

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How long has the Richard F. Blake Children's Center been in operation?**

Since October, 1988. First as the Y's Owls Child Care Center, now renamed the R.F. Blake Children's Center.

## **What are the qualifications and tenure of the staff?**

There is a N.J. State Certified teacher in every classroom and our average tenure for teachers and administrators is an impressive 10.5 years. We've had college students come back to visit their teachers.

## **Are the staff trained in First Aid and CPR?**

Yes, in infant/child and adult C.P.R., standard first aid, and AED.

## **Why is your NAEYC accreditation important?**

Our accreditation is important because it means we have achieved the mark of high quality in child care. It shows that we are willing to undergo the rigorous requirements of NAEYC and have our staff, program, and facility evaluated by an outside, unbiased group of child care experts. It also gives you the confidence that you are choosing the best child care program for your child.

## **Do you have a Parent's Organization and/or a Board of Representatives?**

Yes, we have active parent volunteers. As a YMCA, we believe that engaging volunteers makes us special. The various parent committees and the center staff team up to send out newsletters, plan the annual family picnic, coordinate staff appreciation events and sponsor special children's events. This group of active volunteers is referred to as the Blake Center Parent Group.

## **Do you really provide swim lessons for Preschoolers?**

Yes! We believe strongly that swimming is a necessary life skill. Our Y has been teaching children how to swim since 1874. The preschool 2 and 3 classes attend once a week lessons next door at the Y. The lessons are free for all full-day children whose regularly scheduled day is the day of swim lessons.

## **Does my child need to be a member of the YMCA to participate in the program?**

Yes, Child Care membership is \$75.00 annually. We do not have a registration fee.

## **What family and/or community activities do you offer?**

We offer monthly family nights and special events like Healthy Kids Day, Spring Egg Hunt, Photo's with Santa, Drive-In Movie Nights, and Holiday Sing-Alongs.

**What is the Center's schedule of operation?**

Weekdays 7:00 AM to 6:00PM

**Does the center close for any holidays?**

Only for the major holidays: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. If the holiday falls on a weekend, the center will close on the Friday or Monday closest to the holiday.

**What are the registration requirements?**

Parent orientation and all enrollment documentation, including deposit and fees, and visits to the classroom for you and your child to become acclimated.

**How can I arrange a tour?**

Call **973-984-2255** today and we will be happy to set one up for you.