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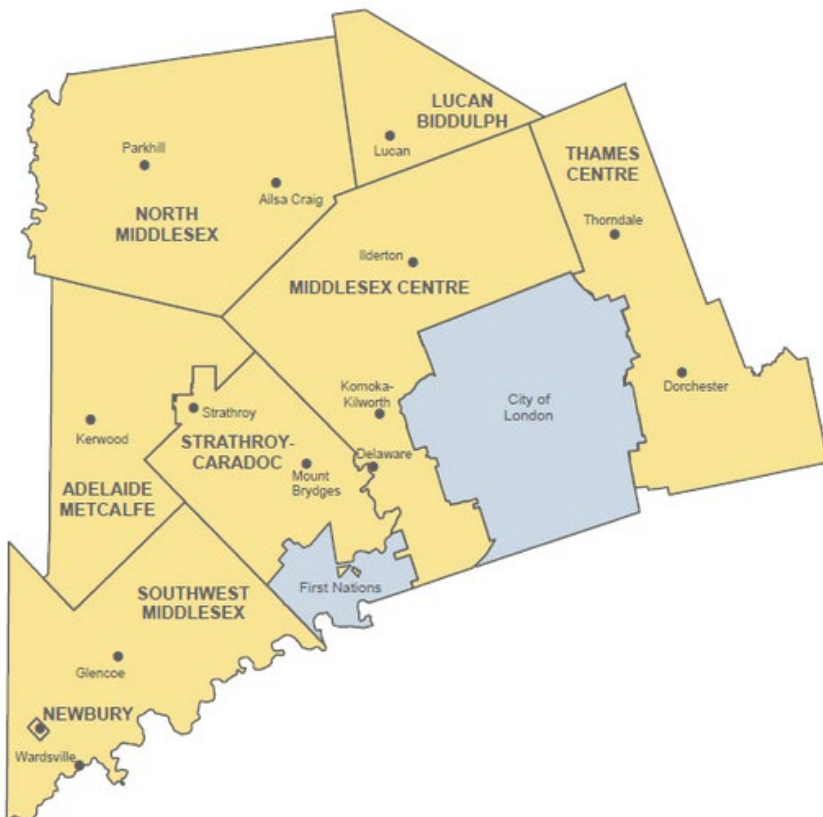
In 2023, the EarlyON team delivered regular drop-in Play & Learn and Baby Time programs in nine locations across the County. Our Open Spaces program continued to be a popular draw for families looking for an outdoor adventure. Ready Set Learn was back in-person for 2023, supporting a number of families with the transition to kindergarten. New for 2023 was Bounce Back and Thrive, a parent workshop focusing on resiliency and self-regulation and the delivery of Roots of Empathy at River Heights Public School. The team continued to support the delivery of a variety of other special programs as well.

This Year-in-Review provides highlights of the variety of program opportunities offered over 2023 by the Middlesex EarlyON Team.

About our Families

EarlyON Child & Family Centres collect information from families to establish a database of visitors of caregivers and children to programs. The information collected includes Municipality of residence, contact information and number and ages of children.

A total of **588 new families** were registered with EarlyON in 2023.



- 10 families from Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
- 43 families from Township of Lucan-Biddulph
- 41 families from Municipality of North Middlesex
- 130 families from Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- 130 families from Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- 35 families from Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
- 64 families from Municipality of Thames Centre
- 1 family from the Village of Newbury
- 134 families registered who reside outside of Middlesex County

In-person Programs



Types of In-person Programs

329
Baby Time Programs

Baby Time: Baby Time is a play-based learning opportunity for infants 0 to 12 months of age and their caregivers. Our EarlyON Facilitator leads the group in singing and moving with baby as well as conversations around infant topics.

513
Play & Learn Programs

Play & Learn: Play & Learn offers a play-based learning opportunity for children 0-6 years of age and their caregiver (s) in one of our indoor library program spaces. Activities planned by our EarlyON facilitators encourage positive parent and child interaction and inspire play and learning. We also offer a circle time (songs and stories) at the end of program.

Our outdoor Play & Learn programs offer a play-based learning in our Thorndale and Ilderton outdoor play spaces. Seasonal.

