

Have a Question?



What is an Ontario Early Years Centre?

An Ontario Early Years Centre is a place for parents and caregivers of children, up to the age of six, to get information about their children's development and about services to support that development. Every Ontario Early Years Centre offers the services listed below. The programs and services are free to all parents and caregivers of young children.

- Early learning and literacy programs for parents and children.
- Programs to help parents and caregivers in all aspects of early child development.
- Programs on pregnancy and parenting.
- Links to other early years programs in the community.
- Outreach activities so all parents can get involved with their local Ontario Early Years Centre.

Who works at Ontario Early Years Centres?

Trained early years professionals and caring volunteers work at Ontario Early Years Centres. The Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services provides training for staff of Ontario Early Years Centres to help them offer quality services across the province.

Why are the early years important?

The years before six are the most influential to a child's development. How we care for our children during the first six years sets the stage for their lifelong learning, behaviour and health.

What types of services do the Ontario Early Years Centres offer?

Ontario Early Years Centres offer services and programs for parents of children up to the age of six. Staff at the Centres can help you:

Teach your child to read

- Get ready to be a parent if you are going to have a baby.
- Learn new parenting skills.
- Meet the needs of your family by offering information about other community programs.

Are there services to help children with special needs?

Yes. Ontario Early Years Centres are designed to meet the needs of all parents with young children. Each Centre is linked to child and family health and social services in the community. Staff at the Centres can refer parents to other services as needed. The focus of the Ontario Early Years Centre is to help all parents give their young children the best start in life.

Are the services free?

Yes. All services at Ontario Early Years Centres are free to parents and caregivers of young children. If you are a parent or caregiver of a child, up to the age of six, you are welcome at the Ontario Early Years Centre in your community. To find out the nearest centre in your community, call 905-890-9432 or visit www.ontarioearlyyears.ca/locations/

Are there services at Ontario Early Years Centres for children above the age of six?

Ontario Early Years Centres offer programs and services for children up to the age of six. Staff at the Centres also help families find information about other community services.

Where is the Ontario Early Years Centre in my community?

Many Ontario Early Years Centres will also have satellite locations and mobile programs to serve parents and caregivers in their own communities. To find out the nearest centre in your community, call 905-890-9432 or visit www.ontarioearlyyears.ca/locations/

Where does the money to fund the Ontario Early Years Centres come from?

Funding for Ontario Early Years Centres comes from the Canada Health and Social Transfer. Through this, the federal government transfers funds to provinces to improve early years programs and services.

I already use the types of services that Ontario Early Years Centres offer somewhere else. Why should I visit one?

Ontario Early Years Centres are a gateway to services and programs for young children. There may be programs, services and resources that you don't know about but would find helpful.

When is my Ontario Early Years Centre open?

Every Ontario Early Years Centres has different hours. To find the hours for your Ontario Early Years Centre, call 905-890-9432 or visit the Ontario Early Years Centre website at www.ontarioearlyyears.ca/locations, then go to the Centre Info page for information about its hours. You may also contact the Centre directly for more information.

I need to find child care for my kids. Can you help?

Yes. Ontario Early Years Centres can provide you with a list of child care services in your community. Call 905-890-9432 or call the centre directly.

What is the Newborn Literacy Kit?

The Newborn Literacy Kit is a set of items created to encourage parents and caregivers to read to their children right from birth. The kit includes a book by award-winning author, Barbara Reid, a video, a CD or audiocassette by Kathy Reid-Naiman and a passport to store records like immunization cards. As well there is information on early childhood development and about the Ontario Early Years Centres.

www.ontarioearlyyears.ca is the source for this information.