



EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

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

March 2026

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 may be required for some programs to ensure we have the appropriate amount of materials, space 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.

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

Niagara West

325 Main St E, Grimsby
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4pm-6pm
Saturday and Sunday 830-11am

March 16-20—St Anthony closed
March Break



March 15-21—Niagara West closed

Grantham gym closed on Wednesdays

All sites will be closing at 1130am on Friday
March 6 for staff PD.

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

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
Ice cream cone bird feeders	Tuesday March 3	Niagara West EarlyON	Using an ice cream cone as the base, children will spread Wow butter and roll it in bird seed to create their own bird feeder. As they learn about birds and how we can care for animals, children can enjoy watching the birds visit and eat what they made.
Pete the Cat activity day	Tuesday March 3	Thorold EarlyON	Our friend Pete the Cat has many great stories to explore, so join us for a fun morning of crafts and activities based on some of his adventures.
Let's Celebrate Holi: Colour Splat Painting	Wednesday March 4	St Anthony EarlyON	Celebrate the joy of Holi! Join us for Colour Splat Painting as we honor this vibrant "Festival of Colors" and the arrival of spring. Together, we'll splash bright hues to symbolize love and new beginnings. This fun activity might get a bit messy - please wear paint-friendly clothes!
Shamrock Art	Monday March 2	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for Shamrock Art as we explore a fun and creative technique using chalk and hairspray! Children will decorate shamrock shapes with vibrant chalk colours and watch as a light mist of hairspray helps seal and set their beautiful designs. This hands-on activity encourages creativity while introducing little ones to new art materials and processes

Children and Parent Interactive Programs Continued

(Registration not required unless otherwise noted)

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

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Leprechaun Fork Painting	Tuesday March 10	St Anthony EarlyON	Get ready for a little St. Patrick's Day magic! Friends will explore creativity and fine motor skills as they use forks to paint fun, leprechaun-inspired artwork full of texture!
Macaroni rainbow	Wednesday March 11	Niagara West EarlyON	Children will create a colorful rainbow using colored macaroni noodles. This activity supports fine motor skills, colour recognition and early math skills.
Shamrock stamping	Monday March 12	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for this festive craft just in time for St. Patrick's Day! Children will dip shamrock shapes into paint and stamp them onto paper to create their own lucky masterpiece. This hands-on activity encourages creativity, fine motor development, and lots of colourful fun.
Rainbow paper chain pot of gold	Saturday March 14	Fairview EarlyON	Today's project is perfect for St. Patrick's Day (and more). It's a colourful decoration that even has a touch of luck. Let's make a rainbow paper chain with a pot of gold!
Science- Rainbow Skittles	Sunday March 15	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for a colourful science experiment with Skittles and warm water to create a beautiful rainbow! Let's observe what happens when warm water is added and the colours begin to travel and blend, creating a vibrant pattern right before their eyes. This simple experiment encourages curiosity, observation skills, and early conversations about science in action.

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 Continued

(Registration not required unless otherwise noted)

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

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Shamrock wand	Saturday March 14	Niagara West EarlyON	Today we make our very own St. Patrick's day wand. This encourages creativity and self-expression. Children will use a variety of materials to make it uniquely their own.
Can't BEE-lieve it is spring craft	Friday March 20	Grantham EarlyON	Spring is buzzing with creativity as kids dive into a cheerful bee-themed craft that celebrates the season! This simple spring activity builds fine motor skills, sparks imagination, and leaves everyone with a sweet reminder that warmer days and blooming flowers are on the way!
Tulip fork painting	Sunday March 22	Fairview EarlyON	Welcome spring with us as we create beautiful tulips using forks and paint! Children will use plastic forks to stamp vibrant petals, exploring texture and colour while building fine motor skills. This cheerful art activity is a fun way to celebrate the new season and watch creativity bloom.
Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring	Sunday March 22	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us as we say goodbye to winter and welcome spring! Children will enjoy a variety of hands-on activities to explore as we transition into a new season full of growth, colour, and discovery.
Math - Mouse shapes book and activity	Monday March 23	Thorold EarlyON	What can you make with one oval, two circles, and eight triangles? Just ask three clever mice--who even find a funny way to trick a sneaky cat.
Fork flower painting	Tuesday March 24	Niagara West EarlyON	Children will explore painting flowers using plastic forks as an alternative art tool. This open ended activity supports fine motor development, creativity and self-expression.

