



EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

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

December 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

Monday through Thursday 9am-12:30pm

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

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.

St Anthony closed December 20-January 5

Grantham closed December 29-January 2

All sites closed December 24,25, 26, 31 and January 1



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



From October 4- December 21, 2025, please join us at the Niagara West YMCA for EarlyON programming.

325 Main Street E, Grimsby ON.

Monday through Wednesday 4-6pm

Saturday 830-1030am

Sunday 10am-1130am

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

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
Gingerbread Decorating	Monday December 1 2pm	St Anthony	Meet Gingey, our friendly holiday cookie, ready to spread holiday cheer! Come celebrate her debut, by decorating a tasty gingerbread treat! Stay tuned for Gingey's adventures throughout the month.
Jingle Bell Painting	Monday December 1	Fairview EarlyON	Children will use jingle bells instead of paintbrushes to create their artwork today. As they shake and roll the bells through paint, they'll explore sound, movement, and colour in a fun, festive way. This creative twist encourages sensory exploration, fine motor development, and joyful self-expression.
Winter interactive science activity	Wednesday December 3 10am	St Anthony	Step inside our Winter Wonder science lab! Make an exploding snowman, a sparkling fizzy tree, and reindeer toothpaste that's elf approved. It's a morning packed with hands-on experiments, winter magic, and plenty of STEM surprises - guaranteed to be snow-stopping fun!
Potato stamp light art collaboration	Saturday December 6	Fairview EarlyON	Light up your creativity! Using simple potato stamps and bright paint, children can create their own colourful string of Christmas lights. It's a fun, hands-on way to get festive, explore creativity, and make something cheerful.

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
Birdfeeders	Saturday December 6	Niagara West EarlyON	Let's help out our feathered friends this winter. Join us as we make bird feeders using paper tubes, wow butter and birdseed.
Scented Sandpaper Gingerbread Men	Sunday December 7	Fairview EarlyON	This simple, sensory-rich activity invites little hands to explore texture and smell while decorating their own gingerbread friend.
Cinnamon Applesauce Ornaments	Monday December 8	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for a festive craft as children mix cinnamon and applesauce to create beautifully scented holiday ornaments.
Little Artist Holiday Cards	Tuesday December 9	Thorold EarlyON	Today is Celebrate Holiday Card Day. Come and make a card or two for someone special to share joy this holiday season.
Nature Ornament Discovery	Tuesday December 9	St Anthony	Let your little one's creativity shine! Join us for a child-led holiday craft where little ones fill clear ornaments with beautiful natural and festive materials. A simple, sensory-rich activity—and a keepsake to take home!
Little Artist - Pinecone Tree Ornament	Thursday December 11 930-1015an	Thorold EarlyON	We invite you and your child to paint and decorate a pinecone, turning it into a special keepsake ornament to hang on your family's tree. Registration required
Ice cubes on a string	Sunday December 14 11am	Fairview EarlyON	Ever wonder if you can lift an ice cube using just a piece of string? With a little science magic and some salt, you can! A simple experiment to see how salt affects ice, the same reason we use salt to melt ice on winter roads.
Torn paper snowflakes	Wednesday December 17	Niagara West EarlyON	Tearing paper helps strengthen small hand muscles, build finger coordination, and spark creativity. Join us as we create beautiful torn-paper snowflakes together!

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
Reindeer puppets	Thursday December 18	Gratham EarlyON	Making reindeer puppets with kids is a fun and festive craft activity that sparks creativity and holiday cheer. Using simple materials like brown paper bags, construction paper, googly eyes, glue, and red pom-poms for Rudolph's nose, children can design their own adorable reindeer friends.
Pajama Day	Saturday December 20	Fairview EarlyON	Cozy up and join us for a festive Pajama Day filled with warm hot chocolate and holiday cheer. Children and families are invited to mix up their own magical reindeer food to sprinkle on Christmas Eve. Come comfy, sip something warm, and enjoy a morning of seasonal fun together!
Pine Cone Trees	Saturday December 20	Niagara West EarlyON	While making pinecone trees children get to explore nature and creativity at the same time. Join us as we make beautiful decorative trees.
"Stained Glass" ornament	Sunday December 21	Fairview EarlyON	Create beautiful "stained glass" ornaments using Mac-Tac and colourful tissue paper. Perfect for adding a bright pop of colour to any window or tree.
Paper tube reindeer	Saturday December 21	Niagara West EarlyON	Children will strengthen their fine motor skills and spark their creativity as they transform paper tubes and a variety of craft materials into adorable reindeer creations.
Sink or Float?	Tuesday December 23	Gratham EarlyON	Attention, young scientists! Let's make our predictions and test which objects will sink or float, then record our discoveries. What do you think will happen?
Candy Cane colour spread	Saturday December 27	Fairview EarlyON	Watch the magic of science unfold in this sweet holiday experiment! Using candy canes, warm water, and a touch of curiosity, we'll explore how colours move and mix to create a beautiful swirling display. A fun way to combine science and holiday spirit!
Snow Play	Sunday December 28	Fairview EarlyON	We're bringing real snow into the sensory bin for children to explore its chilly texture, scoop it up, and watch it melt in their hands. This hands-on experience encourages curiosity, fine motor skills, and lots of joyful winter play. If real snow isn't available, we'll make our own snow so the sensory fun can continue no matter the weather!

