

## EarlyON Programs at Oakville Parent-Child Centre

### Frequently Asked Questions

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 you, 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:

- The Ministry of Education requires all families to participate in cohorts or groups. In order to ensure compliance with this requirement, families are limited to one program per session.
- Self-assessment screens are to be completed for EACH person, each day prior to arrival at programs. You can find the provincial assessment tool for [here](#). Adults should screen as a visitor.
- In addition to the self-screen, we will conduct an active screen when you arrive at our programs.
- 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.
- 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.* You can report your absence by:
  1. Texting us at **905-919-3495**
  2. Calling us at 905 849-6366 press 0 to get reception
  3. Emailing us at [info@op-cc.ca](mailto:info@op-cc.ca)
- All adults and children 5 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. Any exemptions will be documented for our records.

- While not mandatory, we highly recommend that children 3 and over wear masks.
- As much as possible, equipment is provided in a manner that allows only one child/family to use it. ie: single use playdough, individual selection of toys for each family in the program
- 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
- Adults will be responsible for placing all toys that have been put in a child's mouth immediately in the designated sink/bucket
- 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 bagged, sealed and isolated for 7 days.
- 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.
- Please bring indoor shoes for everyone
- There is no food allowed in programs at this time. You are welcome to bring drinks to consume while in programs.

#### **OUTDOOR PROGRAMS:**

- Dress warmly and in layers for full enjoyment of the outdoors. See our dressing for winter video [here](#) for some helpful tips.
- Depending on the weather, we may play on site or find some adventures walking around our neighborhoods.
- In the event of a cancellation, we will email you by 9 am the morning and provide a virtual alternative for that day.
- Please maintain a minimum 6 foot distance between you and other families.
- Masks are required for all adults and children 5 and over.

### **2) What locations will EarlyON programs be running in?**

To meet the increased cleaning requirements we will be operating programs in the spaces we are not sharing with other groups. This includes Oakwood Public School (357 Bartos Dr), QE Park (2302 Bridge Rd. **Please use the Yolanda Street entrance.**) and our satellite location at 481 North Service Road West. We are hopeful that we will be able to expand back into some of our community sites in the future.

### **3) Who can attend EarlyON?**

A reminder that 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 cohorting requirements and accommodate as many families as possible.

### **4) How do I access the programs?**

1. Create a membership – Sign up for a membership [here](#). You will receive a family ID number once your registration is complete. Save this number. Your family ID number is the gateway to accessing all programs and registration information.
2. [Register for the programs](#) you wish to attend. There may be limits placed on the number of programs you can register for.
3. Make sure you register the adult that will be attending as well as the children.

You will receive confirmation of your registration and the program you are enrolled in.

\*\* If you are a home childcare provider and will be attending with children from different families, please call our office at 905-849-6366 to arrange your membership.

\*\* If you want to stay home, we have daily virtual programs available for your family to enjoy. Registration for virtual programs is sent weekly and available to our members on Fridays.

## **5) Before arriving at the program**

Review 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 send anyone with ANY of the symptoms on the screen home immediately. Please note that if you or your child has ONE symptom of covid, you must stay home and follow public health guidelines.

\*\* If you are attending from another region, you may be asked to complete a different screening tool based on Public Health requirements.

## **6) 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.

### **ALL PROGRAMS:**

- Our capacities are based on government guidelines and requirements for social distancing.
- Prior to entry into the program, we will ensure that you are registered, on our attendance list 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.
- Social distancing measures are in place. Families are to keep a minimum of 6 feet apart. We ask that you remain physically with your children and attentive at all times to help them learn about these new measures. This includes in outdoor programs.

### **INDOOR PROGRAMS:**

- Please wash your hands and put your mask on before settling into the program. It is not recommended that children use hand sanitizer, so we ask that all family members to wash their hands with soap and water to set a good example for the children. We also know it is the preferred way to reduce the spread of viruses.

- You will find individual family play areas in each program with a variety of toys that will be yours to play with for the duration of the program. This will allow us to do our best to ensure physical distancing.
- We will need your help in ensure that children are not sharing toys/moving toys to keep cross contact to a minimum. There may be additional toys available for your child to choose, however they must be brought to your designated play area and kept there.
- At the end of the program, the EarlyON staff will provide direction on where to put the toys so we can clean and disinfect them for the next group of families.
- Food will not be allowed/provided in our programs for the time being. You are welcome to bring a drink in a labelled container as long as they are kept with you at all times.

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

- Our programs will be more structured than they used to be, with our staff guiding and leading more activities. This allows distanced interactions while still sharing a sense of connection and contact with each other.
- A variety of materials will be available for you and your child. Materials like playdough and crafts are provided in a single use format allowing just your family to enjoy it, and then take it home with you. Sensory play is provided in a similar way with individual bins available in your play space.
- We will encourage families to interact respecting the 6-foot distancing requirement, but we know that children love to be close together and we expect this. When children get close, do not worry. We will help you gently direct your child back to the play area.
- In order to be diligent, follow the new 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.

## Program Checklist:

- |                                                                       |                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ Registered in advance for the program                               | ✓ Had a healthy breakfast or snack prior to coming to program                             |
| ✓ Passed the pre-screen for all children and adult attending programs | ✓ Have indoor shoes to change into                                                        |
| ✓ Know how to report an absence                                       | ✓ Masks for adults and children 5 and over (mandatory) and children 3 and over (optional) |
| ✓ Have warm clothes for EVERYONE for outdoor time                     | ✓ <b>Ready to have lots of fun!</b>                                                       |

- ✓ **In Closing:** We are excited and honored to be able to work and play with your family. While it will look and feel different for a little while longer, together we can ensure we care for ourselves, our families and each other. And remember.... we love to hear from you. Please feel free to share your suggestions, experiences, stories and questions by contacting us at 905 849-6366 or by email at [info@op-cc.ca](mailto:info@op-cc.ca)

