

EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

Introduction to EarlyON Centres



What is EarlyON?

- EarlyON Child and Family Centres (EarlyON) are free, drop-in and registered in-person and online programs for children aged birth to 6 years old. They are funded in partnership with Peel Region and the Government of Ontario.
- At EarlyON centres, children and their families can learn, grow, and connect together, joining inclusive high-quality programs such as storytelling, songs and games.
- Families can interact with qualified early years staff to learn more about child development, parenting supports and other community resources.
- EarlyON is not child care. At EarlyON, families attend and learn alongside their children.



EarlyON Providers

- Peel Region does not directly deliver EarlyON programs. The providers below develop and deliver EarlyON programs in Peel, in alignment with Peel Region guidelines.



Sites in
Brampton,
Mississauga



Sites in
Mississauga



Sites in
Caledon



Sites in
Brampton,
Mississauga



Sites in
Brampton,
Mississauga



Sites in
Brampton,
Mississauga



Sites in
Brampton,
Mississauga



Site in Brampton,
provides Indigenous-
led programming in
existing EarlyON
centres across Peel

EarlyON Goals

Provincial goals for EarlyON require programs to be responsive to community needs and reflect the perspectives of children birth to six years and their families. Goals for children and parents/caregivers include:

Children

- Access to play and inquiry-based learning opportunities alongside their caregivers, including French-language programs, authentic Indigenous-led programs and culturally responsive programming for Indigenous children and families, based on local need
- Experience positive development, health, and well-being

Parents/Caregivers

- Access to high quality programs that support their role as children's first educators
- Experiences that enhance their well-being and enrich their knowledge about early learning and development
- Opportunities to strengthen their relationships with their children through play
- Receive up-to-date information about community resources

Mandatory Core Services

Providers are required to deliver the following services in EarlyON centres:

Supporting Early Learning and Development

Build responsive adult-child relationships, encourage children's exploration, and promote play and inquiry. Based on How Does Learning Happen, supports skills for life-long learning.

Engaging Parents and Caregivers

Enrich authentic relationships, invite sharing, provide outreach opportunities responsive to community needs and work with other supports to enhance parent and caregiver well-being

Making Connections for Families

Build relationships with community partners, respond to child development concerns, create connections to services, provide information about services beyond the early years

Programs and Services

In addition to mandatory core services, EarlyON centres offer a variety of programs and services for families in their community, including:

Child Development Supports

Providing opportunities for families to connect with EarlyON Resource Consultants regarding concerns about their child's development. Also includes the Peel Infant Parent Program, delivered at select EarlyON locations

Journey Together

Indigenous-led programming allowing children and families to experience and participate in Indigenous activities while learning about the Indigenous community. Delivered by Indigenous RECE staff employed by The Indigenous Network

French-Language Services

There are two dedicated French-language EarlyON centres in Peel, in addition to French-language programs that are delivered across the Region.

Customized Programs

Programs that, in collaboration with a community partner, meet the needs of underserved communities, address gaps in service and support the mental health and well-being of families. Could include programs for Dads, post-natal supports. Supported with dedicated funding.

Foundations of Family Support

- In EarlyON, staff use a strengths-based approach to enhance parents' and caregivers' resilience and competence, promote children's well-being, and connect families to resources and their community.
- Family support programs take a shared view of families as competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience informs our relationships with families and has a significant impact on children.
- Early childhood development research, including How Does Learning Happen, highlights the importance of strong, respectful, and reciprocal relationships with families.
- EarlyON staff create environments that welcome families into the space, inviting their perspectives and providing opportunities for families to participate in meaningful ways, which supports their sense of belonging.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

- Peel Region and EarlyON providers have been working to enhance DEI practices to ensure that all families can enjoy welcoming places that support their child's growth and development.
- Key achievements to date include:
 - All EarlyON providers have developed DEI action plans.
 - DEI professional learning has been introduced for all EarlyON staff and leaders.
 - The Continuous Quality Improvement tool has been enhanced to further embed DEI as a key element of quality.
 - EarlyON providers, in partnership with community agencies, deliver customized programs that support underrepresented groups.
- See our EarlyON DEI summary report: [Our Intentional Journey of Growth](#).



What Should Families Expect to See in an EarlyON Centre?

EarlyON is intended to be a safe and welcoming learning environment for all families, including parents, caregivers, grandparents and children.

At an EarlyON centre, families will experience:

- A variety of educational and play-based activities and programming catered to children's development growth and designed to meet the unique needs of families that attend
- Activities that help parents/caregivers and children bond and connect
- Neutral interior design that is warm and welcoming for all families
- Space that is designed to cultivate sensory exploration for children

Who Supports EarlyON Centres?

When attending EarlyON centre programs, families should expect to interact with a variety of qualified professionals, who work together to provide the support and connections that families need. This includes:

- EarlyON staff, including Registered Early Childhood Educators, Family Support Facilitators, Community Outreach Facilitators, and Program Support: develop and deliver programs, can help families learn more about child development
- EarlyON Resource Consultants: available to discuss children's needs and facilitate referrals to needed resources, if required
- Guest speakers/facilitators: subject matter experts or community agency partners, to deliver specific programming



How Do Families Access EarlyON?



- Families, professionals and community partners can find information about the location and schedules of EarlyON programs online through the program calendar function on [InfoPeel](#).
- InfoPeel also allows families to register for programs that require pre-registration. Other programs are drop-in.
- Families can also search for a nearby EarlyON site by visiting the [Ontario EarlyON website](#) and entering a city, address or postal code.

Peel Region EarlyON Team

The Peel Region EarlyON team works with EarlyON providers to fund, plan, and manage the delivery of EarlyON programs across the Region. This includes:

Ensuring equitable access to programs

Developing and updating EarlyON guidelines for providers

Supporting providers in their use of technology (OCCMS, GovGrants)

Working with providers on key initiatives, including DEI and Continuous Quality Improvement

Funding and providing oversight to other agencies (CDRCP, EveryMind, The Indigenous Network)

Monitoring and assessing the delivery of EarlyON to inform service planning