

Child, Youth & School Services at JBLM



Welcome to CYSS Services at Joint Base Lewis-McChord! Review the information below to learn more about our programs. For more information, please email JBLMcyssRegistration@conus.army.mil.

What services does CYSS provide?

- Full-day child care
- Part-day preschool
- Strong Beginnings pre-k program
- Kids On Site
- Gym child care
- Before/after-school programs
- Seasonal camps
- Open recreation for teens
- Hourly care
- Sports
- Recreational classes (SKIESUnlimited)

Who may use services in CYSS?

Active duty, reservists on active orders/training orders, DoD civilians and DoD contractors (carrying a CAC card); eligibility determined by AR 608-10, 1-6.

What is available to me if I am retired?

Sports, SKIESUnlimited classes and EDGE! activities. All other services are deemed child care and are not permissible per AR 215-1, 7-1.

If I have questions or concerns, who may I contact?

Parent Central Services would be happy to assist you in person, or you may email JBLMcyssRegistration@conus.army.mil or call 253-966-CYSS. We respond Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Any administrative assistant in any CYSS program is available to assist you with scheduling an appointment at either Parent Central Services location.

What full-day or before/after-school child care is available?

You have three viable child care options

1. Family Child Care (licensed contractors)
2. On-base child care centers
3. Off-base child care centers and homes
 - Army Child Care in your Neighborhood
 - Army School Age Programs in your Neighborhood
 - Military Child Care in your Neighborhood

May I have my waitlist number or how long it will be?

Your number won't be provided because it's not an accurate reflection of the time remaining. Every situation is dependent on a variety of factors such as individual priorities, PCS notices and pending renovation projects.

May I see center child care before I decide?

To protect the safety of children in our programs, you'll need to show your government ID and sign a visitor log. Then, you'll receive an escorted tour. We highly recommend you contact the program ahead of time.

Where do I register?

Visit one of Parent Central Services' two locations to register: Bldg. 2295 12th St. and Bitar Ave. at Lewis Main or inside the McChord CYSS Gateway Center, Bldg. 560 Lincoln Blvd. Both

locations are open Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (appointments and walk-ins taken until 4; evenings available upon request).

Why may I register only at Parent Central Services?

Per regulation and to uphold the Privacy Act, all financial information for the sponsor is only held at Parent Central and not in the programs. Every parent has access to their child's file in the programs; however, only sponsors have access to financial information.

What do I need to register?

Government ID, contact information, short- and long-term designees for emergency contacts, shot records, deployment orders (if applicable) and, for on-base child care, an LES/pay voucher or student letter.

How much does it cost to register?

Registration is free.

How often do I register and why?

Registration must be completed annually, per AR 608-10. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act requires release of information annually. This requirement is attended to with our health screening tool. The Department of Defense requires an annual fee contract.

How do I enroll in sports, SKIESUnlimited, EDGE! and hourly care?

If you're currently registered at JBLM, go to JBLMmwr.com/cys; press the WebTrac button on the right, visit Parent Central Lewis and McChord locations or call 253-966-CYSS.

When do I need a sports physical?

Sports physicals are required annually and must be valid through the sports season. They are required for seasonal competitive sports: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, flag football, soccer, track and field, etc., as well as the youth fitness program.

How often do I have to complete a health assessment?

The health assessment is due every three years unless there are changes in your child's medical condition before then. The health assessment is required within 30 days from the date of registration. Completed forms may be turned in at any CYSS location.

Are immunizations required to register?

Yes. To prevent communicable diseases, CYSS follows the Centers for Disease Control's immunization schedule per AR 608-10. All immunizations must be current.

What if my child needs a special accommodation?

A special need is a medical, developmental or behavioral condition identified and validated by a licensed independent practitioner. It is initiated through the completion of a health screening tool during registration at Parent Central. Every child will receive a recommended care plan based on the information presented from the Special Needs Accommodation Process Team. This team is a group of representatives from the Exceptional Family Member Program, CYSS and Army Public Health Nursing who work on behalf of Families to determine the safest, least restrictive and most appropriate placement.

