

It  
starts  
with  
kids



[york.ca/children](http://york.ca/children)  
#StartswithkidsYR

  
York Region

## **Mission Statement**

Working together to provide access to inclusive services for all children and families of York Region, through collaborative partnerships with the early years community.

# It starts with kids



## Healthy communities start with kids.

The early years are the most important in forming a child's foundation for success.

When kids are successful, communities are strengthened and enriched.

York Region's Integrated Children's Services supports children, families, child care providers and the community in providing high-quality services so children have the best start in life and grow to become part of strong communities.

### Supports and services include:

- Information on finding quality child care
- Help paying for child care and recreation
- Services for children with special needs
- Child and family programs
- Supports for child care operators





## Free Recreation and Sport Programs

For eligible children and youth ages 4 to 18 and single parents participating in at least one of the following programs:

- Ontario Works
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities
- Rent Subsidy
- Child Care Fee Subsidy (income below \$36,000)

Participate in recreation programs at your local community centre with qualified recreation staff. Includes arts and crafts, dance, martial arts, sports, swimming, yoga and much more!

Gym memberships and drop-in activities may also be available.



Call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 or visit [york.ca/recreationsubsidies](http://york.ca/recreationsubsidies) for more information.

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# Free Summer Camp

For eligible children ages 4 to 13 of families participating in select Social Services Programs:

- Ontario Works
- Rent Subsidy
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities



Call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 or visit [york.ca/recreationsubsidies](http://york.ca/recreationsubsidies) for more information.



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# Support for school-age children

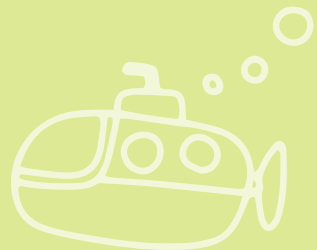
York Region is committed to enhancing access and inclusion for children with special needs in licensed child care. This includes children with special needs attending licensed after-school programs in York Region.

Inclusion Support Services assists early learning and child care professionals in their duty to accommodate all children by focusing on inclusive practices for the active and meaningful participation of all children.

Inclusion Support Services provides the following supports to licensed school-age programs, caring for children ages four to 13, in York Region:

- Collaborative classroom consultation for early learning and child care professionals by a York Region Early Interventionist
- Capacity building educational opportunities on inclusive practices
- Learning opportunities to promote children's social and emotional skills, and interest in learning through Positive Early Childhood Education Program (PECE) coaching
- Connections to other resources in the community, including children's mental health supports and York Region school boards
- In partnership with the early learning and child care program, the Early Interventionist will develop a classroom plan tailored to the needs of the after-school program to build more inclusive practices to support children of all abilities

Licensed school-age programs can make a classroom or child-specific consultation request by submitting the [Inclusion Support Services School-Age Consultation Request Form](http://york.ca/specialneeds) at [york.ca/specialneeds](http://york.ca/specialneeds)





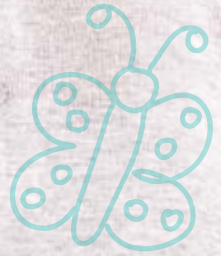
## Finding quality child care

Where and with whom child(ren) spend time can impact their development, which is why it's important to ensure that kids are receiving the highest quality of care.

But understanding options and selecting quality child care can be hard if you don't know what to look for.

York Region can help and provides information and resources to support families.

Call the **Kids Line** or visit [york.ca/children](http://york.ca/children) to download resource packages and to access child care site maps.



## Paying for child care and recreation

Kids need to be cared for while parents go to school or work.

York Region helps eligible families who choose formal care to pay for licensed child care and arranges payment directly with the child care provider.

The subsidy that families can expect to receive is based on a provincial income test and whether the parent(s) is employed, enrolled in an education or training program or, in some cases, where there may be exceptional circumstances.

York Region also helps eligible families pay for recreation programs, day camps and youth leadership camps.

When kids are successful, communities are strengthened and enriched.

Call the **Kids Line** or visit [york.ca/children](http://york.ca/children) for more information and to apply.





## Special needs services

If you're worried about your child's development, York Region can help.

York Region delivers a variety of programs in-home or in licensed child care settings to support families of children with special needs.

Services are available for children who:

- Live in York Region or attend licensed child care in York Region
- Are at risk due to prematurity, low birth weight or other birth complications
- Have delays in development
- Have a diagnosis such as Cerebral Palsy, Autism or Down Syndrome

Call the **Kids Line** or visit [york.ca/specialneeds](http://york.ca/specialneeds) to find out which special needs programs are best for you.





## EarlyON Child and Family programs

Playtime has great benefits.

It helps to build a child's confidence, communication and social skills and supports overall emotional and physical development.

It also provides opportunities for parents and caregivers to connect, share experiences and learn from each other.

EarlyON programs offer free support services to parents, caregivers, and their children from birth to six years old. It provides opportunities for parents and caregivers to connect, find supports, get advice, share experiences and learn from each other.


Visit [york.ca/EarlyON](http://york.ca/EarlyON) to search for York Region locations that offer drop-in programs in your community.

## Supports for child care operators

York Region offers funding for child care operators through the *Child Care Services Agreement*. Child Care operators who enter into this agreement with York Region can receive funding in the form of

- Child care fee subsidy
- Subsidy for staff salaries, including Wage Enhancement Funding
- Supports for building inclusive learning environments
- Special purpose funding

Visit [york.ca/childcareoperators](http://york.ca/childcareoperators) for more information.





## Keeping your information private

To provide your family with services that best meet your needs, York Region may ask you for personal information and personal health information. All information will be held in strict confidence and no information will be shared outside of York Region Integrated Children's Services without your permission or informed consent.

If you have any privacy concerns, contact:  
Community and Health Services Access and Privacy  
1-877-464-9675 ext. 74056 or CHSPrivacy@york.ca

Call **KIDS LINE** at 1-888-703-KIDS (5437),  
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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