Rejoignez-nous pour un cercle en français!

Join our EarlyON Friends from Centre de Santé for French conversation and Circle.

St Anthony Tuesday March 31

Grantham Tuesday March 24



Centre de santé communautaire
Hamilton/Niagara

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
A Little Book about Spring Story and Creative	Friday March 27 Story at 1030	St Anthony EarlyON	Join us as we explore Leo Lionni's <i>A Little Book About Spring</i> . We'll follow the seasons through a child's eyes, then dive into a creative activity inspired by Lionni's iconic collage art style. Discover the beauty of new growth and bright beginnings!
Science - Magic Dancing Rice	Saturday March 28 11am	Fairview EarlyON	Get ready for a little science magic with our Dancing Rice experiment! Children will explore what happens when simple kitchen ingredients combine to make rice "dance" and move before their eyes. This hands-on activity sparks curiosity, encourages prediction, and introduces early science concepts in a fun and engaging way.
Robert Munsch Day	Sunday March 29	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for a fun-filled morning celebrating the wonderful and wacky stories of Robert Munsch! Come enjoy lively story time readings, themed crafts, interactive activities, and plenty of giggles inspired by some of our favourite books.
Easter squish painting	Tuesday March 31	Grantham EarlyON	Children love to squeeze and squish, making this style of painting perfect for all ages. It introduces basic symmetry and colour while encouraging close observation of their artwork and the creative process.

Join our friends from Bridges as they come to our centres to share "Around the World Circle"

Around the World Circle invites little ones and their caregivers to explore different cultures through a variety of fun, interactive cultural experiences. Each week may look a little different—featuring stories, movement, music, or hands-on activities—and highlights a new country/culture. Led by **Bridges Niagara**, this welcoming program offers an opportunity to celebrate diversity, inclusion, and curiosity in a joyful way.



March Around the world circle times

11th— Thorold EarlyON—1030am

25th—St Anthony EarlyON -1030am

Open Books, Open Minds book event

Grantham EarlyON March 17th

We welcome all families to join us for a unique learning experience to help children and their caregivers navigate important social topics through the magic of books. Browse through a selection of children's books, available to borrow on the spot from the St. Catharines Public Library, and stay for an inclusive storytime special!

Adult Programs

(registration NOT required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Adult Information - The Value of Puppet Play	Friday March 6	Grantham EarlyON	It may look like just fun, but playing with puppets supports children's learning and development in many ways. Join us at the centre to learn more about how puppet play builds communication, creativity, and connection.
Adult information- Scissor skills activities	Saturday March 7	Niagara West EarlyON	Scissor skill activities strengthen fine motor muscles in the hands and fingers , these skills lead to writing, drawing and self-help skills such as buttoning and zipping, this helps support eye-hand coordination.
Adult Information- Modeling language	Monday March 9	Thorold EarlyON	When we weave meaningful language into everyday moments, children learn to use words with intentio, not just echo them. With consistent modeling, even emerging speakers begin to use words with real understanding.
Adult Information- Family Engagement in Early Education	Monday March 30	Fairview EarlyON	Come pick up some resources highlighting why family engagement in early education plays such an important role in children's growth and development. We'll share research-based insights and practical strategies that support learning, confidence, and strong relationships.

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.



Thursday, March 5

Literacy Day fun with

Going on a Bear Hunt!



Join us as we bring this beloved story to life through hands-on activities and story time adventures.



Explore, imagine, and learn together as we move, play, and discover along the way!



