part of the curriculum, field trips and nature walks are scheduled to Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) sites and other local sites to augment the developmental program. All field trips receive input from Families, Child/Youth, and staff to offer planned activities in conjunction with community service projects. Field trip sites are visited by staff prior to the scheduled trip.

Parents/guardians will be informed in advance of the date and destination of each trip and will be required to sign a permission form for each Child/Youth participating in the trip. Ratios must be maintained by paid staff supplemented with adults such as parents or volunteers. Ratios for high-risk activities must follow guidance. Please consult the Facility Director for additional information on high-risk activities.

Food and Nutrition

FCC homes and CDC programs provide all infant jar food, cereal, and teething biscuits. FCC homes and CDC programs offer on-site, ready to feed, iron-fortified formula for infants in full and part-day programs. These specific USDA CACFP approved formulas are free of cost and parents/guardians have the option to decline. Parents/guardians are responsible for preparing bottles and providing an adequate number of bottles labeled with the date and child's first and last name.

- Glass bottles are not allowed, and all bottles must have caps.
- Medications or cereal may not be mixed with formula, unless otherwise indicated in the MIAT care plan due to a medical reason.
- Bottles for infants (under 12 months) may only contain formula or breast milk. Whole milk is allowed for children over 12 months.
- Infants (under 12 months) will be fed individually and according to the infant's feeding plan. Infant Feeding Plans are based on USDA CACFP guidelines and are established by the parent and recommendations of the child's physician or other qualified health professional.

Family Style Dining

Except for SAC and YC programs that serve buffet-style meals, CYS programs sit and dine "family style" with children/youth in FCC homes and centers. Family style dining promotes expanded language and cognition skills, builds fine motor skills, and models appropriate eating habits while fostering social interactions. Most importantly, family style dining promotes a feeling of unity and acceptance that is essential to emotional development. It is developmentally age appropriate for children/youth to participate in setting tables, preparing meals, serving themselves (with staff assistance if needed), and assisting with clean-up after meals.

Parent Participation Program

The Military Child Care Act requires the establishment of a parent participation program at each DoD installation. The program allows parents/guardians to earn points by participating in pre-approved activities on post, off post, or in the comfort of the parent's home. Parent/guardians who wish to take advantage of this cost saving opportunity will receive a 10% monthly fee reduction.

- **Parent Education**
Classes are offered at least quarterly during the CYS Orientation Training and through Army Community Service. Regularly scheduled classes include some of the following (1) child growth and development (2) special needs awareness, (3) baby sign language, and (4) child guidance techniques.

- **Parent Advisory Board (PAB)**

The PAB is a parent/guardian forum that meets at least quarterly to discuss current issues and offer recommendations for CYS program and service improvements. Parent/Guardians concerns are channeled through the Program Director to the Installation Commander for review and disposition. Contact Parent and Outreach services to inquire about participation.

- **Parent Conferences**

Parent Conferences are offered at least twice per year and provide parents/guardians a formal means of communicating with those who provide direct care to their children on a regular basis. Conferences offer a great opportunity for Parent/Guardians to learn up-to-date CYS community news and program information, while discussing their child's/youth's developmental progress.

Parking lot and traffic safety:

In an effort to keep our children, patrons, visitors, and staff safe while entering and exiting our Child & Youth Services facilities, we ask that you be mindful that all laws are enforced on this installation.

A few reminders are listed below:

- 5 MPH within a parking lot
- All vehicles should be secured and locked when parked and unattended.
- Children left unattended in vehicles will be reported to the MPs.
- Unauthorized parking (i.e. fire lane) is not permitted.
- Entering and exiting the parking lot on the wrong side (arrows are on the ground) is not permitted.
- Engines may not be left running while patrons enter the facilities.

CHAPTER 4: PAYMENTS AND REFUNDS

Tax Liability

All Civilian Families using on-post child care are required to register with the designated DoD Third Party Administrator and complete an online parent enrollment form to determine the tax value of their child care subsidy. Each year DoD must determine the value of the childcare subsidy. This net value is the amount that is considered potentially taxable income associated with the DoD childcare subsidy. Only childcare subsidies that exceed the \$5,000 (\$2,500 for married individuals filing separately) exclusion are taxable and reportable. Sponsors are responsible for considering any dependent Care flexible Spending Accounts (DCFSA's) to determine if the net value plus the DCFSA value exceeds the \$5,000 or \$2,500 amount.

