



EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

Free, high-quality drop-in programs, educational workshops and resources for children 0-6 years and their caregivers.

December 2024

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

Our EarlyON programs and services are in alignment with provincial guidelines and local directives to promote positive, meaningful, fun and safe indoor and outdoor experiences for our families and our team.

- **Fun, free interactive programs** for parents/guardians and their children (ages 0-6 years)
- **Pre-registration is not required for our drop in programs:** registration is required for our adult workshops to ensure we have the appropriate amount of materials and resources available.
- **Self screening** in advance of attending the program is required of all staff and participants. Anyone who is unwell should remain home.

All Sites closed December 11 for PD

For holiday hours please see calendar on back page



EarlyON YMCA of Niagara Centre *Hours of Operation*

Fairview Mall Centre

285 Geneva Street, St. Catharines
Monday, Wednesday 9am-4pm
Tuesday, Thursday 9am-7pm
Friday 9am-noon
Saturday 9am-1pm
Sunday 10am-1pm

Grantham Centre

469 Grantham Avenue, St. Catharines
Monday through Thursday 9am-1pm
Friday 9am-noon

Thorold Centre

25 Whyte Avenue N, Thorold
Monday through Thursday 9am-1pm
Friday 9am-noon
Friday 930-11am Thorold Public Library

St. Anthony Centre

81 Rykert Street, St. Catharines
Monday, Wednesday 9am-4pm
Tuesday, Thursday 9am-1pm
Friday 9am-noon

Capacity Limitations

While we are back to pre covid capacity, it is possible that our centres might be full upon occasion. To help avoid disappointment, we will have a large coloured circle placed in a visible area/window as you pull into each centre. If the circle is green, you are welcome to come in and join us. If the circle is red, we have reached capacity and encourage you to visit another time or choose to visit another one of our centres.

EARLYON CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRES:

- Are places where parents, caregivers and children build strong relationships with each other and connect with other families and EarlyON professionals
- Offer a variety of programs and services that meet the unique needs of children and families in an inclusive environment
- Provide resources and workshops with up-to-date information for all stages of your family life, from preconception and prenatal care, to nutrition, toilet training, toddler curiosity, and early school experiences
- Are funded by the Ontario Ministry of Education through Niagara Region Children Services



Please remember to bring indoor shoes/hard soled slippers to wear while enjoying our centres. For Safety reasons bare feet are not permitted.

Children and Parent Interactive Programs

(Registration not required unless noted)

(Activities available all morning as supplies last unless otherwise noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Holiday Pinecone trees	Wednesday December 4	Fairview EarlyON	A nature inspired art activity. Join us today and create a special holiday tree using pinecones and loose parts.
Abominable Snowman fork painting	Sunday December 8	Fairview EarlyON	Embrace the cold weather by creating a whimsical snow monster with your little one. We will be using forks as a paintbrush.
Cinnamon/Applesauce ornaments	Tuesday December 10	Fairview EarlyON	This “scent-sational” craft is a winter classic that engages all the senses.
Canvas gift ornaments	Thursday December 12 930-1015am	Thorold EarlyON	Let your child's inner artist create their own canvas gift ornament to add to your tree. Registration required

St. Catharines Public Library's Pop-Up Library

at Fairview EarlyON

Tuesday, December 10
3pm - 6pm

Sign up for
a library
card!

Explore
borrowable
items for
early literacy



EarlyON
Child and Family Centre

 St. Catharines
Public Library

Pop Up Library at Fairview
EarlyON.

Sign up for a library card or
bring the card you already
have and borrow some items.

Tuesday December 10

3-6pm

Literacy Event—Monday December 16th—all morning

St Anthony EarlyON

All Aboard the Polar Express!
Come join in on some literacy
based activities and crafts inspired
by the book The Polar Express! A
FREE literacy event where
children will leave with their own
new book to add to their personal
library.



