

Early ON Policies and Procedures during COVID-19 Pandemic

For parents/caregivers and their children

Recognizing that service delivery methods may have shifted as a result of COVID-19, Early ON Centre's can continue to deliver high quality programs and services that support early learning and development, engage parents and caregivers and make connections for families through a variety of methods that support the health, safety and well-being of children and families.

Our mandate is to:

- support early learning and development,
- engage parents and caregivers, and
- encourage connections between families.

Indoor Program:

GIAG Early ON Centres will:

- Provide REGISTERED programs
- Encourage hand Hygiene by providing hand sanitizer containing 60%-90% alcohol content at the entrance and throughout the Centre but out of reach of children.
- All participants will sign in and conduct a screening upon arrival.
- Provide signage where needed to direct families through the entry and waiting areas.
- Will maintain a distance of at least 2 metres between families and any other individuals indoor/outdoor activities.

Mobile Programming:

Where programming is being offered in a shared setting (e.g., a community Centre).

- GIAG Early ON will work in collaboration with the local public health unit and the Community Partner sharing the space to follow public health advice.
- Same as above Indoor programming procedures

Outdoor Program:

- Staff are encouraged to participate in outdoor programming
- Encourage hand Hygiene by providing hand sanitizer containing 60%-90% alcohol content
- Participants should be provided with a variety of outdoor activities while ensuring the following:
 - maintain social distancing from other family's
 - Outdoor activities can be used as an opportunity to provide breaks from wearing a mask.
- Any shared setting (park) will be working in collaboration with the local public health unit to follow health advice.
- Same as above Indoor programming procedures

Staff **are not** permitted to do the following:

- Plan field trips
- Accepts walk-ins, all participants must be pre-registered.

All GIAG Early ON sites will assure that the following elements are followed during programming:

- Limit the usage of equipment and toys, and sharing of toys, where possible.
- Spread family's out into different areas, particularly at snack time, arrival and departure time and play time.
- Incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between families.
- Toys and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between users.
- Sensory materials (playdough, water, sand) will be offered for single use only and disposed.
- Items that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected will be removed and stored in a container for 7days.



Cleaning

1. As per Public Health Ontario's recommendations, frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice per day or more often as required (for example, toys, learning materials, doorknobs, water fountain knobs, light switches, toilet and faucet handles, electronic devices, and tabletops).
2. Efforts will be made to ensure sharing of items is limited and items are cleaned and disinfected after each use.
3. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection will be applied to all aspects of the facility and may include the following:
 - cleaning and disinfection of washrooms, kitchen, floors and changing tables
4. Only Public Health approved products will be used to disinfect toys, equipment and frequently touched surfaces.

Personal Belongings

- Personal belongings (e.g., backpack, clothing etc.) should be minimized. If brought, belongings should be labelled and kept in the child's cubby/designated area.
- Infant Change pads, cutlery and snack dishes will need to be brought in from home.
- Cubbies and designated areas will be set up to encourage social distancing.
- Participants may need to take turns in the cubby/entrance area depending on the situation.

USE OF Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Participants and Children

Children under the age of 2 are not required to wear mask and children over 2 are encouraged to practice wearing masks.

Adult participants must wear a face covering or non-medical mask and non-medical masks will also be made available for participants.

Staff

All staff will be required to wear masks and eye protection (i.e. face shield), with reasonable exceptions for medical conditions.

Staff who are regularly in close contact with participants will be provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).