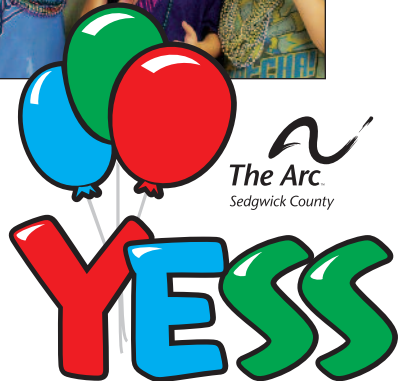


## What Parents Have To Say About The YESS Program:

- “ We could not survive without YESS. It is our favorite time of year. My child does not want to miss a day of it either. It is SO great that they get out and experience everything in the community. My son has been a lot more places than I have!”
- “ YESS is the best. I recommend it to all my friends with children with special needs. The staff is outstanding!”
- “ YESS is an excellent program. As a Foster Parent I really feel supported.”
- “ Your program is wonderful! I wish I had known about it earlier, I can't say enough great things about you.”
- “ The Arc and the school district have been great. You go above and beyond the call of duty. You make a life for our children where they feel included and they are happy! That in turn helps our families to be happy ones.”
- “ I am very impressed that you have a safe and fun environment for kids and teens.”



## Achieve with us



**The Arc of Sedgwick County** is a non-profit agency established in 1953 to improve the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. It does this by providing educational opportunities to enhance development of individual potential while advocating for supports and services in the community.



**To register for YESS call (316) 943-1191**



Learn more about YESS and The Arc or sign up for our e-newsletter at:  
**[www.Arc-SedgwickCounty.org](http://www.Arc-SedgwickCounty.org)**

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- [Twitter.com/TheArc of SC](https://twitter.com/TheArc of SC)



**Youth Education & Summer Socialization**



**Youth Education & Summer Socialization (YESS)** is a 10-week summer program serving students ages 5-21 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

YESS offers a half day of education in classroom settings; half day of recreation in the community Monday through Thursdays; and a full day of recreation on Fridays. YESS helps students retain what they have learned during the school year while developing improved communication and socialization skills.

This nationally-recognized program is a unique collaboration between The Arc of Sedgwick County, Wichita's USD 259, the Wichita Department of Park and Recreation, United Way of the Plains, and Sedgwick County.

### Why should I choose YESS?

It is a proven fact that YESS students maintain, increase, and improve their socialization skills. For the first time in many of their lives the students find themselves being invited to birthday parties and building real friendships. Families report a significant reduction of stress in the home.

YESS enables parents to continue their routines and employment during the summer months knowing that their child is with caring and responsible staff and volunteers. Overnight opportunities provide families a break for a date night or more quality time to spend with their other children who do not have a disability.

### Not your typical summer school

Special Education Teachers spend approximately 85% of the fall quarter re-teaching what was lost over the summer. In YESS, students continue in an educational setting, maintaining what they learned while developing new social skills. Teachers are able to start teaching new concepts almost immediately.

YESS students participate in interactive educational activities relating to a weekly theme. The themes provide a common goal to all the classes and make for an exciting learning environment. Past themes have included: Rock n' Roll All Night, Cirque Du Soleil, Wizard of Oz. With fun themes, creativity is unleashed, and the results are always exciting.



### Fun and socializing in the community

Socialization is a key component of the YESS program. It is through repetitive interactions with people in a variety of social settings that all of us develop social skills and the manner in which we communicate with and behave towards others.

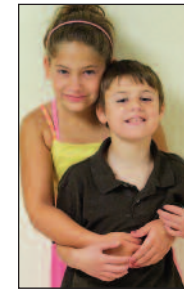


**There is no other program like YESS in the nation!**

YESS offers these experiences every day in community settings with fun activities ranging from swimming, horseback riding, and movies; to mud wrestling and swimming in spaghetti; to trips to Exploration Place, Tanganyika and Frontier City; to overnights during travel week. These activities not only provide socialization, but also create lasting memories of the best summer of their lives.

### A benefit for the entire family

Parents and siblings of YESS students are invited to join in the fun and friendship of YESS during special family nights. A special Sibling Week allows the participants' brothers and sisters to



join in a week of fun and meet others who understand their unique situation.

Through YESS, students, families, and the community have a chance to develop friendships and build self-esteem, independence, and personal growth.

### Financial Assistance

Scholarships are available through support from United Way and other generous donors. Scholarships are given out according to need.



Multi-child scholarships are available as well.

