

## EarlyON Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: September 27, 2021

**Welcome to Oakville Parent-Child Centre's EarlyON programs. We are glad you are joining us and look forward to supporting your child's learning and development and your family's wellbeing.**

In this document, you will find some useful information to help you feel comfortable in our programs and protect everyone's health and safety. If, at any time you have any questions or concerns please share them with us. We are here to help.

*Please note that all procedures and policies are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of yourself, your children and our staff. Due to the changing nature of local restrictions, all public health and government regulations will override this document. Our staff do not have the authority to make any exceptions, so please do not ask them to.*

### **1) What safety measures are in place to ensure the health and safety of my family when coming to the programs?**

With everyone's wellbeing in mind, and in accordance with public health and Ministry of Education guidelines, we have adopted the following practices:

- Self-assessment screens are to be completed for EACH person (parent (caregiver) and child), each day prior to arrival at programs. You will receive an email each morning that you are scheduled to come to program, which will link you to the screen. Once completed for each person and a pass has been given to attend program, please take a screen shot of this as you will be required to show this before entering the building.
- In addition to the self-screen, we will conduct an active screen when you arrive at our programs, and at this time, we will take each person's temperature to ensure it is below 37.8-degree Celsius
- All outside visitors deemed essential (ie: health inspectors, health nurses, region/ministry personnel) will be required to do a health screen prior to entry into the program.
- Upon arrival to program, screening will be conducted, followed by each person required to do a thorough hand washing with soap and water.
- If you are unable to attend a program, we would appreciate it if you could notify us. Please provide your name, the program and location you are registered in and reason for absence.
- *It is particularly important that we know if you are absent due to illness.*
- Please report absences by either:
  - **Texting: 905-919-3495**
  - **Calling: 905 849-6366 press 0 for reception**
  - **Emailing: [info@op-cc.ca](mailto:info@op-cc.ca)**
- All adults and children 6 years and over are required to wear facial coverings at all times while participating in our programs. This includes outdoors. Reasonable exemptions to this policy may be made due to medical conditions and is at the discretion of OPCC management. Exemptions will be documented for our records.

- While not mandatory, we highly recommend that children 3 years and over wear masks.
- All equipment and high touch surfaces will be cleaned between programs in accordance with public health recommendations.
- We have put HEPA air filtering systems in all of our locations and will operate during our sessions.
- Adults will be responsible for placing all toys that have been in a child's mouth into a designated bin.
- We have replaced most of our natural toys with more washable toys to allow for effective sanitizing. Toys that are not easily cleaned will be removed from the program for your safety.
- Materials that cannot be sanitized, such as books, will be isolated for the public health guidelines suggested period time.
- Please put your cellphones away while you are in our programs. Your children need your focus, attention and guidance more than ever.
- If you need to leave the room for any reason, we ask that you take your children with you.
- In the event of a cancellation, we will email you by 9 am in the morning and provide a virtual alternative for that day.
- Please make an effort to physical distance between families.

## 2) Do we need to show proof of vaccination to participate in EarlyON programs?

- Proof of vaccination is **ONLY** required at our Q.E Park Community Centre location as this space is in a **Town of Oakville recreational site**. As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. Individuals who cannot receive the vaccine due to medical exemptions will be permitted entry with a doctor's note until recognized medical exemptions can be integrated as part of a digital vaccine certificate. Children who are 11 years of age and younger and unable to be vaccinated will also be exempted from these requirement" (Ontario Provincial Government., 2021).
- Our Oakwood Public School and North Service Rd locations **DO NOT require proof of vaccination.**

## 3) What locations will EarlyON programs be running in?

- Oakwood Public School (357 Bartos Dr)
- North Service Rd – Satellite (481 North Service Rd W #25)
- Q.E.Park Community Centre, 2302 Bridge Rd - **Due to Covid Screening Restrictions, families are asked to use the main or aquatic doors to enter the building and provide proof of vaccination to Town of Oakville Staff.**

## 4) Does OPCC have a Covid-19 Immunization Disclosure Policy for EarlyON Staff?

- **Yes! OPCC has implemented an agency wide, Covid-19 Immunization Disclosure Policy.** This policy is applicable to all employees of OPCC, volunteers, students, any licensee who regularly interacts with children, staff or families and any person who provides other services to a child who receives care. All individuals covered by this policy must provide one of the following: 1. Proof of all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the World Health Organization. 2. Written proof of a medical reason, provided by either a physician or nurse practitioner that sets out: a. that the person cannot be vaccinated

against COVID-19; and b. the effective time period for the medical reason 3. Proof that the individual has completed an educational session approved by OPCC.

- Individuals subject to the policy who are not fully vaccinated must regularly complete an antigen point of care testing for COVID-19 and demonstrate a negative result, twice a week.

## 5) Who can attend EarlyON?

EarlyON programs are for families with children newborn to 6 years. We regret we are unable to accommodate older children in our programs. Although multiple caregivers can be on the membership account (so mom and dad can take turns participating), one adult per family will be admitted. This helps to ensure we can meet physical distancing and accommodate as many families as possible. Please note, that if you are registered and have completed the screening, you may come and go anytime within programs hours.

## 6) What should I do before I arrive at the program?

Completion of the electronic health screen for yourself and your child before arrival and be sure that no one is exhibiting any of the symptoms indicated in the screen. We will be diligent about this and will send participants home if they do not pass screen. OPCC will require to see the screen completed and allow those into the building that have passed the screening. **Please note that if you or your child has ONE symptom of covid, you must stay home and follow public health guidelines.** If you do not pass the screen, you cannot come to the program and are required to contact medical attention (contact your doctor) to determine next steps. \*\* If you are attending from another region, you may be asked to complete a different screening tool based on Public Health requirements.

## 7) What happens when we arrive?

We are committed to your wellbeing and will do everything we can to make sure your visit is safe and at the same time fun and stimulating for you and your children. Our capacities are based on government guidelines and requirements.

- Prior to entry into the program, we will ensure that you are registered and have completed the health screening for EACH of the people attending the program.
- We follow all mandatory restrictions put in place by the Province of Ontario, the Regional Municipality of Halton and our local public health department. This means that circumstances and rules can change from time to time.
- We will be taking each person's temperature to ensure that it is below 37.8 degree Celsius

## 8) What kinds of things will we do in the program?

- Programs will be more structured than they used to be, with our staff guiding & leading more activities. This allows some distancing, while still sharing a sense of connection & contact with each other.
- We will encourage families to interact respecting the 6-foot distancing requirement, but we know that children love to be close together and this is to be expected. When children get close, do not worry, we

have the handwashing guidelines, bins for mouthed and dirty toys and sanitizing guidelines in place to allow for some interaction.

- In order to be diligent, follow the guidelines and understanding the impulsive nature of children, we ask that you put your cellphones away for the duration of the program. Your children need your focus, attention and guidance more than ever.
- Our staff clean and sanitize all materials between programs, so we ask that you support them by following our procedures and adhering to our program times.
- Families are dismissed in a way that ensures distancing protocols can be adhered to.

## 9) Weather

- Our outdoor programs will move inside if need be due to extreme weather. If we are not able to move inside the building, we will offer a virtual program and families will be contacted by 8:30 a.m. to notify you and send you a link. As well, we will continue to offer some virtual programs each week if this is your preference at this time.

## Program Checklist:

- Registered in advance for the program
- If you are attending an outdoor program, please dress appropriately
- Pass the pre-screen for all attending before coming to the program
- Ensure you have masks for those attending – over 5 years
- Ensure you know how to report an absence and keep us informed if you are going to be away
- Come ready to have lots of fun!