

**Municipality Of Chatham-Kent**

**Community Human Services**

**Child Care and Early Years**

**Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Kelly Emery,  
Director, Child Care and Early Years

**Date:** July 27, 2018

**Subject:** EarlyON Child and Family Centres

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This report is for the information of Council.

**Background**

It has been almost a decade since the inception of the Best Start Initiative in Chatham-Kent. This initiative brought together local government, school boards, and agencies serving children ages 0-6 (with a vision of 0-12 years of age) together with parents to plan and deliver enhanced early learning and childcare services. In 2011, the majority of **Best Start** funding was transferred from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) to the Ministry of Education, Early Years Implementation Branch, leaving only \$477,977 with MCYS. Best Start funding was terminated effective March 31, 2016.

In February 2016, the Ministry of Education announced the plan to integrate and transform all existing child and family programs funded by the Ministry of Education into EarlyON Child and Family Centres. On March 21, 2017 it was determined that the Municipality would directly deliver programming in the EarlyON Child and Family Centres in Chatham-Kent.

The Municipality is receiving provincial funds in the amount of \$1,328,681 annually to support the full cost of operations and management of EarlyON Child and Family Centres in Chatham-Kent.

**Comments**

The new EarlyON Child and Family Centres are pleased to announce that since opening in January of 2018, Early Years Educators continue to build new connections in each community. These partnerships, along with responsive programming, have contributed to a steady rise in membership numbers and social media followers.

Families with children ages 0-6 visiting EarlyON Drop-In programs will experience:

- Children discovering, creating, playing and making friends;
- Adults exploring and learning together with children in a healthy and engaging play environment; and
- Support, friendship, advice and connections to other community services.

Currently there are 8 EarlyON Centres across Chatham-Kent, as well as additional events and programming in public areas where families gather, such as parks and pools. Collaboration continues with community partners to meet a wider variety of family needs through referrals, program planning, and program delivery.

Further details on EarlyON Drop-In Programs and special events can be found on the Chatham-Kent municipal website at the following link: [www.chatham-kent.ca/earlyon](http://www.chatham-kent.ca/earlyon)

Chatham's EarlyON Child and Family Centre grand opening will take place on September 17, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Queen Elizabeth School, 79 Eugenie Street, Chatham.

The Mayor and Council are invited to attend this event; please see the invitation attached as Appendix A.

### **Consultation**

There was no consultation required in producing this information report. The Director of Child Care and Early Years and the Early Years Supervisor, in conjunction with Early Years staff, planned the grand opening event to maintain compliance with the Ministry of Education's guidelines and expectations.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications with this information report.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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Kelly Emery, RECE  
Director, Child Care and Early Years

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April Rietdyk, RN, BScN, MHS, PhD PUBH  
General Manager,  
Community and Human Services

Attachment: Appendix A, Invitation to Chatham EarlyOn Centre Grand Opening

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You're invited to our



Grand Opening!

A decorative banner with a red ribbon, colorful balloons (green, yellow, purple, pink), and confetti. A pair of blue scissors is shown cutting the ribbon. The text "Monday, Sept. 17" is written in white on the red ribbon.

Monday, Sept. 17

**OPEN HOUSE 9:00am - 12:00pm**

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY 10:00am**

Meet our staff and enjoy some refreshments!  
Tour our **EarlyON Child and Family Centre!**

Queen Elizabeth II Public School, 79 Eugenie St. Chatham

Please register to join us! 1.866.720.7975