



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

OLYMPIC PENINSULA YMCA EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

OLYMPIC PENINSULA YMCA

The Olympic Peninsula YMCA, founded in 1948, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. We are an inclusive organization of men, women and children with a shared commitment to nurture the potential of youth, promote healthy living and foster social responsibility.



OUR MISSION

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

We live our mission daily, one person and relationship at a time.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

The Y is a membership organization open to all people. We welcome women, men, girls and boys of all ages, races, ethnicities, religions, abilities, sexual orientations and financial circumstances. Our programs and branches embrace diversity, reflecting the people and needs of our communities.

OUR CAUSE & COMMUNITY PRESENCE

- ▶ The Olympic Peninsula YMCA has three branches located in Sequim, Port Angeles, and Jefferson County.
- ▶ The Y offers a variety of programs including childcare for working families, swimming and fitness for all ages, various youth and adult enrichment classes, school-based mentoring, summer camps, family camps, afterschool clubs, and chronic disease prevention and management programs.
- ▶ In 2023, the Olympic Peninsula YMCA served more than 10,200 different individuals. The Y provides a safe place where all sections of the community gather. No one is denied the opportunity to participate due to an inability to pay.

VISION FOR CHILD CARE

- ▶ The Olympic Peninsula YMCA's vision for child care is to establish a robust network of allies and partners across diverse sectors of the community that work to ensure that all families have an abundance of safe, quality, affordable child care options. Child care is vital to a community's thriving ecosystem and is integral to the healthy development of children and families.

OLYMPIC PENINSULA YMCA – EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

BACKGROUND

Even before the pandemic, the lack of available child care was at a crisis level across the Olympic Peninsula. According to ChildCare Aware of Washington 24% of licensed child care sites have closed since 2020. As of October, 2023 the Washington State Department of Children Youth & Families (DCYF) estimated that of the 11,781 children eligible* in Clallam and Jefferson Counties, only 1,306 were enrolled in licensed child care¹.

THE CASE FOR EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- ▶ **For Children:** 90% of brain development happens in the first five years; early childhood education increases kindergarten preparedness so children start school ready to learn; and participation in a quality early learning program lowers risk factors and improves health outcomes in adulthood. Every dollar spent on early childhood development can yield up to a \$16 return.
- ▶ **For The Workforce:** Parents rely on childcare to help them enter, re-enter, or remain in the workforce. Current licensed availability meets the need of less than 30% of children under six whose parents are in the workforce and need care.



Based on estimates provided by Washington State Department of Commerce:

- Employers in our region incur almost \$94 million per year in compensation and turnover costs for workers arriving late or leaving early as a result of child care issues and for workers who leave employment because of a lack of child care
- 2,900 employees with children under six years of age quit a job due to challenges related to child care
- 1,400 employees with children under the age of six were fired from work due to challenges related to child care

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Y's goal is to ensure that children enter kindergarten ready to learn, grow, and thrive. In order to accomplish this, we are planning to build and operate early learning centers in Port Angeles and Port Townsend. We are also partnering with OlyCap to operate a child care facility as part of their 7th Haven Housing complex in Port Townsend.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

- ▶ **Serve more families:** An estimated 100 families and up to 171 children ages 0 to 5 will be served at the Y's Early Learning Facilities.
- ▶ **Improve workforce recruitment and retention:** Employees will be able to work knowing that they have access to safe, quality, affordable child care.
- ▶ **Create jobs:** The Y will employ an additional 25 early learning and child care professionals.

CONTACT

To learn more about the Olympic Peninsula YMCA's Early Learning Centers, please contact Wendy Bart, Chief Executive Officer, at wendy@olympicpeninsulaymca.org or by phone at 360-504-0526. Additional information regarding the YMCA's Early Learning Centers can be found at <https://www.olympicpeninsulaymca.org/early-learning>.

* All caregivers in the workforce

¹ <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-need-supply-data>

YMCA EARLY LEARNING FACILITIES

Port Angeles YMCA – Opening Early 2025

8,000 square feet, serving up to 96 children – ages 0 to 5
27% of spots reserved for subsidized families
Project Cost Estimate: \$6,700,000

Jefferson County Early Learning & Family Support Center – Opening Early 2025

4,800+ square feet, providing care for 42 children – ages 0 to 5
20% of spots reserved for subsidized families
Project Cost Estimate: \$4,715,000

Port Townsend – 7th Haven – Opening Early 2024

Two classrooms, providing care for 33 children
45% of spots reserved for subsidized families