Children and Parent Interactive Programs Continued

(Registration not required unless otherwise noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Welcome Winter Science	Thursday December 12 1030am	St Anthony EarlyON	Join us in celebrating winter with some interactive and exciting science experiments!
Pajama Day and Cookie Decorating	Saturday December 14	Fairview EarlyON	Wear your jammies to the centre for a cozy winter morning. Children will have the opportunity to decorate a cookie to enjoy for snack or take home for later.
Snowman Pom Pom Poppers	Sunday December 15	Fairview EarlyON	Make a pom pom popper snowman craft. This is a fun and easy DIY toy for children, perfect for winter crafting and frosty indoor days.
Christmas Science Experiments	Monday December 16 10am	Grantham EarlyON	Calling all little scientists! Come join us for a morning of fun science experiments inspired by Christmas traditions.
Little Artist—Ornament stations	Wednesday December 18 130-3pm	Thorold EarlyON	Join us this afternoon to create some new ornaments to take home and decorate with. Registration required
Ugly Sweater Holiday Celebration	Friday December 20	All Centres	Today is National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day! This day is all about honouring those things that are so ugly that everyone loves them! Join us at each of our centres today rocking your holiday sweaters!
Firework paper roll blower	Sunday December 29	Fairview EarlyON	Learn how to make a Paper Roll Blower perfect for New Year's Eve. A fun toddler or preschool activity that's great for sensory development, too.
New Year's Wishing Wand	Monday December 30	Grantham EarlyON	Do you make New Year resolutions with your child? This craft encourages children to think about their hopes and dreams for the year ahead. Come make this wishing wand and talk to them about what they wish for.

Infant Interactive Programs

(one infant program per family please)

Registration required by emailing earlyon.admin@niagara.ymca.ca

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Infant Holiday Keepsake	Monday December 9 10am	St Anthony EarlyON	Bring those baby fingers and toes to St. Anthony to create some holiday art that will be treasured for years to come.
Infant – Holiday Mistle”toes”	Tuesday December 17 130-330pm (any time during these hours for families who have registered)	Fairview EarlyON	This mistletoes craft is the perfect footprint craft and makes a wonderful gift for baby’s first Christmas! For infants celebrating their first Christmas.

Outreach Programs (no registration required)

Activity	Date and	Location	Description
Indoor and outdoor activities available each week All programs from 12-2pm	December 10	Manchester Community House	Join us for a variety of activities both indoors and outdoors each week.
	December 3 and 17	Rykert Community House	Crafts, gross motor games, snacks and more.
	December 2 and 16	Old Pine Trail Community House	



Our St Anthony Centre is now open two afternoons each week, Monday and Wednesday.

Our Thorold Centre will be open in the afternoon on Wednesday December 18 from 1-4 and on Monday December 9 from 4-7pm

Adult Programs

(registration NOT required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Mindful Holidays	Tuesday December 3	St Anthony EarlyON	December tends to be a hectic month! Discover some fun strategies for weaving mindfulness into your busy schedule this month so you can enjoy the holiday season! If this date doesn't work for you, check out our other holiday stress information available at our Thorold EarlyON.
Children and Music	Thursday December 5	Thorold EarlyON	Learn about the benefits that music and movement have on children's developing brains and leave with a few new holiday song ideas.
Holiday Recipe Exchange	Thursday December 5 930am	Grantham EarlyON	Do you enjoy cooking and baking for the holidays? Register with us and bring your favourite holiday recipe to exchange with others while we talk about our holiday traditions.
Ages and Stages	Saturday December 7	Fairview EarlyON	Come check out our interactive display and speak to an EarlyON educator about children's developmental stages, and how to positively encourage developmental skills for each age group. Learn about different resources available that may help with your child's development.
How to reduce holiday stress	Monday December 9	Thorold EarlyON	Feeling stress or overwhelmed? Join us for a conversation and tips on how to take care of yourself during the holiday season. If this date doesn't work for you, check out our other holiday stress information available at our St Anthony EarlyON.
Snowman wooden disc ornament	Thursday December 19	Fairview EarlyON	Parents/caregivers, join us for a fun hour of crafting. Make your own snowman ornament to add to your holiday décor. Limited child care available Registration required

Virtual Programs

For those families interested in virtual programs, Port Cares EarlyON Centres will continue to offer these programs to serve families in the Niagara Region.

www.facebook.com/earlyonvirtual
www.instagram.com/earlyonvirtual

www.facebook.com/earlyonsbyportcares
www.instagram.com/earlyonsbyportcares



Do you have questions about your child's health or growth and development?

Now you can:

Call @ 905-684-7555 or 1-888-505-6074 ext.7555

· [Email](#)

· [Live Chat](#) (auto-translated in 90 different languages)

· [Facebook messenger](#)

With a public health nurse at [Niagara Parents](#).

