

Journey Together

Child and Family Indigenous-led Outreach Program
for EarlyON and Licensed Child Care Centres



BACKGROUND

- The Province of Ontario released a call for proposals in 2017 to service system managers and Indigenous organizations to enhance access to culturally relevant, Indigenous-led early years programs and services off-reserve.
 - Initiative under “The Journey Together: Ontario’s Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples”
- The Ministry of Education approved the joint-collaboration proposal made by Peel Region and The Indigenous Network ([TIN], formally known as Peel Aboriginal Network [PAN]) to create an Indigenous-led Outreach Program for EarlyON and licensed child care centres
- Peel continues to have an on-going contractual agreement with TIN

PROGRAM GOALS

- To provide Indigenous-led cultural activities and awareness for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and families
- To increase licensed child care and EarlyON staff knowledge of Indigenous culture
- To create inclusivity to Indigenous children and families and support improved outcomes for Indigenous children based on the foundations of “How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (HDLH)?”



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



- Programs are led by Indigenous Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) within selected EarlyON sites (20) and licensed child care programs (40)
- Located in a review area in Peel region with a dense Indigenous population (based on census data)
- TIN has established Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements with EarlyON and licensed child care centres to deliver programming in specific sites across Peel

PROGRAM OVERVIEW (Continued)



- Target Audience:
 - **Children 0-12 years** in licensed child care (including before & after school programs)
 - **Children 0-6 years** and **families and caregivers** who attend EarlyON programs

PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Who leads and delivers the program?

The team of Indigenous RECE Outreach Workers from TIN visits selected program/sites 2-4 per month.

How was the program designed?

The RECEs plan the programs with consideration to exploring each session's focus within the Target Audience. For instance, EarlyON programs are catered towards families, caregivers, and children from birth to six years of age while program design in licensed child care centres are intended for various age groups from birth to 12 years of age. Each plan allows for flexibility to foster the children's interest and influence the direction of planned experiences.



PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FAQ (Continued)

What sorts of experiences are planned for this program?

Exploring traditional teachings, (i.e., moons, basic language and phrases, smudging, hand drumming, etc.), a sense of self and creative expression. This includes programs that are experienced in indoor or outdoor settings.

What type of materials are presented during the programs?

Hand drums, books, tactile materials (i.e., furs, felts, hide, etc.), stuffed animals/puppets, snowshoes, moccasins, tipi replicas, stone carvings, arts & crafts supplies (i.e., paint, drawing materials, beads, feathers, salt dough, etc.)



FAQ (Continued)



Is there any cost for families to participate?

This program is free for participating EarlyON and licensed child care locations.

Do they have a website?

Link: <https://theindigenousnetwork.com/journey-together-program/>

How do families sign-up and attend?

Families are welcome to go to the EarlyON calendar (<https://infopeel.ca/earlyon>) and search 'Journey Together' for time, date, location details.