



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Members, Parents and Guests,

The Chippewa Falls YMCA is making an important policy change that furthers our commitment to protecting children in our care. **On Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, the minimum age a child may be at the YMCA without adult supervision will be raised from age 8 to 10.** On Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> this change will go into effect across all YMCA of the Chippewa Valley branches and departments.

- Children 7 and under must be in Child Watch, enrolled in a program or must be accompanied by a supervising adult 18+ years of age.
- Children 8 & 9 who are not enrolled in a supervised program must have an adult in the building who is reachable in case of emergency.
- Children 10+ years of age can be independent in the YMCA without an adult in the building.
- Children 12 and older are able to utilize the Weight Room, Cardio Room, Nautilus Equipment and the Run/Walk Track

Why are we making these changes? As we join in partnership with the YMCA of the Chippewa Valley we are adopting policies of the Eau Claire YMCA, YMCA of the USA, and Praesidium – a leading organization in child abuse prevention. Additionally, this change aligns with our goal to continually adopt best practices when it comes to the safety of children. Extensive research shows that children at the age of 12 are much better equipped in their decision-making abilities in knowing right from wrong, and in being able to adequately keep themselves safe at the YMCA without adult supervision. At the YMCA, we believe at age 10, children should also begin developing and increasing independence in our safe environment. Therefore, we have chosen 10 years old as the age where children can be independent in the YMCA. To assist your child in developing and exercising respectful independence, we have implemented a behavior policy for the YMCA.

Ultimately, we put children's best interest first in everything we do. Their safety is of the utmost importance to us. We believe this change will help ensure every child has a safe and healthy experience at the Y.

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