Nurses are happy to provide reliable advice about; pregnancy, newborn care, feeding your baby, behavioural issues, child or parental mental health concerns, and community supports. A public health nurse is available to answer your questions Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. You are also able to register for many of our clinics and classes at niagararegion.ca/parents. We're with your every step of the way

Visit any one of these sites to find more about EarlyON virtual services, resources and contact information.



YMCA Twitter: @YMCANiagara



Facebook: YMCA of [Niagara](#) EarlyON



www.youtube.com



[earlyonatymcaniagara](#)

YMCA of Niagara Website: <https://ymcaofniagara.org/programs/community-initiatives/earlyon-centres/>

Outdoor programs (no registration required)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Outdoor games and activities	Every Wednesday and Thursday. 915-1015am	Thorold EarlyON	Join us on our playground for gross motor fun. Unstructured physical activity and being outdoors are both so good for physical and mental well being. Combine both and join us outside every week.
EarlyON—Thorold Library partnership	Friday December 6, 13, 20 930-11am	Thorold Library	Join an EarlyON educator first for outdoor program then we will go inside for activities/story time by the librarian



Meet Gingey! He's quite the cookie! He has arrived at St Anthony's to teach his friends about the different way people celebrate the holidays such as Kwanza, Hanukkah and Las Posadas. Come and visit Gingey throughout the month of December!

Gingey even has some pretty fantastic crafts planned!

RESOURCE CONSULTANTS

Resource Consultants from the Niagara Children's Centre are in our EarlyON Centres to answer any questions you might have about your child's development.

Ask the educators in the centre for more information.





December 2024 *at a glance*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Adult - Mindful Holidays	Holiday Pinecone Trees	Adult - Holiday Recipe Exchange 9:30am Adult - Children & Music	Thorold Library 930-11am	Adult - Ages & Stages
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Abominable Snowman Fork Painting	Extended Hours - 4-7pm Adult - Reduce Holiday Stress Infant - Holiday Keepsake 10am	Cinnamon/Applesauce Ornaments	ALL CENTRES CLOSED Sorry We're CLOSED	Canvas Ornaments Welcome Winter Science 10:30am	Thorold Library 930-11am	Pajama Day & Cookie Decorating
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Snowman Pom Pom Poppers	Polar Express Literacy Event (Morning) Christmas Science Experiments 10am	Infant - Holiday Mistle"toes" 1:30 - 3:30pm	Extended Hours - 1 - 4pm Little Artists Ornament Station 1:30 - 3pm	Adult - Snowman Disc Ornament 2pm	Ugly Holiday Sweater Day Thorold Library 930-11am	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	St. Anthony - Closed Grantham - Closed	ALL CENTRES CLOSED	ALL CENTRES CLOSED	ALL CENTRES CLOSED	St. Anthony - Closed Grantham - Closed	
29	30	31		For more details about activities listed, including if registration is required, please read through our monthly newsletter.		
Firework Paper Roll Blower	New Years Eve Wishing Wand St. Anthony - Closed	ALL CENTRES CLOSED				

Grantham

Mon. - Thurs. - 9am-1pm
Friday - 9am - noon

Fairview

Mon. & Wed. - 9am - 4pm
Tues. & Thurs. - 9am - 7pm
Friday - 9am - noon
Saturday - 9am - 1pm
Sunday - 10am - 1pm

St. Anthony

Mon. & Wed. - 9am - 4pm
Tues. & Thurs. - 9am - 1pm
Friday - 9am - noon

Thorold

Mon. -Thurs. - 9am-1pm
Friday - 9am - noon

Grantham - Blue
Fairview - Purple
St. Anthony - Red
Thorold - Green

Do you have questions? Are you looking for resources or strategies to support your child’s development?

Reach us by telephone or by email

EarlyON Fairview Mall: 905-646-4988 earlyon.fairview@niagara.ymca.ca

EarlyON Grantham: 905-937-7007 earlyon.grantham@niagara.ymca.ca

EarlyON St. Anthony: 905-650-7019 earlyon.stanthony@niagara.ymca.ca

EarlyON Thorold: 905-658-6907 earlyon.thorold@niagara.ymca.ca