



EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

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

July 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

St Anthony closed for the summer

Thorold location change for July

All sites closed Wednesday July 1

Grantham closed July 20-24

CLOSED

Please note that while construction work is taking place at our Thorold Centre, EarlyON programs will continue to run in alternate community locations. We are excited to provide uninterrupted programming for children and families and appreciate your patience and flexibility during this time. Please check our program calendar for current locations and updates. See page 3 for more details

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-July

Monday/Friday Thorold Library 930am-1230
Tuesday/Thursday Thorold Senior Centre 9-1
Wednesday Sullivan Park 9am-12pm

St. Anthony Centre

81 Rykert Street, St. Catharines
Closed for summer. See you in September

Niagara West

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

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
Rainbow fish creative	Friday July 3	Grantham EarlyON	Join us as we create a colourful Rainbow Fish using paper plates and muffin liners for scales. This fun activity promotes creativity, fine motor skills, and meaningful conversations about friendship and sharing.
Sink or float boat?	Saturday July 4	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us for a fun and creative engineering adventure as we build boats using pool noodles and a variety of other materials. Design, create, and test your own unique boat to see if it can float!
"The Watermelon Seed" Story and craft	Sunday July 5	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for a fun-filled story and craft inspired by <i>The Watermelon Seed</i> by Greg Pizzoli! Families will enjoy this delightful story about a watermelon-loving crocodile, followed by a creative craft activity. Come learn, play, and create together as we celebrate this favourite children's book.
Coffee filter turtles	Sunday July 5	Niagara West EarlyON	Children will create a turtle using coffee filters, markers and water. Let's observe how the water makes the colours mix into a cool design for our turtle's shells. As colors spread through the filter, children can observe concepts such as color mixing, making it a fun introduction to basic science.

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
Let's make a snorkel	Wednesday July 8	Niagara West EarlyON	Creating and using a paper snorkel encourages children to develop fine motor skills through cutting, colouring, and assembling their creation. As they search for hidden sea creatures, children engage in imaginative play, strengthen their observation skills, and spark their curiosity about the underwater world.
Science experiment	Sunday July 12	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us as we explore which ocean animals and objects sink and which ones float. Children will make predictions, test their ideas, and observe the results while developing early science and observation skills through hands-on play.
Accordion fish	Tuesday July 14	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us as we create a colourful fish that really moves! Children will use paper, crayons, and other materials to design their fish while practicing folding paper in an accordion pattern. This activity helps develop hand strength, finger dexterity, and coordination through creative play.
Fly Swatter collaborative masterpiece	Wednesday July 15	Fairview EarlyON	Get ready for a fun and unique art experience! Families are invited to work together on a collaborative masterpiece using clean fly swatters as paint brushes. Explore creativity, make colourful marks, and enjoy creating something special as a community.

WE'RE STILL HERE IN THOROLD!

While our building is having some work done,
our EarlyON programs are still running in alternate locations.



Monday / Friday
9:30am – 12:30pm
Thorold Public Library



Tuesday / Thursday
9:00am – 1:00pm
Thorold Senior Centre
(8 Carleton St)



Wednesday
9:00am – 12:00pm
Sullivan Park
(50 Elgin St)




Thank you for your patience and support!

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
World Snake Day! 	Thursday July 16	Thorold Senior Centre	Celebrate World Snake Day with a fun and creative craft! This activity encourages creativity, fine motor skills, and curiosity while learning simple facts about snakes and their habitats.
The Foil Boat Experiment	Saturday July 18 1030am	Fairview EarlyON	Put your engineering skills to the test! Families are invited to design and build a boat using tin foil, then see if it floats and how much weight it can hold before sinking. This fun, hands-on experiment encourages creativity, problem-solving, and exploration through play.
Sponge ice cream	Tuesday July 21	Niagara West EarlyON	Happy Ice Cream day! Join us as we use sponges, paint and other materials to create a yummy ice cream cone. What is your favorite flavor?
Christmas in July	Saturday July 25	Niagara West EarlyON	Gingerbread men at the beach! Children can create stories about their gingerbread character swimming, building sandcastles, or enjoying a beach holiday. What will your gingerbread man look like?
Paper Plate Sailboats	Sunday July 26	Fairview EarlyON	Set sail on a creative adventure with us! Families are invited to create their own paper plate sailboat while exploring colours, shapes, and imagination. Join us for this fun, hands-on craft that's perfect for little sailors and their caregivers.

