



EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

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

June 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



St Anthony—June 5th PA day

St Anthony last day of program before summer break will be Thursday June 25

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
Magic Milk Science	Wednesday June 3 3pm	St Anthony EarlyON	Come join us for the perfect blend of science and art as we turn a simple dish of milk into a colourful moving canvas!
Potato Masher Ice Cream Cone	Thursday June 4	Fairview EarlyON	Cool down with creativity as we make fun and colourful ice cream cone art using potato mashers! This playful process art activity is a great way for children to explore textures, colours, and stamping while creating their own sweet summer masterpiece.
Paper plate donuts	Saturday June 6	Niagara West EarlyON	Celebrate National Donut Day by making and decorating a paper plate donut using a variety of fun materials! This creative activity encourages imagination, fine motor skills and hands-on fun, with every donut turning out uniquely sweet.
The Very Hungry Caterpillar—Story and Craft	Sunday June 7	Fairview EarlyON	Families are invited to join us for a special story and craft inspired by The Very Hungry Caterpillar! Children will enjoy listening to the beloved story and then create their own colourful caterpillar craft while exploring themes of growth, creativity, and healthy foods. It's sure to be a fun and engaging experience for little learners!

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
Making cards	Monday June 8	Niagara West EarlyON	What a great way to encourage kindness and empathy as well as strengthening friendships. Children can create a one of a kind card for a friend or a family member for best friend day!
Little Artist— Modrian inspired	Tuesday June 9	Thorold EarlyON	We will explore colour, lines, and shapes through a creative art experience inspired by Piet Mondrian. Using bold colours and simple patterns, children will build creativity, fine motor skills, and an early appreciation for art through hands-on play.
Paper plate Jellyfish	Wednesday June 10	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us for a fun under the sea craft! Children will create a colourful jellyfish using paper plates, tissue paper and string while exploring their creativity and fine motor skills.
Dandelion Day!	Monday June 15	St Anthony EarlyON	Join us as we celebrate these cheerful “wish flowers” with dandelion-inspired art and homemade playdough fun! Children will explore, create, and play together using nature’s little sunshine flowers.

St Anthony EarlyON

Outdoor Series



Fridays *June 12th & 19th*



9:30-11:00



June 12th Wayfaring Explorers

Explore the world around us through movement, mapping, and discovery as we follow paths, notice patterns, and journey together through nature.



June 19th Waterways & Water Play

Dive into water play as we explore how water moves, flows, and connects using tubes, tunnels, and hands-on discovery.

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
Ocean Sensory bottles	Tuesday June 16	Niagara West EarlyON	Sensory bottles can help support self-regulation and calming as children watch, shake and focus on the movement inside. This soothing activity encourages mindfulness, relaxation and sensory exploration. Join us to make your very own ocean sensory bottle!
Science - Guess the Secret Colour	Tuesday June 16 530pm	Fairview EarlyON	This fun hands-on activity that mixes creativity with a little science magic! Try to Guess the Secret Colour – a simple experiment using baking soda, vinegar, and food colouring that’s perfect for curious minds of all ages.
Tissue butterfly painting	Wednesday June 17	Grantham EarlyON	Tissue paper butterfly painting is a fun and colourful craft for kids of all ages. Children can explore their creativity while building fine motor skills through cutting, gluing, and spraying. Every butterfly is unique. Come make your own today!
Father’s Day Key Ring Charm	Saturday June 20	Fairview EarlyON	Children are invited to create a special Father’s Day key ring charm for the important guy in their life! Using paint, markers, and colourful beads, little ones can design a unique keepsake made with love. A handmade gift that’s both fun to make and meaningful to give!
Father’s Day Handprint Keepsake	Saturday June 20 AND Sunday June 21	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us to celebrate dad (or another father figure in your life) by creating special handprint keepsakes!
National Indigenous Peoples Day	Sunday June 21	Fairview EarlyON	Today, we recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day through a meaningful art experience inspired by the Medicine Wheel. Children and families will create a beautiful painting using the four symbolic colours - Yellow, Red, Black, and White - representing connection, balance, and the importance of all people and directions. This hands-on activity offers an opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate Indigenous cultures and traditions together.
Little Chefs - Fruit and Cracker Pizza	Tuesday June 23 1030am	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for Little Chefs as children create their own fruit and cracker pizzas! Little ones will have fun exploring healthy ingredients, building fine motor skills, and getting creative with colourful fruit toppings. A tasty hands-on activity that’s almost too cute to eat!

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
Canadian Multiculturalism Day	Saturday June 27	Fairview EarlyON	Saturday, June 27 is Canadian Multiculturalism Day! Families are invited to come together to explore and celebrate the many cultures, traditions, and backgrounds that make our communities so special. Children will have the opportunity to create a fun multicultural-themed craft while learning about diversity, inclusion, and belonging.
Puffy Paint Ice Cream Cone	Sunday June 28	Fairview EarlyON	Cool off with a sweet and squishy puffy paint ice cream craft! Children will have fun creating colourful ice cream cones while exploring different textures and getting creative with paint. It's a messy, sensory-filled activity that's perfect for little artists!
Little Artist— Summer Bucket List	Tuesday June 30	Thorold EarlyON	Have your child decorate their own paper sand bucket and fill it with their summer dreams, wishes and goals for the season ahead!

