

EarlyON
Child and Family Centre

November 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.

November Updates:

Monday, November 16 - Fairview & St. Anthony to close at 3pm.
Monday, November 16 - Niagara West closed.
Friday, November 20 - ALL centres to close at 11am.
Friday, November 27 - St. Anthony closed for the school P.A. Day.

Painting ROCKS!

Fairview | Sunday, November 1

Join us for a fun and creative rock painting activity. Families are invited to paint and decorate rocks using their imagination, creating unique masterpieces for home or to share in the community.

Pasta Bracelets

Niagara West | Wednesday, November 4

As children thread colourful pasta onto string/yarn, they can explore colours, patterns, textures and their own creativity, while developing their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Science with Sandra

Fairview | Thursday, November 5
5:30pm and
St. Anthony | Wednesday, November 25
3pm

Sandra is calling all young scientists to come experiment, explore and discover! Children will have the opportunity to make predictions and ask questions while observing what happens. You never know where science will take you!

Leaf Man

Grantham | Friday, November 6

Inspired by the story “Leaf Man” by Lois Ehlert, this nature based craft invites children to explore autumn leaves and use their imaginations to create their own Leaf Man!

Waves of Wonder - Ocean Exloration

St. Anthony | Friday, November 6

Join us as we explore the beauty of WAVES! Come create your own wave of wonder using luminescent and reflective materials.



Pinecone Bird Feeders

Niagara West | Saturday, November 7

As the cold weather approaches, let’s help our little feathered friends. Afterwards, hanging the finished feeders outside will provide opportunities for ongoing observation and discussion about our local wildlife.

The Story of Diwali: Puppets & Paper Diyas

Fairview | Sunday, November 8

Discover the traditional story behind the Festival of Lights! We will gather for a storytime featuring fun stick puppets to learn about Diwali. Afterward, families can work together to create beautiful paper diyas to take home.

Mystery Water Shape Find

Thorold | Monday, November 9

We’ll explore mystery water sensory play, searching through cloudy, opaque water to find hidden shapes. Using hands and senses, they’ll discover submerged objects and identify different shapes while developing curiosity, fine motor skills, and sensory awareness.

Family Tree

St. Anthony | Monday, November 9

Come join us for a fun family tree craft. Explore your creativity using a variety of materials to make your own unique family tree. A wonderful opportunity to create, explore and celebrate the people who make your family special.

Paper Plate Trees

St. Anthony | Thursday, November 12

Let's explore the beauty of fall using household items and leaves that we will collect from outside.

Pickle Person

Niagara West | Saturday, November 14

National Pickle Day, so let's design our own pickle character with eyes, a smile, arms, legs and any other features you think your pickle person might need to give it it's own unique personality.

Celebrate Sharing

Fairview | Saturday, November 14

Sharing can feel like a challenge for young children. Join us for a fun reading of the book "How Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends" to learn how big dinosaurs practice being kind. Then we'll get creative by making dinosaur footprints using toy dinosaurs and paint!

Make a Crown

Niagara West | Wednesday, November 18

To celebrate National Children's Day, let's celebrate all children around the world by using various items and our creativity to create a special crown to wear.

There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly - Literacy & Creative

Thorold | Thursday, November 19

Children can listen to this funny story, then participate in a cute craft to bring home.

Paper Plate Peace Signs

Fairview | Friday, November 20

As YMCA Peace Week comes to a close, families are invited to join us to create a paper plate peace sign. Together we'll celebrate the important message of peace in our community.

Science - Floating Drawings

Niagara West | Wednesday, November 25

Children will draw on a glass pie plate with dry-erase markers, then gently add water to watch their pictures lift and float! This fun experiment encourages curiosity, predictions, and early scientific exploration.

Risky Play in the Gym!

Grantham | Thursday November 26

Come explore, climb, jump, balance and move! An exciting gym experience where children can safely challenge themselves, build confidence, develop motor skills and explore their abilities through active play in a supportive environment. Let's get moving, take safe risks and have fun together!

