

YWCA's School Aged Childcare Program

The **ywca** started its collaboration with the City of Newburyport in the fall of 2007 when we began offering after-school childcare in the Newburyport Public Schools. The after-school childcare program has been very successful, growing by leaps and bounds. We currently offer childcare programs for kindergarten through fifth grade. The school aged childcare program runs year round offering before-school, after-school, early release day, vacation week and full day summer childcare.

The **ywca** afterschool childcare program draws on the 40 Developmental Asset Model. This model helps young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible and engages all the adults in children's lives (parents, childcare staff and school personnel) in that process.

Our youth programs are designed to:

- ≈ promote a sense of self-worth: A positive self-concept is the bedrock of all learning and growth.
- ≈ foster independence and self-discipline: These two elements are necessary ingredients for problem solving and achievement.
- ≈ provide opportunities for success: This encourages risk taking and appropriate expansion of parameters.
- ≈ meet each child's unique needs whenever possible: A concept which builds trust and a respect for others.
- ≈ create a caring, respectful community: This sense of community grows from the individual program to the school, family, and the community at large.

Young people build skills, acquire passions, come to understandings and take on responsibilities for changing their worlds as they grow, learn and develop. Our daily activities include outdoor play, a multitude of gross motor activities, a nutritious snack, or lunch (sent in from home on full days), homework time, art exploration, exponential S.T.E.M. learning experiences, group games, social enrichment, community building activities, free play and long term projects that are developed by children and staff together.

For more information about our programs, please contact Amanda Bradbury, Youth Services Director, at abradbury@ywcanewburyport.org.