39
Open Spaces Programs

Open Spaces Outdoor Adventures: Open Spaces offers free play and adventures in learning in the great outdoors. Child(ren) take the lead in these nature-based programs. Best suited for children 2 to 6 years of age, but children from 0-6 years are welcome.

19
Special Programs

Special Programs: We offer on occasion indoor and outdoor special programs and events. Examples include visits to Splash pads, Apple Land field trips, Neighborhood Open Houses, Krafty Kids and more!

16
Ready Set Learn sessions
in 3 communities

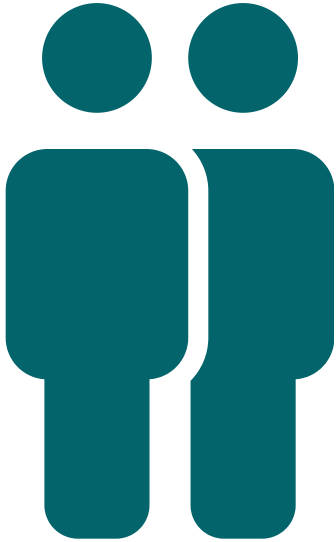
Ready Set Learn: Ready Set Learn is a 4-week program that will provide caregivers and their child with a learning experience that will support a successful school start. Each week we offer activities that will support children in developing skills and behaviours integral to the school transition. As well, caregivers are able to engage in conversations with our Early Childhood Educator on a variety of learning and development topics.

14
Evening or Saturday Programs

Evening or Saturday programs: On occasion we offer a special program on a Saturday or in the evening to support working caregivers/parents unable to attend our regular programs.

In 2023, EarlyON Facilitator Donna Fleming was trained to offer **Roots of Empathy**. Through this program children are coached to recognize and connect with the vulnerability and humanity of a baby who visits their classroom throughout the school year with their parent(s), along with a trained Roots of Empathy Instructor. Donna delivered **6 sessions** through Nov-Dec 2023 at River Heights Public School in Dorchester, serving **25 unique children**.

Our Program Reach



When a family first visits a location for an in-person program, they are marked as unique (new). If a family visits another location for an in-person program, they are again marked as unique at that respective location. All children and caregivers/parents are marked as visitors each time they attend a program.

2,482
unique
children

2,055
unique
caregivers

11,369
total visits
by children

8,944
total visits
by caregivers

Program Participation



Baby Time

738
unique children
& caregivers

3,529
visits by children
& caregivers



Play & Learn

3,327
unique children
& caregivers

14,740
visits by children
& caregivers



Open Spaces

536
unique children
& caregivers

989
visits by children
& caregivers



Special Programs

73
unique children
& caregivers

620
visits by children
& caregivers



Ready Set Learn

51
unique children
& caregivers

269
visits by children
& caregivers

Program Reach per Community



Ailsa Craig

2 programs

14
unique children
& caregivers

58
visits by children
& caregivers

Coldstream

10 programs

154
unique children
& caregivers

259
visits by children
& caregivers

Dorchester

117 programs

533
unique children
& caregivers

2,788
visits by children
& caregivers

Glencoe

85 programs

198
unique children
& caregivers

1,068
visits by children
& caregivers

Ilderton

154 programs

935
unique children
& caregivers

3,397
visits by children
& caregivers

Kerwood

1 program

13
unique children
& caregivers

13
visits by children
& caregivers

Komoka

64 programs

577
unique children
& caregivers

1,858
visits by children
& caregivers

Lucan

90 programs

435
unique children
& caregivers

1,326
visits by children
& caregivers

Mount Brydges

84 programs

298
unique children
& caregivers

1,406
visits by children
& caregivers

Newbury

1 program

16
unique children
& caregivers

16
visits by children
& caregivers

Parkhill

101 programs

235
unique children
& caregivers

1,420
visits by children
& caregivers

Strathroy

167 programs

1,073
unique children
& caregivers

5,635
visits by children
& caregivers

Thorndale

47 programs

313
unique children
& caregivers

1,069
visits by children
& caregivers

Virtual Programs

Bounce Back and Thrive is a resiliency skills training program designed to meet the needs of parents (and those in a parenting role) of children under the age of 8. BBT helps parents gain self-regulation and thinking skills that increase their capacity to provide caring relationships and role model resilience-building skills in daily interactions with their children. Then, it shows parents how to directly introduce basic resiliency skills to children, and that helps children bounce back and thrive. This program is 10-weeks and offered in the evenings virtually.