Cooking Experience - English Muffin Pizzas

Niagara West | Saturday, November 28

Making english muffin pizzas is a fun, hands-on cooking activity that encourages children to explore food and practice important life skills. As they spread the sauce, sprinkle the chees and choose their toppings, they develop independence and learn about food preparation as an enjoyable experience.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie - Literacy & Creative

Fairview | Sunday, November 29

Inspired by the beloved story "If you Give a Mouse a Cookie", this literacy and creative experience combines storytelling with hands-on fun. Children will enjoy the story, then create a themed craft that brings the book's characters and adventures to life. This activity supports early literacy development while encouraging creativity, imagination and fine motor skills.

Infant Interactive Programs

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

Infant Massage

Niagara West | Tuesday, November 10, 17 & 24
5:30pm
Registration required*
You will enjoy relaxing time together, benefit by improving baby's circulation, growth and development and much more. **This 3 week program is for parents/caregivers with infants birth to pre-crawling.**

Sing & Sign

Fairview | Wednesday, November 11, 18 & 25
2pm
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.**

Love My Baby

Grantham | Monday, November 16, 23 & 30 at 10am
OR
Niagara West | Wednesday, December 2, 9 & 16 at 5pm
Registration required*
Through singing, caregiver conversations and interactive activities, we will cover the importance of making connections through love, language and learning. **Ideal for parents/ceregivers with infants up to 12 months of age.**

Infant Picasso - You Are A-MAIZE-ing

Fairview | Wednesday, November 18
9am - Noon
Registration required*
Together, we'll make adorable keepsakes by turning your baby's (**birth - 12 months**) footprints into colourful corn on the cob, creating a special memory to cherish. Don't forget to bring baby wipes for easy clean-up after the fun!

Infant Picasso - Footprint Snowmen

Niagara West | Sunday November 22
9am - 10:30am
Registration required*
Footprint art is a special keepsake to remember just how little they once were. Today, we'll turn their tiny footprints into adorable snowmen!



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

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Adult Information - Pumpkin Compost

Thorold | Tuesday, November 3

Halloween has come and gone, so what do we do with those old pumpkins? Learn how to introduce composting with a fun, hands-on science activity that can be done at home.

Adult Information - Mirror Play: Exploring Reflections & Loose Parts

Grantham | Tuesday, November 10

Join us for a fun, hands-on exploration of mirrors, reflections and loose parts. Children and caregivers will discover how objects look, move and change in mirrors while exploring their curiousity, creativity and imagination and we'll have information for parents/caregivers about the benefits that come from playing with loose parts.

Adult Activity - Craft & Connect

Fairview | Thursday, November 12

1:30pm

Registration required*

Bring a few favourite photos of your little one, their baby book, and special cards or keepsakes. Join our talented volunteer, Jeniffer, an EarlyON mom and artist, for a relaxed time to get creative and connect with other parents while turning special moments into beautiful memories for your children to treasure. Bring your infant along or come on your own and enjoy some creative time just for you.

Adult Information - Helping Little Hands Learn to Cut

Grantham | Thursday, November 19

Come out and discover simple tips, activities and age-appropriate ways to help little ones build find motor skills, hand strength and coordination while learning to use scissors safely. Perfect for parents and caregivers looking to encourage learning through play.

Adult Information - Screens, Snacks & Structured Activities

Thorold | Tuesday, November 24

Toddlers enjoy a balanced routine that includes age appropriate screen time, healthy snacks and engaging structured activities. These experiences support social interaction, independence, learning and development while keeping the day fun, active and engaging. Come in for ideas on how to find this balance.

Adult Information - Tips to Raising Resilient & Emotionally Healthy Children

St. Anthony | Monday, November 30

Come recieve some information in the centre and chat with the staff about the importance of connection, emotional regulation and sturdy parenting in raising resilient children.



Outdoor and Library Adventures

Thorold Public Library | Friday, November 6, 13, 20 & 27
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!

Intergenerational Connection Linhaven Nursing Home

Adult Day Program | November 17
11am - Noon

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

Outdoor - Nature Walk

Malcolmson Eco-Park | Saturday, November 14
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 December instead!

Outdoor – Active Adventure Zone

Pearson Park | Saturday, November 21
11am - Noon

Bundle up and join us as we transform Pearson Park into an exciting outdoor gross motor obstacle course! We'll start with an active walking storytime and then get moving with a high-energy scavenger hunt featuring tunnels, balance pods, and agility challenges. This fun-filled morning celebrates every child's right to play, move, and explore. We can't wait to see you there!

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!