Thorold EarlyON Literacy Day

Thursday
June 18

Let's celebrate stories, songs and learning!

We will celebrate Literacy Day through the joy of nursery rhymes!

Children will enjoy singing familiar rhymes along with creative activities inspired by their favourite songs.

These experiences help build language skills, memory, rhythm, and early literacy while having fun together.

All families will leave with a **free book** to add to their home library!



Outdoor programs and Field Trips

(no registration required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Nature Walk	Saturday June 6	Malcomson Eco Park	Join Sandra at Malcomson Eco-Park for a fun and relaxing nature walk with other EarlyON families! Enjoy the fresh air as we explore the trails, observe nature, and spend time together outdoors. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring your walking shoes for this family-friendly adventure.
Art in the Park	Thursday June 11 930-1030am	Grantham EarlyON	Making art outdoors with kids feels a little bit magical. In every season, there's an opportunity to step outside and let creativity take over. Dress for a bit of mess and get ready to have fun!
Wayfaring Explorers Waterways and Water Play	Friday June 12 and 19 930-11am	St Anthony EarlyON	Wayfaring Explorers -Explore the world around us through movement, mapping, and discovery as we follow paths, notice patterns, and journey together through nature. Waterways and Water Play -Dive into water play as we explore how water moves, flows, and connects using tubes, tunnels, and hands-on discovery.
Last Day- Outdoor Celebration	Thursday June 25 9am-12pm	St Anthony EarlyON	We'll be spending the morning outside enjoying fresh air, play, and connection. It's the perfect chance for children and caregivers to have fun, explore, and say goodbye before the summer break .
Outdoor Play	Saturday June 27 830-10am	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us for a fun outdoor day filled with soap, bubbles and splashing fun! Get ready to explore, play and get wet!

Inclusion Quality Coordinator

Inclusion Quality Coordinators from the Niagara Children's Centre are in our EarlyON Centres to answer any questions you might have about your child's development. They are an integral part of the Inclusion Resource Support Model.

Inclusion Quality Coordinators support educators, children and families by helping create welcoming, inclusive environments where every child can participate and thrive. They work alongside programs to share strategies, offer guidance and build strong supports that meet the unique needs of children and families across our community.

St Anthony EarlyON Tuesday 9-1145am

Fairview EarlyON Tuesday 1-3pm

Thorold EarlyON Wednesday 9-1145am

Grantham EarlyON Thursday 9-1145am

Fairview EarlyON Friday 9am-12pm



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 keepsake - Father's Day Art	Monday June 8 9-11am OR 1-3pm	Fairview EarlyON	Calling all families with infants celebrating their very first Father's Day! Join us for a sweet and cheeky "Love You to the Moon and Back" keepsake craft featuring your baby's tiny tush (or feet if you prefer) as the star of the masterpiece. It's a fun way to create a one-of-a-kind memory that's guaranteed to bring smiles for years to come! Registration required
Infant Program - Bounce, Tickle and Read	Wednesday June 10, 17 and 24 2pm	Fairview EarlyON	This 3-week program is designed for our tiniest friends (from birth to pre-crawling) and their parent or caregiver. Each week, we'll explore new songs and engage in fun movement activities using scarves and shakers. Registration required
Infant Massage	Monday June 15, 22 and 29 10am	Grantham EarlyON	Parents and caregivers are invited to join this 3-week infant massage program designed for you and your baby (birth to pre-crawling). Learn gentle techniques that support bonding, promote healthy development, and create meaningful moments of connection. This nurturing experience offers a calm, supportive space to relax, connect, and grow together. Registration required
Infant Butterfly footprint keepsake	Saturday June 28	Niagara West EarlyON	This activity is a wonderful sensory and creative experience that supports early development while creating a meaningful keepsake for families. We will be creating a butterfly using their tiny feet. Registration required

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
Self Care - Adult Information	Tuesday June 2	Thorold EarlyON	We spend so much time nurturing and caring for our children that it can be difficult to pause and take care of ourselves too. Drop in to learn some simple self-care tips and ideas to help make time for you.
Parenting Toddlers— Adult Information	Wednesday June 3	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 in to the centre and talk to an EarlyON facilitator about the good and challenging parts of raising a toddler and leave with positive ways to help your toddler grow!
Words Matter! - Adult Information	Tuesday June 9	St Anthony EarlyON	Did you know one single positive word can promote brain function in our little one's developing brains? Come learn a little more about how making small changes to our messaging can make a big impact on how children feel about themselves and others .
Pre writing skills begin to develop during tummy time - Adult information	Wednesday June 24	Thorold EarlyON	Before children are ready for writing, they need strong gross motor skills. A strong core, neck, shoulders, and fingers help them sit upright, control movements, and hold crayons or pencils. Read up on some information and activities like tummy time, crawling, climbing, and floor play help build the strength needed for future writing success when you join us today.
Self Regulation - Adult Information	Tuesday June 30	Niagara West EarlyON	Self-regulation is a child's ability to understand and manage their emotions, behaviours, energy levels and attention. Join us to explore information and strategies that can help support your child's self-regulation skills.

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](#)

