



Child and Family Centre

October 2026

A Place to Play, Learn, and Connect

EarlyON Child and Family Centres are free, welcoming spaces where children from birth to age six can play, learn, explore, and make new friends while parents and caregivers connect, ask questions, and find support.

Whether you're dropping in for your very first visit or you're a familiar face, there's always something new to discover at EarlyON.



Children and Parent Interactive Programs

Play, create, sing, and explore together through hands-on activities designed for children and their parent or caregiver.



Outdoor Programs and Field Trips

Enjoy stroller walks, nature play, and outdoor adventures that get everyone moving.



Infant Interactive Programs

Small-group programs for babies from birth to 12 months and their caregivers.
[Registration is required and spaces fill quickly.](#)



Adult Programs

Workshops, resources, and practical parenting information from trusted professionals.



October Updates:

Monday, October 12 - All centres closed for Thanksgiving

Monday, October 26 - St. Anthony closed for the school PA Day



Self-Portraits

Niagara West | Saturday, October 3

Children use a variety of materials to create self-portraits while exploring creativity, self-expression, self-awareness and fine motor skills.

Five Little Ghosts - Story & Creative

Fairview | Sunday, October 4

The "Five Little Ghosts" story is a fun, gentle Halloween counting rhyme for children. We'll bring it to life using interactive storytelling and a fun ghost activity.

Apple Stamping

Niagara West | Wednesday, October 7

Apple stamping is a simple activity that combines art, sensory play and fine motor development. Come join us to create a beautiful fall picture.

Little Scientists - Colour Detectives

Thorold | Thursday, October 8

Put your detective skills to work! Find, match and sort colours while building observation, language and colour recognition skills.

Broccoli Trees

St. Anthony | Thursday, October 8

Broccoli makes a great fall leaf stamp! Come in today to make your own colourful, creative tree...Just don't eat it!



Paper Plate Turkeys

Fairview | Friday October 9

Get creative this Thanksgiving with a fun paper plate turkey craft while exploring colours, shapes and creativity!

Painted Turkey

Niagara West | Sunday, October 11

Using paper plates and sponges, children create colourful turkey feathers while developing fine motor skills and creativity.

Fork Painted Fall Tree

Grantham | Wednesday, October 14

This fun fall craft uses a fork to create colourful autumn leaves. Children can explore colours and textures while bringing their own fall tree to life!

Ghoulish Science

St. Anthony | Wednesday, October 14
3pm

Join our little scientists as we create bubbling, colourful monster lava lamps and explore science through a fun, simple experiment!



Little Artists - Fairy Mushroom Houses

Thorold | Thursday, October 15

Come celebrate the magical transition to autumn by creating and decorating your very own Mushroom Fairy House to display in your home.

String Spaghetti

Niagara West | Saturday, October 17

Use string as spaghetti to create your own pasta-inspired masterpiece. A fun, creative craft to take home and enjoy!

Halloween Cookie Cutter Art

Niagara West | Monday, October 19

Cookie cutter painting lets children explore art in a fun, hands-on way by stamping and printing with different cookie cutters.

Mini Pumpkin Painting

Fairview | Friday, October 23

A “spooktacular” craft for your little one to celebrate Halloween! Get creative and decorate your very own pumpkin to display on your porch.

Pumpkins will be limited. Please feel free to bring your own pumpkin to decorate.

M is for Monster - Literacy & Creative

St. Anthony | Friday, October 23

Get creative with the letter M! Use a variety of art materials to create your own silly, spooky, or friendly monster while building creativity, imagination and letter recognition.

Pasta Pumpkins

Niagara West | Saturday, October 24

Coloured pasta and paper pumpkins - imagine the beautiful masterpiece that will create!

Paper Roll Bats

Fairview | Sunday, October 25

Get into the Halloween spirit with a fun and spooky paper roll bat craft! Children can use their creativity to decorate their very own bat while exploring colours, shapes and textures.

Spider Web Water Painting

Grantham | Monday, October 26

This fun spider web craft uses a paper plate, white crayon and watercolours. Children can explore colours, creativity and fine motor skills while watching their spider web magically appear!

Pool Noodle Monsters

Fairview | Wednesday, October 28

Get ready for some Halloween fun with our silly and spooky pool noodle monster craft! Children can create their own friendly monster to take home and enjoy long after Halloween is over.

Lacing Spider Web

Niagara West | Wednesday, October 28

Lacing through holes helps children build fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and two-handed coordination—important skills for drawing, writing and self-help tasks.



Please register for **ONE** infant program per month

Sing & Sign

Thorold | Tuesday, October 6, 13 & 20
11:30am - 12:30pm

Registration Required*

In addition to verbal language, the introduction to simple sign language can encourage babies to communicate and may improve a caregivers ability to understand what baby is saying. This 3 week program is ideal for infants 4-10 months of age.