‼️ Centre Closure Notice - Monday, November 16 ‼️

To recognize and celebrate the dedication of our EarlyON educators, staff will be attending an Appreciation Dinner on Monday, November 16.

Please note the following schedule changes:

- Fairview EarlyON Centre: Closing at 3:00 p.m.
- St. Anthony EarlyON Centre: Closing at 3:00 p.m.
- Niagara West EarlyON Centre: Closed for the day

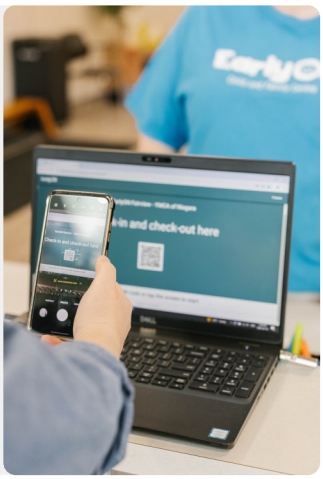
We thank you for your understanding as we take this opportunity to celebrate our educators and acknowledge their commitment to supporting children and families throughout our community.



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.



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

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)

Grantham Centre
469 Grantham Avenue, St. Catharines
(905) 937-7007
earlyon.grantham@niagara.ymca.ca

Monday - Thursday 9am - 1pm
Friday 9am - 12pm

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

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*Please email earlyon.admin@niagara.ymca.ca to register

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 🟣 Painting ROCKS!	2	3 🟢 Adult - Pumpkin Compost	4 🟡 Pasta Bracelets	5 🟣 Science with Sandra 5:30pm	6 🟢Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am 🔵 Leaf Man Art 🔴 Waves of Wonder - Ocean Exploration	7 🟡 Pine Cone Bird Feeders
8 🟣 The Story of Diwali: Puppets & Paper Diyas  **Diwali**	9 🟢 Mystery Water Shape Find 🔴 Family Tree	10 🔵 Adult - Mirror Play - Exploring Reflections & Loose Part 🟡 Infant Massage 5:30pm (Registration required)	11 🟣 Infant - Sing & Sign 2pm (Registration required) **Remembrance Day** 	12 🔴 Paper Plate Trees 🟣 Adult - Craft & Connect 1:30pm (Registration required)	13 🟢Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am	14 🟣 Celebrate Sharing 🟣 Nature Walk at Malcolmson Eco-Park 10:30am 🟡 Pickle Person
15   **Louis Riel Day**	16 🔵 Infant - Love My Baby 10am (Registration required) 🟣 **Close at 3pm** 🔴 **Close at 3pm** 🟡 **Closed**	17 🟡 Infant Massage 5:30pm (Registration required) **Intergenerational Connections @ Linhaven Adult Day Program 11am - NOON**	`18 🟡 Make a Crown 🟣 Infant - "You Are A-Maize-ing" Footprint Art 9am - NOON (Registration required) 🟣 Infant - Sing & Sign 2pm (Registration required)	19 🟢 *There Was An Old Lday Who Swallowed a Fly* - Literacy & Art 🔵 Adult - Helping Little Hands Learn to Cut	20 🟢Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am 🟣 Paper Plate Peace Signs **ALL centres closing at 11am** **National Child Day** 	21 🟣 Outdoor - Active Adventure Zone Pearson Park 11am - Noon
22 🟡 Infant - Footprint Snowman 9am-10:30am (Registration required)	23 🔵 Infant - Love My Baby 10am (Registration required)	24 🟢 Adult - Screens, Snacks and Structured Activities 🟡 Infant Massage 5:30pm (Registration required)	25 🟡 Science - Floating Drawings 🟣 Infant - Sing & Sign 2pm (Registration required) 🔴 Science with Sandra 3pm	26 🔵 Risky Play in the Gym	27 🟢Outdoor & Library 9:30 - 11am 🔴 Closed for school P.A. Day	28 🟡 Cooking Experience - English Muffin Pizzas
29 🟣 *If You Give a Mouse a Muffin* - Literacy & Art	30 🔵 Infant - Love My Baby 10am (Registration required) 🔴 Adult - Tips to Raising Resilient and Emotionally Healthy Children					

EarlyON Centres

🟣 - Fairview
🔵 - Grantham
🟡 - Niagara West
🔴 - St. Anthony's
🟢 - Thorold