



EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

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

August 2026

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

Closed for August. See you in September

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

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.



St Anthony closed for the summer

Thorold closed for the rest of the summer

Niagara West closed August 30-
September 6

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
S'more Summer Please!	Saturday August 1	Fairview EarlyON	S'more summer fun, please! Families, summer is here and that means it's s'more season! Glue some paper chocolate, marshmallows and graham crackers together to make a delicious treat... we mean craft!
Fingerprint fire flies	Tuesday August 4	Niagara West EarlyON	Fingerprint crafts are a fun, hands-on activity that supports children's learning through art while encouraging meaningful interactions between children and their caregivers. Join us as we create cute fireflies using our finger prints.
Blow Painting- Make a campfire	Wednesday August 5	Grantham EarlyON	Creating this campfire craft is a great way for children to explore art while also building important developmental skills! Using a straw and paint, children will blow paint across the paper to create a beautiful camp fire and discover how their breath can make the colours spread in all different directions. Join us today to make your own campfire masterpiece!
Early Literacy - Rainbow Fish	Sunday August 9	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for a fun Early Literacy Rainbow Fish Craft inspired by the beloved book <i>The Rainbow Fish</i> ! Children will use a fish template and colourful tissue paper to create their own shimmering rainbow fish to take home.

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
Campfire snacks craft	Tuesday August 11	Niagara West EarlyON	Children will create fun paper campfire snacks by using a variety of art materials to represent fun camping foods. Using their fine motor skills and creativity children will cut, colour and glue.
Bottle print flowers	Wednesday August 12	Fairview EarlyON	Come explore a fun process art activity by using recycled bottles to create beautiful flower prints. Stamp, paint, and experiment with colours and patterns, while strengthening creativity, fine motor skills, and confidence through open-ended art.
Wind Chimes	Saturday August 15	Niagara West EarlyON	Wind chimes engage multiple senses through touch, sight, and sound, providing rich sensory experiences that encourage curiosity and discovery. Join us as we create our very own wind chimes using a stick, beads and shells.
Handprint campfire	Sunday August 16	Niagara West EarlyON	As children paint their hands and press them onto paper, they strengthen the small muscles in their hands and fingers, helping to build the fine motor skills needed for future writing, drawing, and self-care tasks. Adding sticks, rocks, or drawn details encourages creativity and imagination as children personalize their campfire scene.
Paper Plate Kites	Sunday August 16	Fairview EarlyON	Children will have fun creating colourful paper plate kites using a variety of art materials. This creative activity encourages self-expression while helping to develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and imagination.
Under the sea pufferfish	Monday August 17	Fairview EarlyON	Join us for a fun and creative Puffer Fish Craft using paint and sponges! Children will enjoy exploring colours and textures while strengthening their fine motor skills and creating a cute ocean-themed masterpiece to take home.
Make your own picture frames	Tuesday August 19	Niagara West EarlyON	Children will create a memorable picture frame using popsicle sticks and various other materials. At home they can add picture of them and their friends or themselves doing their favorite summer activity.

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
Nature Collage	Saturday August 22	Niagara West EarlyON	Using materials like leaves, twigs and flowers to make a Nature collage helps boost their fine motor skills, gives them a fun sensory experience, and helps them express their feelings. This hands-on, nature-based art is a great way to build a love for the environment.
Shadow Art	Sunday August 23	Niagara West EarlyON	Children will use light and shadows to trace objects. Tracing shadow outlines refine hand-eye coordination and pencil grip. This builds the muscle strength needed for future handwriting.



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

Grantham EarlyON Thursday 9-1145am

Fairview EarlyON Friday 9am-12pm



Outdoor programs and Field Trips

(no registration required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Splash Pad and Park	Saturday August 8 1030am	Lester B Pearson (352 Niagara Street)	Join Sandra for a fun morning at the Lester B. Pearson Park & Splash Pad! Meet at 10:30 a.m. to create colourful bubble art, decorate the sidewalk with chalk masterpieces, and become ocean rescuers as we free sea animals trapped in ice! If it rains, we'll look forward to seeing you at our next meet-up in September.
Visit to the Fire Station	Thursday August 20 10am	Grantham EarlyON	Join us this morning at the Scott Street Fire station. Children will have an opportunity to see and learn about the different trucks and what firefighters wear when they go into a fire. Be sure to bring your camera! Meet us at the centre and we will walk there together. REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Art in the Park	Monday August 24 930-1030am	Grantham EarlyON	Art outside with kids is magical. No matter what time of year, there is always a way to get outside and let your creativity run wild. Come dressed for some messy fun!
Outdoor Fun!	Saturday August 29	Niagara West EarlyON	Join us for a fun morning with bubbles, parachute and ribbon wands. These activities will help strengthen both their fine and gross motor skills.

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 Picasso-Jellyfish Footprint Art	Thursday August 27 Anytime between 1-6pm	Fairview EarlyON	Families with infants from birth to 12 months are invited to join us for a special Jellyfish Footprint Art activity! Registration is required , but once you're registered, feel free to drop in anytime during the scheduled time frame to create this adorable keepsake with your little one.