Infant Massage

Grantham | Thursday, October 15, 22 & 29
10am

Registration Required*

You will enjoy relaxing time together, benefit by improving baby's circulation, growth and development and much more. Register your baby (birth to pre crawling) for this 3 week program.

Infant Picasso - Baby Bumpkin

Fairview | Monday, October 19
9am - NOON

Registration Required*

Celebrate your little one's first Halloween with our adorable Baby Bumpkin activity! Using your baby's little bum (or feet) to create a pumpkin keepsake, families can capture a special memory of this festive milestone to treasure for years to come.



*To register for these programs, please email earlyon.admin@niagara.ymca.ca



Adult Information - Kids Have Stress, Too

Fairview | Thursday, October 1

Parents/caregivers, pick up information about Kids Have Stress Too! and learn simple ways to help children recognize, manage and cope with stress while building resilience and confidence.

Adult Information - The Importance of Secure Attachments in Early Childhood

St. Anthony | Tuesday, October 6

Learn why secure relationships are important for children's emotional well-being and development. Discover simple ways to build connection, trust and a strong sense of security through everyday interactions.

Adult Activity - Scrapbooking Your Baby's Memories

Fairview | Tuesday, October 13 | 1pm

Want to try scrapbooking but don't know where to start? Join us for a fun session where you'll bring a few photos and special memories of your baby, and we'll provide the materials and guidance to create a keepsake you'll treasure. We'll focus on a fall/Halloween theme. Babies welcome!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Adult Information - Hands-On Play and Why it Matters

Thorold | Wednesday, October 21

Hands-on play is an essential part of how children learn, grow and make sense of the world around them. Through building, moulding, pouring and exploring, children make meaningful connections that support learning and create a strong foundation for lifelong development.

Adult Information - Transitioning Through the Time Change

Niagara West | Sunday, October 25

Time changes can be difficult for both parents and children, from mood changes and regulations struggles to parental fatigue. Come pick up helpful tips to ease the stress of this transition.

Adult Information - Halloween Safety Tips

Grantham | Friday, October 30

Talking about Halloween safety helps children enjoy the excitement of the holiday while staying safe. Drop into the centre to learn some simple safety tips to help make Halloween fun, memorable and safe!



“EarlyON has given my child and me a sense of connection, support, belonging, and so many wonderful opportunities to learn and grow together.” - EarlyON parent



Outdoor and Library Adventures

Thorold Public Library | Friday, October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
9:30am - 11am

Join an EarlyON educator for an outdoor program, followed by a visit inside the library for fun activities and story time led by the librarian. A wonderful opportunity for children and families to explore, learn, and enjoy the library together!

Outdoor – Mud Kitchen Play

Grantham | Monday, October 5
10am - 11am

Join us for some outdoor mud kitchen fall fun at the park! Children will explore mud, leaves, sticks and other natural material through imaginative play. Come ready to get messy, create and enjoy the beauty of fall in the park.

Outdoor – Nature Walk with Sandra at Malcolmson Eco-Park

Malcolmson Eco-Park | Saturday, October 17
10:30am

Join Sandra promptly at 10:30 a.m. at Malcolmson Eco-Park for a nature walk along the beautiful trails. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the outdoors, enjoy the fresh air, and discover nature together. In the event of rain, the walk will be postponed and we look forward to seeing you in November instead!

Intergenerational Connection

Linhaven Nursing Home
Adult Day Program | October 20
9:30-10:15am

We will connect with seniors from the adult day program for stories, songs and other fun activities

Additional Support for Families



Niagara Region EarlyON

Looking for more EarlyON programs and resources across Niagara? Visit the Niagara Region EarlyON website to explore locations, parenting supports, program calendars, and helpful family resources. www.niagararegion.ca/living/childcare/early-years/

Niagara Parents

Parenting comes with plenty of questions, and you don't have to figure them out alone. Through Niagara Parents, you can **connect with a Public Health Nurse** on weekdays for trusted advice, helpful resources, and support on topics like pregnancy, newborn care, feeding, child development, behaviour, and family well-being.

Call **1-888-505-6074 ext 7555** or visit niagararegion.ca/parents



Inclusion Quality Coordinator

Through our partnership with **Niagara Children's Centre**, Inclusion Quality Coordinators are available to support children, families, and educators in creating welcoming, inclusive experiences for everyone. They can offer support with:

-  Developmental Milestones
-  Inclusive Play Strategies
-  Family Support

St. Anthony | Tuesdays (9am - 11:45am)
Thorold | Wednesdays (9am - 11:45am)
Grantham | Thursdays (9am - 11:45am)
Fairview | Thursdays (1pm - 4pm)

Highlights This Month



Early Forest Explorers

Every Thursday | 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Malcomson Eco Park

Come explore, play and create in the great outdoors! This month, children can use sticks, leaves, pinecones and other natural treasures to create their very own creepy-crawly creatures.

