



EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

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

April 2025

EarlyON YMCA of Niagara Centre *Hours of Operation*

Fairview Mall Centre

285 Geneva Street, St. Catharines
Monday through Thursday 9am-4pm
Friday 9am-noon
Saturday 9am-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-12:30pm
Friday 9am-noon
Friday 930-11am Thorold Public Library

St. Anthony Centre

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

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 Centres closed Friday April 18

St Anthony, Thorold and Grantham closed
Monday April 21st

The Grantham Gym is closed on
Wednesday April 2, but will be
open the rest of the Wednesdays



Capacity Limitations

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 enjoy our centre another day if you are not feeling yourself. Help keep our friends and staff healthy.

If your older children are home from school feeling sick. Please be kind and do not attend that day.




Children and Parent Interactive Programs (Registration not required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Paper Plate Pizza	Saturday April 5	Fairview EarlyON	This fun and easy paper plate pizza craft is perfect for kids! Add “toppings” to create a realistic looking slice.
Little Scientist Fizzing art eruptions	Monday April 7	Thorold EarlyON	Where science meets art! Join us to create a colourful piece of art with ingredients from the kitchen.
Paper plate flower garden	Monday April 7	St Anthony EarlyON	Spring has sprung! Come make your own decorative flower garden to bring inside.
Celebrate Easter! World Art Day!	Tuesday April 15	ALL CENTRES	Today is World Art Day! To celebrate, each of our centres will be offering a special Easter related craft. Join us!

Children and Parent Interactive Programs Continued

(Registration not required unless other wise noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Pajama Day 	Wednesday, April 16	ALL CENTRES	Today is “Wear Pajamas to Work” Day! We prefer to call it Wear Pajamas to EarlyON Day! Join us in your favourite jammies for a day of comfort.
Pop-Up Library with the St. Catharines Public Library	Saturday, April 19 10am – noon	Fairview EarlyON	A librarian from the St. Catharines Public Library will be here this morning to answer any questions you may have about our local library. She can also help you sign-up for a library card and will have borrowable items on hand that families are welcome to explore.
Earth Day	Tuesday April 22	ALL CENTRES	It's Earth Day! Each of our four centres will be offering Earth Day inspired crafts and activities.
Cherry Blossom Tree	Friday April 25	Grantham EarlyON	The seasons are changing and spring is in the air. Join us today as we explore with paint and bubble wrap to create a cherry blossom tree that your child will love!
Fork Flowers	Tuesday, April 29	Fairview EarlyON	Today we'll ditch the paintbrush and use forks for painting instead. We'll turn our creations into beautiful spring tulips to welcome Spring and the warm weather.
Music and Movement	Tuesday April 29 1015-1045am	Thorold EarlyON	Join us for some fun and interactive parachute games, songs and bubble fun to help develop those gross motor skills.

Joke for the day!

If April Showers bring May flowers,
What do May flowers bring?

A: Pilgrims





We are delighted to announce that our EarlyON centres are participating in the YMCA of Niagara's Stronger Together Child Care Campaign this April. This initiative is vital in nurturing a healthy, inclusive environment where children and families can flourish. Alongside our 47 Child Care centres across Niagara, our collective goal is \$25,000 to enrich children's lives with

Keep an eye out for fun (and tasty) events at our Centres in the coming weeks! Your contributions matter—no amount is too small to make a positive impact. To join this cause and donate, please visit our campaign page at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/98035>

Stronger Together Special Events

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Stronger Together Pancake Breakfast	Thursday April 10th 9am-11am	Grantham EarlyON	<p>Each of our four centres will be offering a Pancake Breakfast to raise funds for the YMCA's Stronger Together Campaign.</p> <p>100% of funds raised through our Stronger Together campaign are directed to the areas of greatest need, providing essential programs and services to children, youth, and families across Niagara. From swim lessons that teach life-saving skills to youth programs that build confidence and leadership, your support helps us break down barriers and extend life-changing opportunities.</p> <p>Pancakes will be available at each of our centres by donation (no donation is too small!). We hope you'll join us at each of our centres and consider a donation to Stronger Together!</p>
	Tuesday April 16th 9am-noon	St Anthony EarlyON	
	Saturday April 26th 9am-11am	Fairview EarlyON	
	Monday April 28th 930-11am	Thorold EarlyON	

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 Massage	Tuesday April 1, 8, 15 and 22 1130am	Thorold EarlyON	Parents/caregivers, join us for this 4 weeks program designed for you and your infant (birth to pre-crawling) that encourages and promotes bonding, growth and so much more. Please bring a blanket with you. Registration required
Infant Footprint craft Hoppy Easter!	Wednesday April 9 9-1130am	Fairview EarlyON	This Easter footprint craft is absolutely adorable and the perfect way to celebrate and remember baby's first Easter! The bunny footprint will be treasured for years to come. For infants birth – 12 months celebrating their first Easter. Registration required, but drop-in anytime during the time listed.
Love My Baby	Thursday April 10, 17 and 24 2pm	St Anthony EarlyON	Through singing, parent conversations and interactive activities, we will cover the importance of making the connection through love, language and learning. The Centre is only open for this registered program. Registration required
Infant – Sensory Bottle Make & Take	Thursday, May 1 5pm	Fairview EarlyON	Families are always asking how we make our infant sensory bottles. We invite you to come make your own for your little one to enjoy at home. Come alone or bring your little one, birth – 12 months. Registration required. NO childcare available for older children. The centre is closed! It will be open to those registered for this program only.