Total Family Income (TFI) is all earned income including wages, salaries, tips, special duty pay (flight pay, active duty Demo pay, sea pay), and active duty save pay, long-term disability benefits, voluntary salary deferrals, retirement or other pension income, including SSI paid to the spouse and VA benefits paid to the surviving spouse before deductions for taxes. TFI calculations must also include quarter's subsistence and other allowances appropriate for the rank and status of military or civilian personnel whether received in cash or in kind. For dual military living in government quarters include BAH RC/T of the senior members only; for Defense civilian OCONUS include either the housing allowance or the value of the in-kind housing provided. Current BAH chart is located at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/suite/bah.cfm>

Documentation Needed to Determine TFI

- Military Sponsor's current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES).
- Civilian Sponsor's current LES.
- Spouse/Partner's LES, W-2 forms, and/or other income documentation.
- Schedule C (IRS return) from previous year to demonstrate wages from self- employments.
- Letter from employer if Spouse/Partner has not worked one full month. The letter must include rate of pay and anticipated average number of employment hours in order to calculate an annual pay estimate. Pay stub must be submitted following the first month of employment.

Fees for Blended Families AND Fees for Legally Separated Families will be based on the TFI of the household.

Families, regardless of their Total Family Income Category, must provide income documentation. Failure to provide the required information will delay the processing and approval of child care services and could result in denial of child care services.

Fees for Legally Separated Families are contingent on a legal separation document or a notarized statement stating the Sponsor is legally separated.

Annual TFI will not be adjusted unless:

- Unemployed spouse/partner finds paid employment.
- Family is granted a Financial Hardship/Extenuating Circumstances Reduction
- Annual Internal Review Audit documents inaccurate documentation of TFI or Fee changes
- Special circumstances (Furlough)

Parent fees will be adjusted when

- The Family moves to a new TFI Category.
- Child/Youth transition between programs with different fees, e.g., full day care to kindergarten, Full Day to Part Day, After School to Summer Camp, Child Development Center to Family Child Care, etc.
- Army Fee policy directs a fee change.
- A Financial Hardship Waiver is approved.
- The Family relocates to another installation with different fees
- Special circumstances (Furlough)

Program Fees

Are generated semi-monthly on the 1st and the 15th of the month. Parents can pay monthly fees for regularly scheduled Full Day, Part Day, and Part Time Care in monthly or semi-monthly installments. Incoming Families make their initial payment for care at the time they accept the childcare space offered by the CYS Parent Central Services Office. Services will be terminated if full payment plus late fee charges for the month are not received by the last working day of the month unless a command approved financial hardship waiver has been initiated.

Hourly Care fees

The Standard Army-wide hourly care rate is \$8.00 per hour per child for ALL CYS programs regardless of Total Family Income (TFI) category. Multiple Child Reductions do not apply to hourly care. Hourly care payment is due at the time of pick-up. Failure to make the payment will result in termination of availability of childcare services. Same day or walk-ins may be accepted on a space available basis. Reservations for childcare can be made in advance, check with your installation for further details.

Payment Options

Payments may be made with check, credit card, auto debit, or through WebTrac. Personal checks will be accepted in the amount due only.

Late Pick-Up Fee

CDC and SAC programs have a late pick-up fee of \$1.00 per minute up to 15 minutes per Family per site regardless of the number of children in care at that site. For example, a Family who has two children in the CDC and one child in SAC will pay a \$15 late pickup fee at each site if pick up is 15 minutes after closing. When the Family is later than 15 minutes, the Family is charged \$8.00 per child, per site for the remainder of the hour and then \$8.00 per child, per site for each hour thereafter. Late pick-up fees are not charged for approved mission related circumstances or when specific arrangements to extend childcare are made prior to pick-up. Be sure to contact Parent Central Services office regarding documents required for the approval of mission related circumstance.