A fun, hands-on activity that encourages creativity, imagination and curiosity while exploring the textures, shapes and materials found in nature.

Dress for the weather and join us for some outdoor fun!

Halloween Fun!

Come join us for some Halloween fun at our EarlyON Centres! Dress up in your favourite Halloween costume, or come wearing black and orange if you wish. We'll have a variety of fun Halloween-themed activities set up for children and families to explore and enjoy!

 St Anthony EarlyON Centre

 Friday, October 30

 9am - 12pm

 Fairview EarlyON Centre

 Saturday, October 31

 9am - 1pm

 Niagara West YMCA EarlyON Centre

 Saturday, October 31

 8:30am - 11am



Come celebrate Halloween with us! 

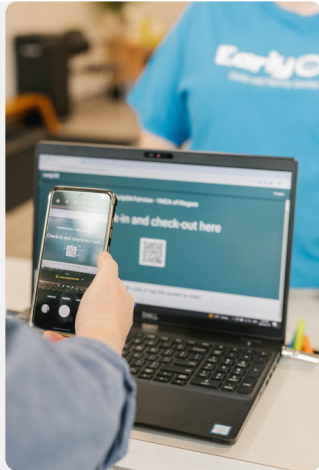
Find an EarlyON Near You

Your First Visit

EarlyON staff can help you sign up during your first visit.

Return Visits

For return visits, simply scan the QR code to sign in.



Grantham Centre

469 Grantham Avenue, St. Catharines
(905) 937-7007

earlyon.grantham@niagara.ymca.ca

Monday - Thursday 9am - 1pm

Friday 9am - 12pm

Fairview Mall Centre

285 Geneva Street, St. Catharines
(905) 646-4988

earlyon.fairview@niagara.ymca.ca

Monday & Wednesday 9am - 4pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 7pm

Friday 9am - 12pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

Sunday 10am - 1pm

Niagara West - YMCA of Niagara

325 Main Street East, Grimsby

(905) 359-3049

earlyon.grimsby@niagara.ymca.ca

Monday - Wednesday 4pm - 6pm

Saturday - Sunday 8:30 - 11am

St. Anthony Centre

81 Rykert Street, St. Catharines

(905) 650-7019

earlyon.stanthony@niagara.ymca.ca

Monday, Wednesday 9am-4pm

Tuesday, Thursday 9am - 1pm

Friday 9am - 12pm

Thorold Centre - Pope Francis

25 Whyte Avenue North, Thorold
(905) 658-6907

earlyon.thorold@niagara.ymca.ca

Monday - Thursday 9am-12:30pm

Friday 9am - 12pm

Friday 9:30 - 11am (Thorold Public Library)

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

EarlyON Centres - Fairview - Grantham - Niagara West - St. Anthony's - Thorold						
				1	2	3
				Adult - Kids Have Stress, Too	Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am	Self Portraits
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Five Little Ghosts Literacy & Creative	Outdoor - Mud Kitchen Play 10am - 11am	Infant - Sing & Sign 11:30am (Registration required) Adult - The Importance of Secure Attachments in Childhood	Apple Stamping	Little Scientists Colour Detectives Broccoli Trees	Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am Paper Plate Turkeys	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Painted Turkey	All centres closed! Thanksgiving! 	Infant - Sing & Sign 11:30am (Registration required) Adult - Scrapbooking Your Baby's Memories @ 1pm (Registration required)	Fork Painted Fall Tree Ghoulish Science @ 3pm	Little Artists: Fairy Mushroom Houses Infant Massage 10am (Registration required)	Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am	Outdoor - Nature Walk at Malcolmson Eco-Park 10:30am String Spaghetti
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Infant - Baby Bumpkin 9am - NOON (Registration required) Halloween Cookie Cutter Art	Infant - Sing & Sign 11:30am (Registration required) Intergenerational Connections @ Linhaven Adult Day Program 9:30am - 10:15am	Adult - Hands-On Play and Why It Matters Young Moms Group 10:30 - 11:30am	Infant Massage 10am (Registration required)	Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am Painting Pumpkins M is for Monster Mash - Literacy & Creative	Pasta Pumpkins
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Paper Roll Bats Adult - Transitioning Through the Time Change	Spider Web Water Painting CLOSED (School PA Day)		Pool Noodle Monster Friends Lacing Spider Web	Infant Massage 10am (Registration required)	Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am Adult - Halloween Safety Tips	Halloween Fun! Halloween Fun! 

For more information regarding activities listed, or to see if registration is required, please read through the newsletter.