Baby Time Special Topics: Our EarlyON Facilitator Allison offers a special topic for caregivers with infants under the age of 12-months. These include Infant Massage, Secure Attachment, Making your Own Baby Food, Sleep topics, CPR/First Aid



84
unique
children

107
unique
caregivers

264
total visits
by children

308
total visits
by caregivers

Facilitating Connections

The EarlyON Team is available to support families in facilitating connections to family-centered services, providing information on parenting or child-development topics and other types of consultations to support caregivers in their role.

In 2022, the team was involved in over 450 individual consultations.

The majority of connections made were in the area of early learning/parenting and safety (e.g. car seat safety).

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING SUPPORT

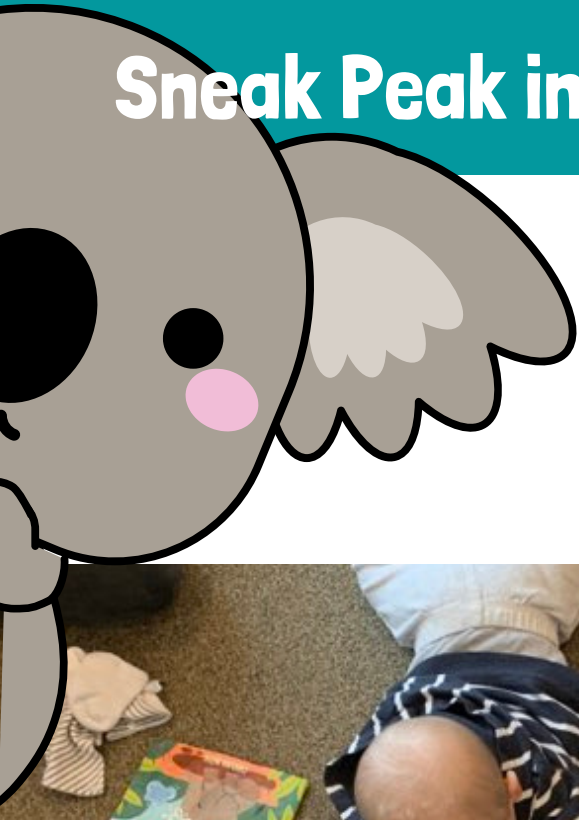
Evidence shows that the earlier development is assessed—the greater the chance a child has to reach his or her potential.

Our team supported many families in 2023 in discussing topics such as: Physical Growth, Social/Emotional Development, Motor Skills, Language Development and More! The team connected families to a variety of family-centered services to support child development.



Over 250
developmental
screens completed
with caregivers

Sneak Peak inside a Baby Time Program



Take a peek inside one of our Baby Time programs! Check out our short video on our YouTube Channel. It will give you a glimpse of what you and your child can expect at any of our programs across the County.



SCAN ME



Sneak Peak inside a Play & Learn Program



SCAN ME

Take a peek inside one of our Play & Learn programs! Check out our short video on our YouTube Channel. It will give you a glimpse of what you and your child can expect at any of our programs across the County.



Sneak Peak inside an Open Spaces Program



SCAN ME

Take a peek inside one of our Open Spaces programs! Check out our short video on our YouTube Channel. It will give you a glimpse of what you and your child can expect at any of our programs across the County.



Ready Set Learn Program

Ready Set Learn is a 4-week program that will provide caregivers and their child with a learning experience that will support a successful school start. Each week we offer activities that will support children in developing skills and behaviours integral to the school transition. As well, caregivers are able to engage in conversations with our Early Childhood Educator on a variety of learning and development topics.

Our Ready Set Learn Program in 2023 supported over 40 families. We offered 4 programs - one in Dorchester, one in Ilderton and two in Strathroy.

Highlights of the impact the program had on school readiness are outlined below:

- 100% reported having a better understanding of the value of doing the activities learned to support school readiness
- 84% reported using what they learned to do something new or different to support school readiness
- Over 92% reported learning something new to support school readiness.



What did you like about the program?



Format/structure. Mirrored a true FDK program/day.

The effort put in to getting the kids to be independent right from the moment you walk in the door. Including coat, boots, mitts.