How much is child care?

Both on-base and off-base child care are determined using *total family income* defined in our annual fee policy. All fees are subsidized. Family Child Care providers determine their rates.

When may my fees be lowered if my situation changes prior to registration renewal?

Fees can be immediately adjusted when there is a loss of employment or reduction of income. Bring current LES and/or proof of change to Parent Central Services; or, if you are separating from your spouse, bring court-filed separation documents and current LES. If you are separating from your spouse, you may change sponsorship as long as you're eligible to be the sponsor.

What deployment benefits are available to me?

Deployment benefits are available to eligible service members at JBLM. To obtain benefits, a copy of orders must be presented. For details (and exceptions to the requirement of orders, visit JBLMmwr.com/cys or Parent Central Services.

Do you use curriculum at CYSS?

Yes.

What curriculum is offered in a child development center?

CYSS fosters the development of children and youth, birth through 18 years of age. Teachers provide an environment that combines the use of space, materials, experiences, daily routines and interactions to enhance development. Children and youth need consistency and interaction with caring adults to feel safe and secure and to develop a positive image of themselves and others. Home-like environments provide for the comfort, health, safety and well-being of children and youth. A variety of activities and programs is provided.

For infants through preschool-age, some interest centers could include:

- Dramatic play
- Creative art
- Writing and books
- Quiet individual play
- Discovery centers and table toys

Routine schedules for children need to include meals and rest times and adequate time for indoor and outdoor play.

What type of program and activities are offered for school-age youth?

- Drama
- Step Club
- Choir
- Skits/plays
- Computer lab
- Clay tech
- Photography
- Digital arts

- Gaming
 - Foosball tournaments
 - Bumper pool tournaments
 - Air hockey tournaments
- Arts and crafts (sewing and knitting)
- Science and nature (animal caretakers)
- Homework lab
 - Power Hour
 - Reading club
- Café (cooking club)
- Gym (fitness and sports activities)
- Playground and field
- Passport Promise
 - Character Counts
- Construction
 - Woodworking
 - Lego club

What types of programs and activities are offered for middle school students and teens?

- Leadership activities (Torch Club, Keystone Club, Career Launch, Money Matters)
- Girl & Guy Talk (high school and middle school separate activities)
- Sports club (basketball, dodgeball, pickleball, volleyball, etc.)
- How-to projects (drama, cooking, woodworking, sewing, plays)
- Hands-on art club
- Power Hour (homework/tutoring)
- Technology (photography, robotics, navigation, etc.)
- Leisure activities (pool, air hockey, foosball, ping pong, video games)
- Special events (dances, lock-ins, ski and snow trips, etc.)
- Hired! Apprenticeship Program

How does the Hired! Apprenticeship Program assist youth?

Hired! provides youth ages 15-18 valuable paid work experience with meaningful, professionally managed career-exploration opportunities in Family and MWR operations.

Are your programs licensed?

Through annual inspections of CYSS sites, the Department of Defense certifies our programs. Child Development Center and School Age Centers are mandated by law to be accredited by national accrediting agencies. The accrediting process ensures military CYSS programs remain the benchmark for the nation.

When do I need to turn in vacation credits or withdrawals for full-day and part-day programs?

As stated in the program agreement, please provide two-weeks' written notice for vacations and withdrawals.

How old does my child have to be to begin kindergarten?

Washington state requires child to be 5 years old on Aug. 31 of the school year to be eligible for kindergarten.

What are some services of the School Liaison Office?

CYSS has a School Liaison Office to assist you; call 253-967-7195. Child care through CYSS is mandatory to receive an on-base school waiver. They may also assist you with transferring credits, IEPs and 504 plans.

I have questions regarding WTB, medical retirement, survivor benefits. Where do I get information?

Call the CYSS Soldier and Family Assistance Center Liaison at 253-966-3742 or email JBLMcyssFac@conus.army.mil.