



Ontario Early Years Centre Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What is CROW?

Children's Resources on Wheels (CROW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and strengthening child care, family life, child development and community links in Lanark County. We currently provide Lanark families with two main streams of service: Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) and Licensed Child Care.

What is the OEYC?

There are 103 Ontario Early Years centres in the province of Ontario. Ontario Early Years Centres are parenting centres where parents and caregivers can:

- take part with their children in a range of programs and activities.
- get answers to questions.
- get information about programs and services that are available for young children and their families.
- talk to early years professionals, other parents and caregivers in the community.
- get information about community programs and services that are available for young children and their families.

How is OEYC funded?

The Ontario Early Years Centre receives funding from the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. This funding supports the main programs of the Centre (see what does the OEYC do, below). The OEYC also receives funding from the County of Lanark and the United Way of Lanark County to fund other projects and programs.

Who does OEYC report to?

The OEYC reports to the Children's Resources on Wheels, volunteer, Board of Directors and to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, as well as the County of Lanark and the United Way of Lanark County.

What does the OEYC do?

The Ontario Early Years offers playgroups, parent education workshops and support, school readiness and early learning and information links to community services. We work with a number of community partners to plan and deliver programs, workshops, and support to families.

Where are OEYC programs and services?

The OEYC main office is in Smiths Falls and OEYC programs and services are delivered throughout the County of Lanark. For more information about specific program and service locations go to our website at www.crowoeyc.com or phone 613-283-0095 (toll free at 1-800-267-9252).



Who can access OEYC?

Families and caregivers of children 0-6 years old can participate in OEYC programs.

How old do children have to be to attend programs?

Ontario Early Years Centres offer programs and services for children up to the age of six. Staff at the Centre also helps families find information about other community services. While the focus is on the early years, staff may have information about other services and programs for children older than six.

How much does it cost to attend OEYC programs?

Free! All services at Ontario Early Years Centres are free to parents and caregivers of young children.

How do I find out about OEYC programs?

You can check out our website at www.crowoeyc.com for up to date information on programs and services.

Call us at 613-283-0095 or toll free at 1-800-267-9252

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter by visiting our website or calling the Centre.

Community partners

How can I find out information about other community programs?

You can visit our website at www.crowoeyc.com and click on "Resources" and then "Web links"

Call the OEYC at 613-283-0095 or 1-800-267-9252

Ask a playgroup facilitator or workshop facilitator for information

How can I connect with other community programs?

You can visit our website at www.crowoeyc.com and click on "Resources" and then "Web links"

Call the OEYC at 613-283-0095 or 1-800-267-9252

Ask a playgroup facilitator or workshop facilitator for information

How do I know if my child is developing normally? Nipissing tool (how to access),

To see if your child is developing normally use the Nipissing District Development Screen tool.

You can access the Nipissing Tool at <http://www.ndds.ca/ontario/home.html>

Where do I go if I have a concern about my child?

If you have a concern about your child you can discuss it with a playgroup facilitator, your physician, or call the OEYC for information and referral.

What is a playgroup?

The Ontario Early Years Centre playgroups offer participants the opportunity to explore and learn through play, while establishing friendships and networks of support. Early Learning activities include:

interactive learning

imaginative play

physical activity programs

creative arts and crafts

music and movement

literacy activities



What is parent education?

The Ontario Early Years Centre offers parents and caregivers opportunities to participate in parenting education workshops and discussion groups. Early childhood professionals are available for parent and caregiver questions regarding healthy childhood development and milestones.

What is early literacy?

The Early Literacy Program is a valuable service for families and professionals in Lanark County. The focus of the program is to promote, support and develop an awareness and understanding of early literacy and how it influences a child's success as a life long learner.

You can access the Early Literacy Specialist if you:

- are the parent or caregiver of children birth to six years
- are a professional working with young children

Can I volunteer at the OEYC?

Volunteers are an essential part of the Ontario Early Years Centre. The assistance, support, and enthusiasm of volunteers allow the Centre to offer a wider variety of programs and services. Working together, staff and volunteers can reach out to a larger number of families in the community.