WE PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS SNACKS
Good nutrition is an essential ingredient in our child care program. Every day, we serve a morning and afternoon snack designed to meet the state nutritional guidelines, and a menu is sent home every month with our parent newsletter. Parents should pack a healthy lunch for their child daily. The Y is committed to following Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) standards, making your child’s health a priority. We are willing to accommodate food allergies or medical dietary needs to the best of our ability.

WE PRIORITIZE SAFETY
Your child’s safety is of the utmost importance to us. All children must be signed in and out of care. Children will only be released to a designated person over eighteen years of age listed on their emergency information card. The YMCA will honor the most recent court documents provided to us to ensure a child is never picked up by an unauthorized person. No child will be released to any person who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. All staff members are trained in First Aid, CPR, management of communicable disease, and recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

Early Learning Centers at the Y have been supporting families by providing affordable, quality child care for more than 20 years. Enroll now and start your child on a bright future today, here at the Lincoln Family Downtown YMCA!
WHY EARLY LEARNING?
The Valley of the Sun YMCA believes we are building a child’s future from the day they begin in our care. Whether they are preschool or school age, we work to create the brightest future possible for each child – one activity, one interaction at a time. Early learning programs support our youngest learners to become thriving adolescents through developing life-long academic, social and emotional skills.

WE TAKE ACADEMICS SERIOUSLY
We recognize that even the youngest children are learners. Our curriculum is aligned with the State of Arizona’s Early Learning Standards for math, science, literacy, social studies, music and art. It is designed to:
• meet the needs of children ages three years through pre-kindergarten.
• enrich cognitive, language, social, emotional, physical, and creative development.
• provide opportunities to create, explore the environment, and develop problem solving skills.

Regular assessments are incorporated into our curriculum to allow for developmental tracking, and are reviewed at parent teacher conferences. Our partnership with Quality First, part of Arizona’s First Things First Initiative, includes coaching and staff development which helps ensure a program focus on kindergarten readiness.

WE USE RESEARCH-BASED CURRICULUM
One of the best ways to help children succeed is to teach them to be creative, confident thinkers. That’s why we use The Creative Curriculum®, which is widely regarded as a forward-thinking, comprehensive, rigorously researched curriculum that honors creativity. It is designed to help educators plan and implement a developmentally appropriate program for children with diverse backgrounds and skill levels.

WE PLACE HIGH EXPECTATIONS ON OUR STAFF
All of our classrooms are led by qualified teachers meeting the Arizona Department of Health Services Childcare Licensure Standards as a preschool teacher with college credit units and training hours. We expect them to further their professional development and education, requiring staff to attend a minimum 18 additional hours of training each year in the field of early childhood development. A majority of our lead teachers have an associate’s or bachelor’s degree in early childhood education.

WE OFFER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DURING THE DAY
Our unique location at the Lincoln Family Downtown YMCA means that preschool-aged children have the opportunity to engage in extracurricular activities on-site during their day. Parents can enroll their preschoolers in:

- SWIMMING
- SPORTS
- ART EDUCATION
- MUSIC

Additionally, all children are given the opportunity for gross motor skills development, as well as hands-on learning outside the classroom in our gymnasium and playground.

At the Y, members receive discounted rates on all programs and childcare services. Our goal is to create a place where ALL family members can thrive together through a community-focused approach to fitness, family events and quality programs.

WE INFLUENCE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
The Lincoln Family Downtown YMCA uses a holistic approach to learning where children are engaged in activities designed to develop spirit, mind and body. Our program focuses on building the YMCA four core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Our students experience the joy of service through projects like food drives, assembling military care packages and more!

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS AND PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE LICENSED BY THE STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.