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.

Fairview EarlyON Tuesday 9am-12pm/1-3pm

Thorold EarlyON Wednesday 9-1145am

Grantham EarlyON Thursday 9-1145am

Fairview EarlyON Friday 9am-12pm

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
Starfish Suncatcher	Sunday July 28	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us as we create a colourful starfish suncatcher using tissue paper. Children will explore light and colour while developing fine motor skills and learning about marine life through a fun, hands-on craft activity.
Ice Cream in a bag	Tuesday July 28 930am	Grantham EarlyON	Join us for a fun Ice Cream in a Bag activity! Children and caregivers will work together to shake, mix, and create their own delicious ice cream while exploring simple science concepts and enjoying a tasty treat. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Paper plate watermelon	Wednesday July 29	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for a sweet summer craft! Families are invited to create a colourful watermelon masterpiece using paper plates while exploring creativity and fine motor skills. Come enjoy this fun, hands-on activity that's perfect for little artists and their caregivers.
Summer Luau	Thursday July 30 1030am	Thorold Senior Centre	Join us for summer songs, stories, and parachute play as we celebrate the season and say goodbye to our families for the summer! We look forward to sharing a fun-filled morning of laughter, learning, and connection before our summer break.

MEET THE AUTHOR

with *Emma Brouillette*

 **Thursday, July 23**





 **10:30 a.m.**


 **Fairview EarlyON**

Families are invited to join us for a special visit with local author Emma Brouillette!

During circle time, Emma will read her book, *Feelings Are Friends*, a heartwarming story that helps children explore, understand, and talk about their emotions.

COME ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO:

-  Meet a local author
-  Share a story together
-  Celebrate the joy of reading
-  Explore feelings in a child-friendly way

All families welcome! 

Early ON
Child and Family Centre
Fairview

Outdoor programs and Field Trips

(no registration required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Stroller walk and talk	Monday July 6 930am	meet in the parking lot across from Port Weller School at Parnell & Bunting	Join us for a stroller walk and talk along the canal! This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some fresh air, get moving, and connect with other caregivers while your little ones ride along. Walking supports overall well-being and provides a chance to relax, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors together. Please note: We will meet in the parking lot across from Port Weller School at Parnell & Bunting. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Outdoor exploration	Saturday July 11 1030am	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.
Going on a Bear Hunt—Story and craft	Monday July 13 1030am	Grantham EarlyON (at the park)	Join us for a StoryWalk, a fun way to get moving while enjoying a story together! We will read <i>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</i> and create our own binoculars to use on our walk. Come ready for an adventure filled with movement, imagination, and fun!
Outdoor Obstacle Course	Saturday July 18	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us for an outdoor obstacle course. By participating in an outdoor obstacle course, children develop gross motor skills, balance, coordination, and problem-solving abilities while engaging in active play.

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—Strawberry Footprint Art	Monday July 20 9-11am OR 1-3pm	Fairview EarlyON	Parents and caregivers with infants from birth to 12 months are invited to create a sweet keepsake using your baby's tiny footprints! We'll transform those little feet into adorable summer strawberries that you'll cherish for years to come. Please indicate your preferred time slot when registering, as spaces are limited. REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Babies and Bubbles	Thursday July 30 10am	Grantham EarlyON	Bubbles are a fun and engaging activity for children of all ages! Join us today as we explore, play, and sing with bubbles while enjoying the outdoors. We'll also chat about the many developmental benefits of bubble play and how it supports learning and connection with your little one. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Adult Programs