Late Payments

Payment for regular scheduled care for full day/part day care. Late payment fee is charged after the 5th business day and is \$10.00 per child per payment cycle (semi-monthly) or \$20.00 (monthly). When late or non-payments have been identified, the procedures as outlined in the SOP, Subject: "Non-Payment of Child Care Fees, Collection of Delinquent Accounts and Denial of Services" will be followed which include:

- Verbal reminder by Front Desk staff during swipe in/swipe out on the 4th and 5th days of each semi-monthly billing cycle. CYMS swipe stations should be toggled to 'Display Message if HH Balance Exists' so front desk personnel can give parents a courtesy reminder of approaching payment deadlines.
- Personal Follow-Up by Program Manager on 6th day of the first delinquent billing cycle. Families with an outstanding balance should be contacted via telephone, in writing or in person regarding the outstanding balance. This will include informing Families of their option to request a Financial Hardship Waiver from IMCOM G9 and reminding of them of penalties if payment arrangements are not made by established deadlines.
- Written Notice of Non-Payment/Potential Termination by Program Manager on 6th day of the second delinquent billing cycle. This will be a template Army-standard notice. If possible, Program Manager should also do a final verbal follow-up in conjunction with this letter to ensure the Family fully understands the pending consequences and to encourage them to seek assistance if warranted.

Note: When payment is not received, garnishment of wages will be initiated.

Financial Hardship Waiver

Families must demonstrate a need for a childcare fee reduction due to financial hardship based on a review by an ACS financial counselor or a certified financial professional external to CYS. The counselor will provide a recommendation for a fee reduction to the Garrison Commander. Fee Adjustments for Financial Hardships must be re-evaluated at least every six months by the counselor or Garrison Commander. Families whose childcare fees are 25% or more of their Total Family Income (TFI) may request a hardship review. Contact the Outreach Services Director at your childcare facility for assistance in filing a hardship.

Leave/Vacation Options

Child Care Fees are annualized during registration for a 2- week Leave/Vacation which reserves the child's space. The option chosen must be used during the registration year and cannot be carried over into the next year. Families who opt for 4 weeks of Leave/Vacation pay a higher monthly fee than families who chose the 2 weeks fee option. Family Leave/Vacation must be taken in a minimum of one-week increments. Families must provide advance notice prior to taking leave/vacation. Leave vacation options are available to patrons enrolled in CDC/FCC programs ONLY.

Withdrawal/Out-processing

Parents are required to provide a minimum of 30 days' notice in writing prior to withdrawal. This notice should be given to the Center Director, Assistant Director, or clerical staff. Failure to submit written notification will result in on-going accrual of fees.

Absenteeism

No credits or refunds are issued for Child/Youth absenteeism due to: (a) regular childhood illnesses or injuries (two weeks or less) (b) CYS program closures due to inclement weather, staffing training, or special installation circumstances determined by the Garrison Commander (GC), (c) withdrawal except in situations approved by the CYS Coordinator where the Child/Youth has not started the class and for (d) unused leave/vacation. Sponsors requesting refunds for circumstances outside the scope of this policy must submit their justification in writing through the Program Director to the CYS Coordinator.

Refunds

Refunds are authorized for: (a) program closures for repair or renovation when an alternate care setting is not provided (b) unexpected, prolonged child absence due to Family emergency or extended illnesses (c) withdrawal from a regularly scheduled child care program upon receipt of PCS orders and (4) withdrawal from a Youth Sport (occurring before midseason of the sport) upon receipt of PCS orders. Forms are available at Parent Central Services or at your program facility.

Parent Fee Reductions/Incentives

Deployment Support Services

Parents may receive a 20 percent deployment reduction for regularly scheduled childcare and reduction for other deployment support services. Please contact Parent Central Services for additional information regarding Deployment Support Services.

Parent Participation Fee Reduction

Parents may earn a fee reduction for participating for a minimum of 10 hours in CYS programs. A 10% reduction on one month's fee for one Child/Youth may be awarded for each 10 hours of parent participation. Reductions are limited to 10% per Child/Youth per month.

Parent participation hours may accumulate month to month and may not be shared with other Families.

Multiple Child Reductions (MCR)

A 15% MCR is applied when more than one child is enrolled in regularly scheduled childcare programs or seasonal youth sports offered by CYS. MCRs for childcare and youth sports are determined separately and may not be combined. MCRs are not applied to Hourly Care, SKIES Unlimited fees, or School Age occasional user fees.