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.



Together in Harmony: Multilingual songs and stories for little ones presented by Bridges Niagara Immigrant and Refugee Services (formerly Niagara Folk Arts)

Enjoy songs and stories, similar to traditional English circle time, in a new language each month.

- The first and last Wednesday of each month at 1030am at Fairview EarlyON

The language for April will be Spanish. **Acompáñanos!**

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 April 4, 11 and 25 930-11am	Thorold Library	Join an EarlyON educator first for outdoor program then we will go inside for activities/story time by the librarian.
Outdoor Play	Wednesday April 23 930-1130am	St Anthony EarlyON	Let's enjoy a spring day outside! Join us to embrace nature, get a little messy and have an incredible time!
Storywalk and Planting	Monday April 28 1030am	Grantham EarlyON	Join us for a Storywalk, a great way to burn off energy, soak up the sunshine and listen to a story at the same time. We will read "If you Plant a Seed" and do some planting of our own.



FREE

dental checkup & fluoride varnish coming!

To learn more, call the Dental Program at 905-688-8248 ext. 7399 or live chat with us.

Niagara Region

parents

The Dental Team from Niagara Region Public Health will be visiting our **Grantham** EarlyON Centre on **Thursday April 24 from 9am-noon.**

They will also visit our **St Anthony** Centre on **Friday April 11 from 9am-noon.**

They will be offering FREE dental screenings and fluoride varnish for children. Dental screenings are a quick look in the child's mouth using a sterilized dental mirror to identify any urgent dental issues. Fluoride varnish is a safe protective coating that is painted onto the teeth with a tiny brush.

Parent/guardian consent is required for dental screening. For more information, please contact the Dental Team.

Adult Programs

(registration NOT required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Parenting Toddlers	Monday April 14	Grantham EarlyON	Watching your baby grow is a wonderful experience. They grow so fast and before you know it you have a toddler who is curious about the world around them! Have questions? Drop into the centre and talk to an EarlyON Educator about the good and challenging parts of raising a toddler and leave with positive ways to help your toddler grow!
Adult – Junk to Joy	Wednesday, April 23 All day	Fairview EarlyON	See how your recyclables and dollar store items can be turned into fun and educational learning activities for you and your child.
Adult – Nail String Art	Thursday, April 24 5pm	Fairview EarlyON	This one's just for the grown-ups! Join Joscelene for an hour of crafting and socializing. Together you'll make Nail String Art featuring a spring flower. Registration required. NO childcare available. The centre is closed! It will be open to those registered for this program only.
Mark making	Wednesday April 30	Thorold EarlyON	Mark making is a critical milestone in early childhood development, often seen as a precursor to writing. What makes mark making so important? Join us to learn more and see how you can support this natural developmental stage.



Literacy Day Grantham EarlyON Centre Thursday April 3

Join us for activities based on one of our favourites “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”

Bring home a free book (as supplies last)



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 you every step of the way

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

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



Facebook: YMCA of [Niagara](#) EarlyON



























www.youtube.com



[earlyonatymcaniagara](#)

April 2025

at a glance

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more details about activities offered, including if registration is required, please read through our monthly newsletter.						
6	7	1	2	3	4	5
 Paper Plate Flower Garden	 Infant Massage 11:30am (Registration required)	 Circle Time in Spanish with Bridges Niagara 10:30am Gym CLOSED	 The Very Hungry Caterpillar Literacy Day!	 St. Anthony CLOSED Thorold Library 930-11am	 Paper Plate Pizzas	
13	14	8	9	10	11	12
 Little Scientists - Fizzing Art Eruptions	 Infant Massage 11:30am (Registration required)	 Infant - Hoppy Easter 9am - 11:30am (Registration required)	 Love My Baby 2pm-3pm (Registration required)	 Thorold Library 930-11am		
20	21	15	16	17	18	19
 Granttham, St. Anthony & Thorold CLOSED	 Celebrate Easter! on World Art Day	 Pancake Breakfast for Stronger Together 9am - noon Pajama Day!	 Love My Baby 2pm-3pm (Registration required)	 Good Friday All Centres CLOSED		
27	28	22	23	24	25	26
 Pancake Breakfast for Stronger Together 9:30am - 11am "If You Plant a Seed" Storywalk & Activity 10:30am	 Earth Day Infant Massage 11:30am (Registration required)	 Adult - Junk to Joy Outdoor 9:30am - 12:30pm	 Dental Clinic 9am - noon Adult - Nail String Art 5pm (Registration required) Love My Baby 2pm-3pm (Registration required)	 Cherry Blossom Tree Thorold Library 930-11am		
	29	30	May 1			
	 Fork Flowers Music & Movement Gross Motor Activity	 Circle Time in Spanish with Bridges Niagara 10:30am Adult - Mark Making	 Infant - Sensory Bottle Make & Take 5pm (Registration required)			

Granttham
Mon. - Thurs. - 9am-1p
Friday - 9am - noon

Fairview
Mon. - Thurs. - 9am - 4
Friday - 9am - noon
Saturday - 9am - 1pm

St. Anthony-
Mon. - Thurs. - 9am - 1
Friday - 9am - noon

Thorold
Mon. -Thurs. - 9am-12:30
Friday - 9am - noon

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

or