

# My Y Story

RESPONSIBILITY  
into Childcare by  
CLEANING UP AFTER  
OURSELVES  
&  
USING EQUIPMENT  
PROPERLY  
DIRECTIONS

CARING fits into  
Childcare by:  
VOLUNTEERING TIME  
&  
BEING COURTEOUS  
OF OTHERS

Victoria McDonald, Age 10

## *By Clayton McDonald*

I arrived in Garden City in September of 2016. I brought my daughter, Victoria, out a couple months later. I had gone from a part time dad to having sole custody. Being 56 years old and taking my daughter from the only place she had lived (Florida), was indeed a daunting task. I had to figure out a way to work, to get my daughter in school, and to find babysitters (in a place I where I didn't know anyone) to care for the most precious thing that I had in my life. The schools told me about the YMCA's Before and After School Program. It sounded too good to be true, and I was skeptical about leaving my daughter; I had fought for 8 years for her, and I feared something could happen and I could lose her.

I grilled the staff intently and asked my daughter every day more questions than she wanted to answer. Victoria had come out of a bad situation and ALL the staff treated her awesome. I was even given a bike for her! Miss Linda, Miss Tasha, and Ms. Royal have all babysat her when I needed to work extra hours. Miss Tasha, and Miss Linda and her family came to my daughter's birthday.

I am extremely protective with my daughter, and I have come to trust them 100 percent. In the summer, her cousin Logan came to visit. The YMCA staff was awesome with both of the kids. They planned activities from field trips, to crafts, exercise, and swimming. The activities at Halloween and Easter really showed them a good time! And last, but not least, especially for a single parent on a budget, the prices at the YMCA are amazing! I would highly recommend them to ANYONE.