Seasonal Youth Sports

MCR applies to Families with more than one child enrolled in a seasonal youth sport. The Standard Army-wide Multiple Child Fee Reduction is applied to the second child and all subsequent children enrolled in a youth sport occurring in the same season.

Regularly scheduled childcare programs (Full day, Part day, FCC home, Before and After School Age,

etc.) MCR applies to Families with more than one child enrolled in ongoing childcare programs. The child enrolled in the highest cost care option is considered the first child and pays full fee. The Standard Army-wide Multiple Child Fee Reduction is applied to the second child and all subsequent children enrolled in regular ongoing childcare program.

Family Child Care Fee Incentive

FCC Parent Fee Assistance represents a savings to Families over Army CDC and SAC fees for designated Total Family Income Categories. This savings is an efficiency incentive to encourage more Families to use FCC Homes as their primary source of childcare. Contact Parent Central Services for additional information on FCC Parent Fee Assistance.

Extended Duty Child Care Fee Assistance

Provided at no additional cost for short-term child care (generally up to 3 hours/day) beyond FCC regularly scheduled care hours (based on Sponsor's typical duty day/care requirements). A written validation statement is required from the Soldier's unit/Sponsor's Supervisor to the FCC Provider to qualify. Subject to availability.

Mission Related Extended Duty 24/7 Fee Assistance

Provided at no additional cost for care beyond FCC regularly scheduled care hours. Individual Families are authorized up to 15 days for Extended Duty Child Care per year, subject to availability.

CHAPTER 5 - CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS

Child Development Centers and Family Child Care Homes

The Creative Curriculum is the authorized curriculum used in CDCs/FCC for children ages 0–5. The Teaching Strategies (TS) Gold developmental assessment and Checkpoints will be used to document the progress of children. All activities will be developmental in nature and recognize children's individual differences by providing an environment that encourages self-confidence, development of self-help and life skills, curiosity, creativity, and self-discipline as outlined in the Creative Curriculum. Concrete experiential learning activities encompass the following domains: Social, Physical, Language/Literacy, Cognitive/Intellectual, Emotional and Cultural. Typical child routines such as mealtimes, clean-up times, napping and rest times, and diapering and toileting are integral parts of the curriculum, not separate items between curriculum areas. Daily specific lesson plans and schedules, along with weekly lesson plans, are posted.

School Age Care

Curriculum and programming centers around the four school age services areas: Sports & Fitness, Fine Arts, Citizenship & Leadership, and Leisure & Recreation. Children will have input into activity choices to ensure the activities meet their needs and interests. Documentation of child input into activities is on file in the program. Program choices are designed and implemented to meet a variety of child interests to cover a wide variety of skill, abilities, and interest levels.

Daily schedules/lesson plans will be flexible, provide stability without being rigid, allow children to meet their physical needs (e.g., water, food, restrooms) in a relaxed way, allow children to move smoothly from one activity to another, usually at their own pace, and facilitate transitions when it is necessary for children to move as a group.

Program activities are offered in Life Skills, Citizenship, and Leadership Programming. A variety of clubs and committees will be available to expand children's interpersonal, speaking, and leadership skills. Program choices will be offered to help children develop skills in independent living and life planning such as cooking, swimming, etc.

Middle School/Teens (MST)

The MST program utilizes a comprehensive youth development curriculum framework to ensure the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional needs of youth are addressed. The framework is comprised of Four Service Areas to meet the core requirements. Youth will work together with staff to ensure they have input into activity choices. Activities must meet the needs and interests of the youth. Intent is to have a combination of youth and adult choices in the lesson plan. Youth will help determine frequency. Activities will reflect the program's written philosophy and goals for youth in a prominent area. Program opportunities will be offered in life skills, citizenship, and leadership in the following program areas:

- Youth Councils, which will provide opportunities for youth to actively participate in planning and conducting youth programs.
- Volunteer Community Service will provide opportunities for youth to actively learn through service to their community.
- Workforce Preparation provides opportunities for youth to prepare for successful entry into the workforce.
- Youth Technology Lab. Provides opportunities for youth to explore interests, enhance technology skills, and research information.
- We encourage our Families to share their culture, heritage, and home language throughout all curriculums.
- Child and Youth Sports and Fitness Program

The Child and Youth Sports and Fitness Program utilizes a comprehensive framework to ensure the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional needs of youth are addressed. The System is comprised of Four Service Areas to meet the core requirements:

- Team Sports
 - Team Sports are offered for all children ages five and above in the following sports:
 - Baseball/T-Ball
 - Soccer
 - Basketball
- Individual Sports
- Fitness and Health
- Outreach

Core Programs

Child Development Centers (CDCs)

Serves ages 6 weeks-5 years. Offers on-post full-day child care and the Strong Beginnings Pre-Kindergarten program. Care is provided by trained staff and operations are subject to Department of Defense (DoD) Certification.

