

Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child

Hamilton
Best
Start



Early Successes

- Child Care Expansion - over 1100 new spaces community wide.
- Creation of 7 New Neighbourhood Early Learning and Care Hubs in Hamilton's east-end.
- 288 pre-school universal spaces (free half day program)
- Continuing to build partnerships with schools:
 - 5 of 7 Early Learning and Care Hubs are in schools.
- Continuing to strengthen partnerships with Ontario Early Years Centres and existing child care providers in schools and the broader community.
- Engaging the community around the importance of Early Child Development - parents, teachers, healthcare providers, Early Childhood Educators etc.
- Focussed efforts around moving towards and integrated system of services for families with young children.

Poverty Reduction Strategy

- Among the unique communities identified in Hamilton's Best Start Plan were families living in poverty.
- The Best Start Network is committed to ensuring all families have access to an integrated system of supports for Early Child Development.
- Committed to working with the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction to increase the availability, accessibility and integration of supports for families in low income neighbourhoods.

Community Partners

Affiliated Services for Children and Youth
Catholic Children's Aid Society
Catholic Family Services
Centre de Santé communautaire Hamilton-Wentworth-Niagara
Child Care Supervisor's Network
Children's Aid Society
City of Hamilton
Community Information Services
Community Living Hamilton
Community psychiatrist
Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre
Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest.
Contact Hamilton
Early Words/1ers mots Infant Hearing Program
Family Physician
Hamilton Health Sciences
Hamilton Police Services
Hamilton Public Library
Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Child Care Centres Inc.
Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teacher's Local (Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario)
McMaster Children's Hospital
Ministry of Children and Youth Services/Ministry of Community and Social Services
Ministry of Education
Mohawk College
Niwasa Head Start Preschool
Offord Centre
Ontario Catholic Teacher's Association (Hamilton-Wentworth Unit)
Ontario Early Years Centres
Parents
Settlement and Integration Services Organization
The Community Action Program for Children
Wesley Urban Ministries
Wraparound Hamilton



TACKLING POVERTY
in **HAMILTON** *We can do it!*