Infant Interactive Programs

(one infant program per family please)

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

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Holiday Babies and Bubbles	Thursday December 4	Grantham EarlyON	Babies delight in watching bubbles and listening to music! Join us for a special holiday-themed session where we'll engage your little one's senses with festive songs, cheerful stories, and plenty of bubbly fun. Registration required
Infant Discovery - Sensory bags and bottles	Monday December 8 915-10am	Thorold EarlyON	Sensory bags offer a mess-free way for children to explore different materials while supporting fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and more. Join us today as we explore the fun these can provide! NO registration required
Infant Holiday Art Exploration	Wednesday December 10 1230pm	St Anthony EarlyON	Celebrate the season with your little one! Join us for a gentle, sensory-friendly holiday art exploration designed for babies up to 12 months and their caregivers. Soft textures, safe materials, festive fun—perfect for tiny hands and curious minds.
Mistle"toes"	Tuesday December 16 9am – 11am OR 1:30-3pm	Fairview EarlyON	Celebrate your little one's very first Christmas with our adorable <i>Mistle"toes"</i> infant footprint craft. This sweet keepsake captures those tiny toes while offering a gentle, sensory-friendly experience for babies and caregivers. Registration required but drop-in anytime during the time frame registered for.

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.



Adult Programs

(registration NOT required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Adult Program Paint and sip	Monday December 15	Grantham EarlyON	<p>Join us for a relaxing morning at our “Sip and Paint” workshop and let your inner artist shine! Enjoy a cozy cup of hot chocolate as you create your own canvas masterpiece and share stories with others in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. No experience needed—just bring your creativity and a smile. We can’t wait to paint, sip, and connect with you!</p> <p>Registration required.</p> <p>Child care not available</p>
Adult Information- Children and Music	Tuesday December 16	Thorold EarlyON	<p>Discover how music supports your child’s development, especially through festive holiday tunes! Holiday songs do more than brighten the season. They help children build language skills, strengthen memory, express emotions, and develop coordination through rhythm and movement. Singing seasonal favourites also nurtures cultural connection and creates meaningful family traditions.</p> <p>Whether you’re jingling bells or singing along at home, holiday music is a fun and powerful way to support your child’s growth.</p>

POLAR EXPRESS LITERACY FUN

**MON. DEC 15TH
ALL DAY**

Join us for a Polar Express inspired literacy day where we will celebrate this beautiful holiday story with engaging, interactive activities.



At St. Anthony EarlyON

Outdoor programs and Field Trips

(no registration required unless noted)

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 5,12 and 19 930-11am	Thorold Library	Join an EarlyON educator first for outdoor program then we will go inside for activities/story time by the librarian.



**UGLY
CHRISTMAS
SWEATER
DAY**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
AT OUR EARLYON CENTRES!**

Families are welcome to join in the fun by wearing their favourite festive – or fabulously ‘ugly’ – holiday sweaters. If you have one at home, we’d love to see it sparkle, jingle, or make us smile!

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.



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

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

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

EarlyON Grimsby: 905-359-3049 earlyon.grimsby@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](#)

December 2025 *at a glance*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1 <i>Jingle Bell Painting</i> <i>Gingerbread Man Decorating</i>	2 	3 <i>Interactive Science</i> 10am	4 <i>Holiday Sing Along</i> <i>Babies & Bubbles</i> 10am (Registration required)	5 <i>Bird Feeders</i> <i>Potato Stamped Christmas Light Art Collab</i>	6 <i>Potato Stamped Christmas Light Art Collab</i>	Fairview Mon., Wed. - 9am - 4pm Tues., Thurs. - 9am - 7pm Friday - 9am - noon Saturday - 9am - 1pm Sunday - 10am - 1pm
7  <i>Gingerbread Men</i>	8 <i>Infant Discovery</i> <i>Sensory Bags</i> 9:15 - 10:15am	9 <i>Nature Ornament Exploration</i> <i>Holiday Card Day</i>	10 <i>Infant - Holiday Art Exploration</i> 1pm	11 <i>Pinecone Tree Ornament</i> 9:30-10:15am (Registration required)	12 <i>Thorold Library</i> 930-11am	13 <i>Pop-Up Library with SCPL</i> 10am - noon	Grimsby YMCA Mon. - Wed. - 4pm - 6pm Saturday - 8:30am - 10:30am Sunday - 10am - 11:30am
14 <i>Polar Express Literacy Day!</i>	15 <i>Adult - Sip & Paint</i> 9:30am (Registration required)	16 <i>Infant - Mistle "toes"</i> 9-11am OR 1:30 - 3pm (Registration required) <i>Adult - Children & Music</i>	17 <i>Torn Paper Snowflake</i>	18 <i>Reindeer Puppets</i>	19 <i>Ugly Christmas Sweater Day</i> <i>Thorold Library</i> 930-11am	20 <i>Pinecone Trees Holiday Pajama Party!</i>	St. Anthony Mon., Wed. - 9am - 4pm Tues., Thurs. - 9am - 1pm Friday - 9am - noon
21 <i>"Painted Glass" Ornament</i> <i>Tube Reindeer</i>	22 <i>St. Anthony CLOSED</i>	23 <i>Science - Sink or Float</i> 9:30am <i>St. Anthony CLOSED</i>	24 <i>All centres CLOSED</i>	25 <i>All centres CLOSED</i> 	26 <i>All centres CLOSED</i>	27 <i>Candy Cane Colour Spread</i> 11am	
28 <i>Snow Play</i>	29 <i>Grantham CLOSED</i> <i>St. Anthony CLOSED</i>	30 <i>Grantham CLOSED</i> <i>St. Anthony CLOSED</i>	31 <i>All centres CLOSED</i> 	For more details about activities listed, including if registration is required, please read through our monthly newsletter.			Thorold Mon.-Thurs. - 9am - 12pm Friday - 9am - noon or