Family Child Care (FCC) Homes

Serves Ages 4 weeks-12 years. Offers full-day, part-day, and hourly child care to include extended duty day, weekend care, 24-hour care as needed in a home environment. Care for up to eight children (depending on mix of ages) is provided by trained, certified, and monitored FCC Providers in their own homes (government owned or leased housing) and is subject to DoD Certification.

School-Age (SA) Centers

Serves Ages 6-12 years. Offers before and after school programs, weekend activities during the school year, summer care and camps during school vacations. Care is provided by trained staff and operations are subject to DoD Certification.

Youth Centers (YCs)

(Ages 11-18 years) The Youth Program offers comprehensive, supervised program options and affordable, quality, predictable services that are easily accessible for eligible youth in grades 6 through 12, who are generally 11 – 18 years of age. This is achieved through a comprehensive Youth Program framework consisting of the Four Service Areas. Through formal partnership agreements with several nationally recognized youth-serving organizations, such as United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 4-H, and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), youth have access to programs, standardized curricula, special events, camps, scholarships, etc., no matter where they live. Supervision and programming are provided by trained staff and operations are subject to DoD Certification.

Youth Sports & Fitness Programs

(Ages 3-18 years) Offers developmentally appropriate opportunities for children and youth to be engaged in individual and team sports, competitions, skill building clinics, and nutrition and health classes that foster the development of life-long healthy habits. Provided by trained CYS employees and volunteer coaches in a variety of settings including Youth Centers, MWR Facilities, Schools, and community fields and facilities.

School Support Services

(Grades K-12) Reduces the conflict between military mission requirements and parental responsibilities related to K-12 education. School Support Services provides a variety of programmatic strategies and resources to achieve this mission and to support academic success and wellness for Army children and youth.

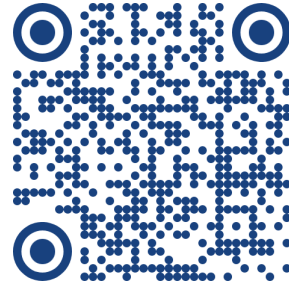
- **School Liaison Officers (SLOs)**
SLOs have strong educational backgrounds and are located on each Army Garrison. SLOs provide support to Garrison Commanders, Army Families, and school districts. SLOs advise Garrison Command staff on matters related to schools; assist Army Families with school issues; communicate information and support services to Army Families and schools; support Army Families during school transitions; collaborate with school districts to build positive relationships and address issues that impact Army students; facilitate training for parents, schools, and garrisons; foster reciprocal transition practices among school districts and increase school transition predictability for Army Families.
- **Homeschool Support**
Provided to Families who choose to homeschool their children. SLOs gather and share policies and resources to help these families overcome unique challenges and barriers.
- **Homework Centers (K-12 grades)**
Create a safe and familiar before- and after-school academic support environment in school-age and youth centers.
- **School Youth Sponsorship Programs**
Ease school transitions in CONUS and OCONUS schools.
- **Tutor.Com (K-1st Yr. College)**
Offers free, online tutoring services to dependent children of Active Duty Army personnel, dependent children of deployed Army National Guard personnel, dependent children of deployed Army Reserve personnel, dependent children of Army Wounded Warriors/Survivors, inactive/part-time Army National Guard personnel and their dependents and inactive/part-time Army, dependents of Child and Youth Services staff.

CHAPTER 6 – PROGRAM LOCATIONS (QR Codes)

Chapel Child Development Center



Family Childcare – North Riva Ridge



Memorial Child Development Center



CYS Administration – North Riva Ridge



Parent Central Services – Clark Hall



Po Valley Child Development Center



School Age Center – Chapel Drive



South Riva Ridge Child Development Center



Youth Center – Middle School and Teen



Youth Sports and Fitness