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
Love My Baby	Thursday March 5, 12 and 26 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. Registration required
St Patricks Day Infant footprint keepsake	Tuesday March 10	Fairview EarlyON	Celebrate your little one's very first St. Patrick's Day with a sweet footprint keepsake! We'll transform tiny feet into an adorable "pot of gold" masterpiece, creating a special memento families can treasure for years to come. It's a fun, messy, and memory-making experience you won't want to miss! Once registered, you can come any time between 9-11am
Infant Art - Bubble Wrap Rainbows	Thursday March 12	Thorold EarlyON	Drop in and have your baby create their own rainbow while exploring colours and developing their sense of touch in our bubble wrap rainbow bin station. Registration NOT required
Stroller Walk and Talk	Thursday March 26 930am	Grantham EarlyON Registration required	Getting together for a stroller walk and talk offers a mix of emotional, social, and physical benefits that fit naturally into their daily routine. Walking boosts energy and supports overall health, a chance to slow down, get some fresh air, and connect with one another while their little ones ride along. Join us today for a beautiful walk along the canal! (NOTE – MEETING IN THE PARKING LOT ACROSS FROM PORT WELLER SCHOOL ON PARNELL & BUNTING.)

Outdoor programs and Field Trips

(no registration required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
EarlyON—Thorold Library partnership	Friday March 6, 13, 20 and 27 930-11am	Thorold Library	Join an EarlyON educator first for outdoor program then we will go inside for activities/story time by the librarian.
Outdoor mud kitchen fun!!	Friday March 13	St Anthony EarlyON	Join us for a fun outdoor Mud Kitchen Day! Children will mix, scoop, and create in nature—please dress appropriately for the weather and getting messy

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 resources and contact information.

 Facebook: YMCA of [Niagara](#) EarlyON

 www.youtube.com

 [earlyonatymcaniagara](https://www.instagram.com/earlyonatymcaniagara)

March 2026 *at a glance*

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1 	2 Shamrock Stamping	3 Ice Cream Cone Bird Feeders Pete the Cat Activity	4  Colour Splat Painting Gym CLOSED	5 Literacy Day - Going on a Bear Hunt Love My Baby 2pm (Registration required)	6 All centres closing at 11:30am Adult - The Value of Puppet Play Thorold Library 930-11am	7 Adult - Scissor Skills (with children's activity)	
	8 Shamrock Art	9 Adult - Modeling Language	10 Infant - St. Patrick's Day Footprint Activity (Registration required) 9am - 11am Leprechaun Fork Painting	11 Macaroni Rainbow Around the World Circle Time with Bridges Niagara 10:30am Gym CLOSED	12 Infant - Bubble Wrap Rainbows (Registration not required) Love My Baby 2pm (Registration required)	13 Outdoor Mud Kitchen 9-11:30am Thorold Library 930-11am	14 Shamrock Wand Rainbow Paper Chain Pot of Gold	
	15 Lunch Skittles Break  to West CLOSED	16 Niagara West CLOSED St. Anthony CLOSED	17 Open Books Open Minds (Bridges Niagara & SCPL) Niagara West CLOSED St. Anthony CLOSED	18 Niagara West CLOSED St. Anthony CLOSED	19 St. Anthony CLOSED	20 Cart's BEE-lieve it's Spring! St. Anthony CLOSED Thorold Library 930-11am	21  World Down Syndrome Day - Rock Your Socks! Niagara West CLOSED	
	22 Fulip Fork Painting Goodbye Winter Hello Spring!	23 Explore Shapes with Mouse and his Book of Shapes	24 Fork Painted Flowers Circle Time in French with Centre de Sante 10:30am	25 Around the World Circle Time with Bridges Niagara 10:30am Gym CLOSED	26 Stroller Walk & Talk 9:30am Love My Baby 2pm (Registration required)	27 "A Little Book About Spring" Story & Creative 10:30am Thorold Library 930-11am	28 Science - Magic Dancing Rice 11am	
	29 Albert Munsch Day	30 Adult - Family Engagement in Early Education	31 Easter Squish Painting Circle Time in French with Centre de Sante 10:30am	For more details about activities listed, including if registration is required, please read through our monthly newsletter.				

Fairview

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

Grantham

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

Niagara West YMCA

Mon - Wed - 4pm - 6pm
Sat & Sun - 8:30am - 11a

St. Anthony

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

Thorold

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

or