(registration NOT required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Adult Information-Sun Safety	Tuesday July 7	Fairview EarlyON	Summer is here, and it's the perfect time to brush up on sun safety! Parents and caregivers are invited to stop by and pick up helpful information and tips on protecting children from the sun while enjoying outdoor play. Learn simple ways to stay safe, cool, and have fun all season long.
Adult Information-Why are visual tracking skills important?	Tuesday July 14	Thorold Senior Centre	Visual tracking is the ability to move the eyes smoothly, follow moving objects, and shift focus from one thing to another. Information will be available on these skills that are important for reading, helping children follow words across a page and understand what they read. Visual tracking also supports play and movement by helping children catch a ball, judge distance, and move safely around obstacles.
Adult Information-Music and Movement	Tuesday July 21	Thorold Senior Centre	Learn about the benefits that music and movement have as your child grows and develops. Gather information about songs and simple movement activities you can do at home.
Summer Safety	Wednesday July 29	West Niagara EarlyON	We will have a variety of information sheets, resources, and materials available for parents and caregivers about sun and water safety. Stop by to learn helpful tips and strategies for keeping children safe while enjoying outdoor and water play throughout the summer months.

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.



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)

JULY 2026

Telephone: (905) 658-6907
 Email: earlyon.thorold@niagara.ymca.ca

August CLOSED Summer Shutdown



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 CLOSED 	2 Butterfly Creative Activity	3 Pet Rock Creative Activity
6 Cactus Puppet Creative Activity	7 Outdoor Ocean Scavenger Hunt	8 Bubble Play	9 Sandcastle Creative Activity	10 Outdoor Zoo Scavenger Hunt
13 International Puzzle Day Creative Activity	14 Visual Tracking Skills	15 Fishing	16 World Snake Day Creative Activity	17 Outdoor Tunnel Fun
20 Glow in the Dark Fun	21 Music & Movement	22 Sponge Toss	23 Outdoor Nature Scavenger Hunt	24 Outdoor Parachute Play
27 ABC's Creative Activity	28 Outdoor Obstacle Course	29 Fill & Pour Station	30 Summer Luau	31 Ice Rescue

THOROLD EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

MEET US AT:

Thorold Public Library
 14 Ormond St N, Thorold,
 ON L2V 1Y8

Monday 9:30-12:30 (indoor)
Friday 9:30-12:30 (outdoor first hour)

Thorold Senior Centre
 8 Carleton St S, Thorold,
 ON L2V 5C2

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-1:00




Sullivan Park
 Intersection of
 Elgin Street and Sydenham Street
Wednesday 9:00-12:00

July 2026

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 CANADA DAY All centres closed!	2	3	4 Let's Make a Boat
5 Watermelon "Seed"- ry & Craft : Filter Turtles	6 Stroller Walk & Talk 9:30am	7 Adult - Sun Safety	8 Make a Paper Snorkle	9	10 Rainbow Fish	11 Outdoor - Nature Walk at Malcolmsen Eco-Park 10:30am
12 Science - in Sink or Float 9:30am	13 Outdoor - Story Walk & Craft - We're Going on a Bear Hunt 10:30am	14 Accordion Paper Fish Adult - Why Visual Tracking Skills Are Important	15 Fly Swatter Painting	16 World Snake Day - creative 	17	18 Outdoor - Obstacle Course 8:30-10am Science - Tin Foil Boat Experiment 10:30am
19 Infant - Strawberry Footprint Art 9 - 11am OR 1-3pm (Registration required)	20 Sponge Ice Cream Adult - Music & Movement	21	22 Meet the Author - Emma Brouillette "Feelings Are Friends"	23	24	25  Christmas In July
26 Sh Suncatcher aper Plate Sailboats 	27 Ice Cream in a Bag 9:30am (Registration required)	28	29 Adult - Summer Safety Paper Plate Watermelon	30 Summer Luau 10:30am Outdoor - Babies & Bubbles 10am (Registration required)	31	
Grantham CLOSED all week →						

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 - 11am

St. Anthony

**CLOSED FOR
SUMMER BREAK**

Thorold

Read through the
newsletter
for alternate
programming