



EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

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

August 2025

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
(Closed for August)

St. Anthony Centre

81 Rykert Street, St. Catharines
(Closed for the summer)

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.

Monday August 4th - All centres closed for Civic Holiday

Thorold EarlyON closed for the month of August

CLOSED

If registration is required, please email earlyon.admin@niagara.ymca.ca



Beginning Wednesday September 3

Our St Anthony EarlyON Centre will be open extended hours.

Monday and Wednesday until 4pm

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)

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

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Paper kite	Saturday August 2	Fairview EarlyON	Let's go fly a kite! Kite flying is a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors while learning about the wind. Come make a small paper kite that can hang in your window to blow in the breeze on a windy day.
Watermelon Day!	Sunday, August 3	Fairview EarlyON	It's Watermelon Day, an annual holiday that celebrates everyone's favourite summer fruit. Enjoy the last dog days of summer by treating yourself to some refreshing and delicious watermelon while making watermelon inspired crafts.
Pool Noodle Monsters	Wednesday, August 6	Fairview EarlyON	Come in, get creative, and turn a pool noodle into your own Pool Noodle Monster friend.
Wind Chimes	Saturday, August 9	Fairview EarlyON	Wind chimes are a wonderful project that combines creativity with soothing sounds. Join us to create your very own.

Children and Parent Interactive Programs Continued

(Registration not required unless other wise noted)

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

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Salt Dough Creations	Sunday, August 10	Fairview EarlyON	Let's be creative! Salt dough is a simple modelling material that you can make with basic ingredients. Come create then let air dry to decorate at home.
Kids in the kitchen- Butterfly English muffins	Tuesday August 12 930am	Grantham EarlyON	Learning to cook is an essential life skill everyone should strive to develop at some point in their life. Involving kids in the kitchen is a great way to kick-start that learning from a young age and comes with numerous benefits. Join us today to teach your child how to make a fun and nutritious snack they will enjoy and can make anytime at home!
Kindness ROCKS!	Friday, August 15	Fairview EarlyON	Paint and decorate your own rock to spread kindness and joy in your community.
Sun Catchers	Saturday, August 16	Fairview EarlyON	Create a fun and colourful sun catcher that will catch and reflect the sunlight when hung in windows or outdoors.
Paper Tube Stamping	Sunday, August 17	Fairview EarlyON	We'll create a sun using paper tubes. Paper tube stamping is a fun and versatile craft technique. Let's bring the sunshine in!
Scavenger Hunt	Saturday, August 23	Fairview EarlyON	Let's go on a scavenger hunt! A fun and active activity that's engaging and exciting.
Sponge Painting Ice Cream Cones	Sunday, August 24	Fairview EarlyON	Sponge painting is a fantastic, fun and easy technique for creating texture, blending colours and adding interest to your art. Children will use sponges dipped in paint to create "ice cream cones".
"Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" Book & Craft	Monday, August 25	Fairview EarlyON	Today's art activity will be based on the children's classic, "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom". Join us for the fun!
Paperplate Fish	Tuesday August 26	Grantham EarlyON	Get your little ones' creative juices flowing with this fun and easy tropical fish craft.
End of Summer Dance Party	Saturday, August 30 10:30am	Fairview EarlyON	As summer comes to an end, let's celebrate what a fun time we've had and the return to school. Put on your dancing shoes and join us for a dance party during Circle Time. Let's burn some energy, be creative and have a blast!



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	Thursday, August 14, 21 & 28 5pm	Fairview EarlyON	Parents/caregivers, join us for this 3-week program designed for you and your infant (birth – pre-crawling) that encourages and promotes bonding, growth and so much more. Please bring a blanket. Registration required!
Infant – Starfish Footprint	Wednesday August 20 9–11am	Fairview EarlyON	Create a fun under-the-sea keepsake featuring your infant's adorable feet. For parents/caregivers with infants' birth to 12 months. Registration required. Once registered, drop-in anytime during time frame listed.
Babies and Bubbles	Thursday August 7 10am	Grantham EarlyON	Playing with bubbles is fun at any stage of a child's life. Join me today as we play with bubbles, sing songs and discuss the joys and benefits of playing with bubbles with your babies while enjoying the outdoors! For parents/caregivers with infants' birth to 12 months. Registration required



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 **Wednesday August 13 from 9-11am**.

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.

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.



Outdoor programs and Field Trips

(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.
Mud Kitchens: Outdoor Learning and Play	Monday August 18 10-11am	Grantham EarlyON	Learning through play doesn't get much more hands-on than with a mud kitchen, which offers many benefits to a child's physical and personal development. Join us in the park (beside the centre) and see how easy it is to make a mud kitchen of your own. Registration not required

Adult Programs

(registration NOT required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Adult Information—Scissor Skills	Monday, August 11	Fairview EarlyON	Visit today to pick up tips and tricks to help your preschooler develop this important school readiness skill.
Adult Information—The Power of Play	Friday August 22	Grantham EarlyON	Parents play a crucial role in supporting children's play, which is essential for healthy development. They act as facilitators, providing time, space, and materials for play, as well as offering encouragement and guidance Join us for information on ways you can support your child's play at home.

We love comfort—but for health and safety reasons, bare feet aren't permitted in our centres. Please wear shoes or socks with grips while in our Centres.



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

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](#)

August 2025

at a glance

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more details about activities listed, including if registration is required, please read through our monthly newsletter.					1	2
 3 Watermelon Day!	 4 Civic Holiday All Centres CLOSED	5	6 Pool Noodle Monsters	7 Outdoor - Babies & Bubbles 10am (Registration required)	8	9 Wind Chimes
10 Salt Dough Creations	11 Adult - Scissor Skills	12 Kids in the Kitchen - Butterfly English Muffins 9:30am (Registration required)	13 Dental Clinic Public Health 9am - 11am	14 Infant Massage 5pm (Registration required)	15  Kindness ROCKS!	16 Sun Catchers
17 Paper Tube Stamping	18 Outdoor Mud Kitchen Info & Play 10-11am	19  Infant - Starfish Footprint 9 - 11am (Registration required)	20 Infant Massage 5pm (Registration required)	21 Adult - The Power of Play	22 Scavenger Hunt	23
24/31 Orange Painting : Cream Cone	25 Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Book & Craft	26 Paper Plate Fish	27	28 Infant Massage 5pm (Registration required)	29 	30 End of Summer Dance Party 10:30am

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

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

St. Anthony-
CLOSED FOR THE
SUMMER

Thorold
CLOSED THIS
MONTH

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

or