It was very much like a classroom setting right down to finding their name on their coat hook.

Very organized/planned out each week to target behaviours and skills that children will need for school.

This is such an amazing program and it was great to see all the children interacting and us as parents being able to see what we need to do at home in order to support ourselves and our children as they embark on this new and exciting journey going to school. I also have to mention that the Facilitator Donna was amazing. She created a very calm environment to support all the children in the room, she created great activities for the children to practice and encouraged conversations for parents to discuss.



Sneak Peak inside a Ready Set Learn Program



Take a peek inside one of our Ready Set Learn programs! Check out our short video on our YouTube Channel. It will give you a glimpse of what you and your child can expect at one of our programs.



Other Special Programs

Some examples of other special programs offered in 2023!

Krafty Kids!

Families enjoyed making seasonal crafts.
Ilderton, Dorchester, Strathroy
December 2023



Apple Land Station

Families went on an adventure to Apple land Station!
Thorndale, two program opportunities
October 2023



Celebrating Diversity

Families enjoyed a variety of crafts, giggled & wiggled through bubbles & danced to children's pop music. Families also enjoyed storytime with special guests who shared stories about friendship and kindness.
Parkhill, Strathroy and Thorndale
April-July 2023



Ska-Nah-Doht

Families went on an adventure to Ska-Nah-Doht Village
Mount Brydges
September 2023



Splashpad Week

We took Play & Learn on the road to splash pads across
the County in 12 locations!
August 2023



Roots of Empathy

In November, Miss Donna began a program in a kindergarten classroom at River Heights Elementary School called **Roots of Empathy**. This program teaches children about their own feelings and feelings of others.

Once every three weeks baby Makai and his mom will visit the classroom. The children will gather together and watch him grow over 27 weeks. Miss Donna will coach the children in observing and reading the cues Makai gives as to how he is feeling. "Is he sad/happy? How can you tell?" We use this discussion as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and understand how their classmates feel. Miss Donna will also visit the classroom before and after each family visit to prepare and reinforce teachings.





Family Feedback

In 2023, families were given the opportunity to provide feedback around the local child care and early years service system. This feedback would help shape the priorities for a 5 year service system plan. **Six hundred and nine (609) caregivers participated.**

Below are some highlights pertaining to feedback around EarlyON.

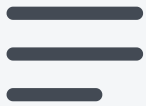
- There was a lot of interest in additional days/week of programming
- Respondents had great interest in more Open Spaces opportunities including number of spaces per program, number of program per week, more locations, and weekend opportunities
- Desire for expansion of outdoor play spaces in more locations
- More use of parks and splash pads for outdoor programs
- More sensory options and accommodations in programs
- More Indigenous focused days



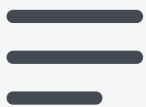
2024 Priorities

In response to the feedback provided, the following are some of the priorities for 2024:

1



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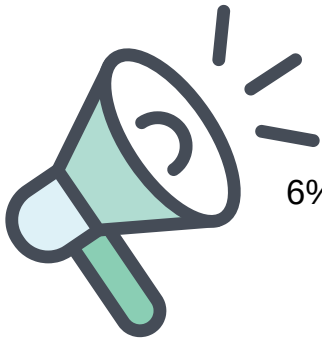
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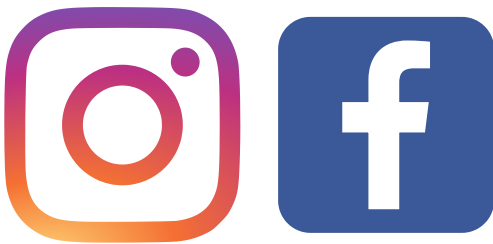
- Advocate for additional funding to support EarlyON operations in a large geographic rural area
- Explore engaging opportunities to provide occasional evening and weekend programs for working parents and to respond to emerging community needs for programs and services through EarlyON
- Explore opportunities for developing and offering inclusive and culturally-relevant programs or spaces for Indigenous, Francophone, 2SLGBTQIA+ and Newcomer families and for children with special or complex needs

Communication & Promotion

Upon registration, families are asked how they heard about Middlesex EarlyON programs.