Adult Programs

(registration NOT required unless noted)

Activity	Date and Time	Location	Description
Kids Have Stress Too! - Adult Information	Thursday August 6	Fairview EarlyON	Parents/caregiver, come pick up information about the <i>Kids Have Stress Too!</i> program to learn simple, practical ways to help children recognize, express, and cope with stress while building resilience and confidence.
Nursery Rhymes—Small songs, big benefits Adult Information	Friday August 7	Grantham EarlyON	Nursery rhymes are much more than simple songs—they help build language, literacy, memory, and social skills while creating special moments together. Singing and repeating nursery rhymes each day, even for just a few minutes, can make a big difference in your child's development. Visit our centre to learn about the many benefits of nursery rhymes and discover fun, easy ways to include them in your daily routines.
Settling back into the rhythm of school - Adult Information	Thursday August 13	Grantham	As summer comes to an end, gradually returning to a school routine can help children feel confident and prepared for the new school year. Join us today to learn about tips and strategies on how to get back into routine so the transition back to school can be a positive experience for the whole family!
Back to School - Adult Information	Wednesday August 26	Niagara West EarlyON	Starting a new school year is an exciting milestone, but it can also bring big emotions for both children and parents. Whether your child is attending school for the very first time or returning to a familiar classroom, feeling nervous is completely normal.



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



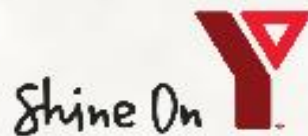
www.youtube.com



[earlyonatymcaniagara](#)

Baycrest

Academy for
Research and Education



PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP

Brain Health Workshop

- ✓ Learn to monitor and improve brain health
 - ✓ Receive evidence-based wellness tips
 - ✓ Find dementia risk reduction tips
 - ✓ Free, in person workshop
-

**YMCA Community Hub,
Fairview Mall**

Friday, September 18 | 2:00PM

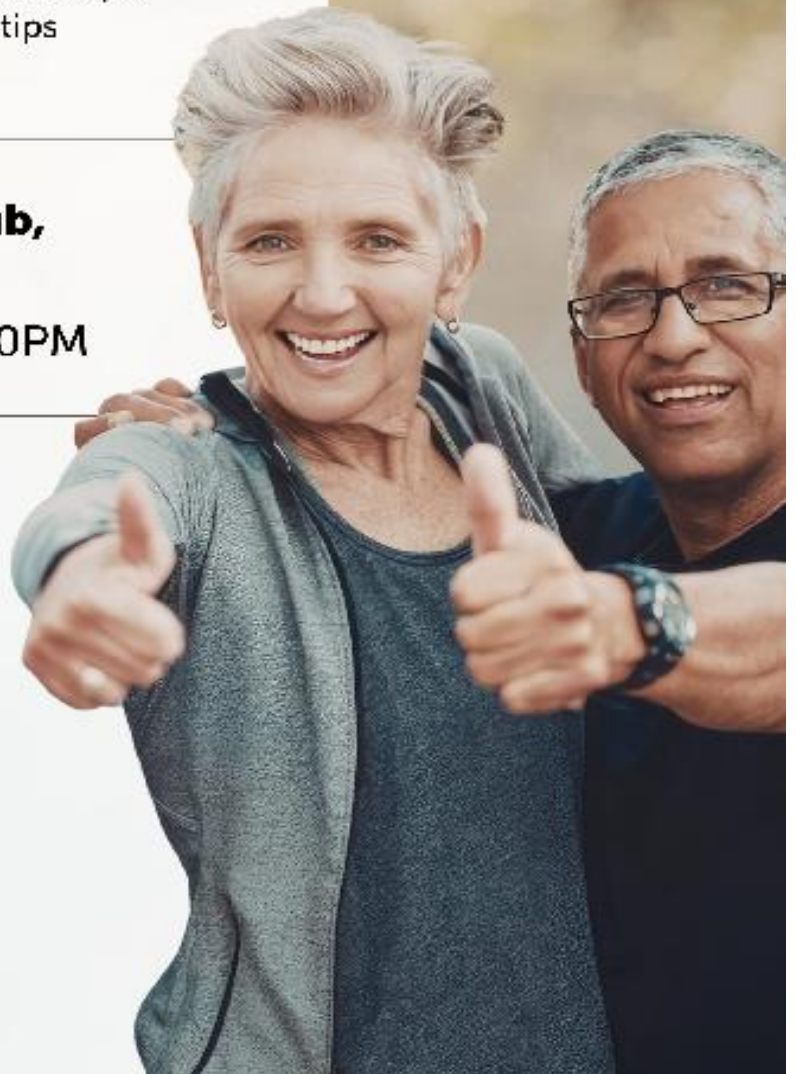
Basic Computer Skills Required

Participants will complete the assessment independently using provided laptops.



**Sign Up
Today**

www.ymcaofniagara.org



August 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  5 More Summer Please
2  All centres CLOSED Civic Holiday	3 Fingerprint Fireflies	4 Blow Painting - Make a Camp Fire	5 Adult - Kids Have Stress, Too	6 Adult - Nursery Rhymes: Small Songs, Big Benefits	7 Outdoor - Splash Pad Fun Pearson Park 10:30am	8
9	10	11	12 Adult - Settling Back into the Rhythm of School	13	14	15
Early Literacy Rainbow Fish		Campfire Snacks	Bottle Print Flowers		Windchimes	
Handprint Campfire 16	Under the Sea Pufferfish  17	18 Popsicle Picture Frames	19 Field Trip - Fire Station 10am (Registration required)	20	21  Nature Collage	22
Paper Plate Kites						
Shadow Art 23/30 Outdoor - Art in the Park 9:30-10:30am	24/31	25	26	27 Infant - Jellyfish Footprint Art 1-6pm (Registration required) 	28	29
Niagara West CLOSED all week (30th) 	Niagara West CLOSED (31st)		Adult - Helping Your Child with School Anxiety			Outdoor - Parachute & Bubbles

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

CLOSED FOR
SUMMER BREAK