



Hamilton Early ON Child and Family Centres (EarlyON CFC) Progress Update - June 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The City is in the process of developing a new EarlyON Child and Family Centre (EarlyON CFC) system that will be phased in throughout 2018 and beyond. The previous Parenting and Family Literacy Centres & Ontario Early Years Centres are now part of the EarlyON CFC system.

Since June 2016, the City has been planning with representatives from the Ministry of Education, local school boards, and community-based agencies who deliver early years programs.

Feedback from you and other families in our community has played, and will continue to play, an important role in decision-making. We want the new EarlyON CFCs to respond to the needs of families. Each site will provide the same level of high quality service, however the specifics of each site, such as hours or days of operation, may vary based on local community need. Our long-term vision is to move towards full-service locations, however based on feedback we have received, we recognize that:

- ✓ Full service means that you can expect the full range of services and the same high-quality programming at the many EarlyON CFCs across Hamilton. However, each location may look a little different based on neighbourhood needs (e.g. hours or days of operation).
- ✓ This is an ongoing journey – as family needs change, the locations will need to adjust or change to meet these needs.
- ✓ It is important for us to continue to maintain outreach across the community, in addition to the full-service locations. It is also important that if services are relocated, we work collaboratively with you to ensure a smooth transition for your family.

Based on this feedback, we are pleased to announce a number of new EarlyON CFC locations. These locations take into account the availability of space in schools, demographic and geographic data, utilization rates, and proximity of similar services within the area. Many of these locations will build upon the previous Ontario Early Years Centre or Parenting and Family Literacy Centre locations. Operator decisions have been made in order to build upon existing relationships and other services at each location, such as licensed child care. Please visit www.hamilton.ca/earlyoncentres/ for a full list of EarlyON CFC locations, including operators and hours of operation. As locations, operators and hours of operation continue to evolve and change based on the feedback we hear from the community, we will continue to provide updates on this webpage.



We recognize that some of these locations will mean a change in site and/or operator for some neighbourhoods. In these cases, we will be planning open houses in the late summer/early fall so that you and your children have an opportunity to visit the new centres and meet new staff.

We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available. A family engagement survey is currently underway and can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/ParentsSayEarlyON>. Please complete the survey so that we can continue to hear what is most important to you and your family. We are committed to working together to continue to evolve and strengthen the system.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact eycp@hamilton.ca.