

## Volunteer and Make A Difference in Your Community Today

### EarlyON Child and Family Centre – Program Volunteer

<b>Location</b>	Multiple locations in St. Catharines and Thorold
<b>Time Commitment</b>	Minimum 2 hours per week for at least 10 weeks

#### Why Volunteer for the YMCA?

The YMCA is a charity dedicated to building healthy communities. The YMCA of Niagara delivers programs in Health, Fitness and Aquatics, Community Outreach, Child Care, Day Camp and Employment & Immigrant Services throughout the Niagara Region. We are committed to nurturing the potential of children, youth, and families, promoting healthy living and fostering social responsibility within the community. Our focus on inclusiveness and accessibility means we serve people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities through all stages of life.

#### NATURE & SCOPE

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. We offer a variety of programs and services that meet the unique needs of children and families in an inclusive environment. Our knowledgeable, experienced staff provide resources and workshops with up-to-date information for all stages of your family life, from preconception and prenatal care to early school experiences. Our programs are funded by the Ontario Ministry of Education through Niagara Region Children Services.

#### PURPOSE:

EarlyON Child and Family Centres are welcoming places where parents and caregivers gather with their children aged 0-6 years to enjoy interactive play environments and meaningful learning experiences together. Our team of EarlyON professionals are here to support you and your little one's healthy early development through free drop-in programs that offer active play, exploration and inquiry-based learning.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

- To appreciate and support the YMCA values, mission and vision.
- To demonstrate energy, dedication and enthusiasm.
- To thrive in an atmosphere of change and ambiguity.
- To work as a member of a team.
- To achieve planned results through personal initiative.
- To model commitment to service excellence and quality.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- To assist staff with preparing and maintaining a welcoming, clean play-based environment for children, parents and caregivers.
- To build positive relationships with children and their caregivers.
- To follow YMCA dress code.
- Participate in training and adhere to the YMCA Child Protection Policies and Procedures as established by the YMCA of Niagara.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Previous experience or knowledge of child development and supporting families is an asset, however training will be provided.
- Patient and caring attitude, as well as strong communication skills.
- 18 years of age or older.
- A clear and satisfactory criminal record check inclusive of the vulnerable sector search (PVSC) issued for the YMCA of Niagara.
- Interview and 3 references will be required.

**TRAINING AND SUPPORT:**

- Volunteer orientation inclusive of relevant YMCA Policies and Procedures.
- Training, supervision and support from EarlyON Supervisor and Coordinator.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Complete an online volunteer application at <https://ymcaofniagara.org/volunteer/opportunities/> or print the application and drop it off at a St. Catharines or Thorold EarlyON Child and Family Centre.

Accessibility accommodations and material in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities can be arranged upon request.

For more information for this and other opportunities at the YMCA of Niagara please visit our website: [www.ymcaofniagara.org](http://www.ymcaofniagara.org)