



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Awaken Summer Imagination

Summer is just around the corner and with it children's break from the routine—mornings spent sleeping in, afternoons spent watching television or playing video games in the cool air conditioning and evenings enjoying a nice ice cream cone before bed. It may sound great, but a summer spent like this can have lasting negative effects.

Kids are less physically active and engaged in learning during the summer months and research shows that children gain weight two to three times faster than during the school year. In addition to that, kids can fall behind academically because they don't have access to out-of-school learning opportunities.

With this in mind, on Thursday, April 26 from 5:00 – 7:30 PM the Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA is hosting YMCA's Healthy Kids Day®, an annual, national initiative to improve the health and well-being of kids and families. When a child is healthy, happy, motivated and excited, amazing things are bound to happen. Healthy Kids Day is a powerful reminder not to let children idle away their summer days but instead, focus on physical and mental play. Across the nation nearly 1.2 million participants will partake in games, healthy cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts and more. Here at the Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA families and children will engage in fun active play, inflatable games, swimming, healthy snacks, prize drawings and educational activities to Awaken Summer Imagination!

"At the Y, we believe charged up kids really do achieve amazing things, and there are no days off for a child's developing mind and body" said Dean Madsen, Associate Executive Director.

"Through our strong presence and reach with children during summer months, the Healthy Kids Day platform is a great opportunity to educate and motivate families to develop a healthy routine at home and engage kids to stay physically and intellectually active over the summer".

In celebration of YMCA's Healthy Kids Day, the Y offers the following tips to help families develop healthy habits:

- **High Five the Fruits and Veggies** – Make sure kids get at least five servings a day, the minimum number nutritionists recommend to maintain healthy childhood development. And to keep kids' taste buds evolving, have everyone in the family try at least one bite of a new fruit or vegetable at least once a month.
- **Foster an Early and Ongoing Passion for Books** – Read to and with your kids. Help children read at every age and every stage of their development.
- **Team Up for Athletic Events** – Set a family goal of great health by teaming up for community or charity events like races, walks, fun runs, bike rides, etc.
- **Volunteer Together** – Find a cause that matters to the kids. Open their eyes to a world beyond themselves and the rich rewards that come from making a difference.
- **Make sleep a priority** – Doctors recommend 10-12 hours of sleep a day for children ages 5-12 and 7-8 hours per night for adults. Sleep plays a critical role in maintaining our healthy immune system, metabolism, mood, memory, learning and other vital functions.

YMCA OF THE USA

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All kids deserve the best summer ever, and Delta WalMart are proud to be the national sponsors of Healthy Kids Day, which kicks off a healthy, active and engaged summer for kids throughout the country.