- 38% reported Family or Friend
- 21% reported Social Media
- 16% reported EarlyON/Library Staff
- 10% reported Library Website
- 6% reported Middlesex Family Connections/familyinfo.ca
- 3% reported child care
- 2% reported health provider
- 2% reported other communications

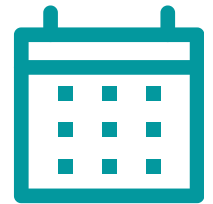


Families are also supported through the sharing of information on family-centered services and parenting information by social media and email.

Over 2000 Facebook followers
871 Instagram followers

Month-at-a-glance calendar

Each month we create a month-at-a-glance calendar. This calendar will include drop-in and registration-only programs by location. Any known cancellations we will also include.



Our Socials

We use our socials to share program information and any cancellations. We will also share stories and pictures from our programs from the previous month and any news!



Email

We use our email list to share program information and any cancellations.



library.middlesex.ca/events

Visit our library website for more information on EarlyON programs and other early years & adult programs offered in branches across the County!



earlyon@middlesex.ca
519-666-3227



@middlesexearlyon



@EarlyONMiddlesex



Drop-in Programs are available across the County!



Dorchester Library Branch
2123 Dorchester Rd, Dorchester

Glencoe Library Branch
123 McKellar St, Glencoe

Ilderton Library Branch
40 Heritage Drive, Ilderton

Komoka Library Branch
1 Tunks Lane, Komoka

Lucan Library Branch
270 Main St, Lucan

Mount Brydges Library Branch
22501 Adelaide Rd, Mount Brydges

Parkhill Library Branch
229 B Parkhill Main St, Parkhill

Strathroy Library Branch
34 Frank St, Strathroy

Thorndale Library Branch
21790 Fairview Road, Thorndale

Open Spaces Programs are also available across the County!

Dorchester Conservation Area

Komoka Provincial Park

Lucan Conservation Area

Longwoods Conservation Area

Strathroy Conservation Area

North Rail Trail Ilderton

Wye Creek Thorndale

and more!



MEET THE TEAM

Allison Beauchamp, EarlyON Senior Facilitator

Allison is a Registered Early Childhood Educator with +25 years of experience in the early years' field. For the past 19 years she has been with the Ontario Early Years Centre (known now as Middlesex EarlyON). She has past experience working all age groups in licensed child care as well as supervisory and executive director experience in licensed child care. She also has her Developmental Service Worker Diploma and worked in that field when she first graduated college.

Allison facilitates programs in Mount Brydges as well as all our Virtual programs. She is trained in Reaching in, Reaching Out, and trained and facilitates Bounce Back & Thrive (resiliency and self-regulation). She is also trained in Ages & Stages (ASQ-3 & ASQ:SE-2), Make the Connection (infant attachment) and Infant Massage.



Donna Fleming, EarlyON Facilitator

Donna is a Registered Early Childhood Educator who started with Ontario Early Years Centre in 2017 (known now as Middlesex EarlyON). She has worked with children in various roles for most of her life- from summer camps, Sunday school, daycare and home child care, to teaching English in a kindergarten in Hong Kong.

Donna facilitates programs in Dorchester, Thorndale and Ilderton. She also facilitates our Open Spaces Program and Ready Set Learn Program. Donna is trained in Ages & Stages (ASQ-3 & ASQ:SE-2) . Donna also facilitates Roots of Empathy.



Sarah Sutherland-Sebo, EarlyON Facilitator

Sarah, a Registered Early Childhood Educator and resident of Middlesex County, comes to the early years team with experience as a kindergarten classroom RECE with Thames Valley District School Board as well as child care program provider for newcomer children. She also has previous experience with the YMCA and as a Community Home Child Care provider.

Sarah facilitates programs in Strathroy, Glencoe and Parkhill. She is trained in Zumbini.



Ki Hulley, EarlyON Facilitator

Ki has been a Registered Early Childhood Educator for 10 years. Prior to commencing with Middlesex EarlyON, Ki worked with London Bridges Child Care Services where she provided care and facilitated learning in all classrooms, stepped in as acting director, mentored students, and lead professional development workshops for educators. Ki has specialized training in sleep training, supporting children with autism and children's mental health.

Ki facilitates programs in Lucan, Komoka and Ilderton.

