

# Off to School 2005

Presented by ...

**Early Years**  
NIAGARA



**A calendar filled with information  
to help families ease their child's  
transition from home to school.**



# “Off to School 2005” is brought to you by:



## in partnership with:

- Business Education Council of Niagara
- Centre de Santé Communautaire du Niagara
- Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique
- Conseil Scolaire de District de Centre-Sud Ouest
- Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Literacy Link Niagara
- Niagara Peninsula Children’s Centre
- Ontario Early Years Centres – Niagara Region
- Quality Child Care Niagara
- Regional Niagara Children’s Services Division
- Speech Services Niagara
- Understanding the Early Years

# Welcome to “Off to School 2005”

This calendar has been developed to provide parents and caregivers with important information regarding their child’s transition from home to school. It also offers suggestions for simple activities that you and your child can enjoy together.

Please take time to review the entire calendar to discover the wealth of information at your fingertips, and to ensure that your child’s kindergarten year will be a positive and enriching experience.



# Is Your Child Ready for School?



Children who are ready for school show a variety of skills and interests. Check the chart below to see how you can help your child prepare for school.

Developmental area	Skills and interests that show your child is ready for school	Ways to help prepare your child for school
 <b>Physical Health and Well-being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is able to choose healthy snacks and foods</li> <li>• Is developing daily living skills &amp; washroom independence</li> <li>• Enjoys a variety of physical activities (e.g. running, swimming, ball games)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a variety of foods from all food groups.</li> <li>• Encourage personal hygiene, dressing and tidying up.</li> <li>• Encourage physical and outdoor activities.</li> <li>• Limit computer and T.V times and monitor games and programs.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows curiosity about the world and eagerness to try new experiences</li> <li>• Cooperates/plays with 1-2 children of similar age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support your child in taking small “risks” (e.g., learning to ride a bike).</li> <li>• Arrange play times with other children.</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is developing the ability to cope with small challenges</li> <li>• Is persistent in repetitive but necessary tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand back (providing situations are safe), as your child takes on small challenges.</li> <li>• Encourage your child in these tasks and celebrate attempts as well as successes.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication and General Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicates his or her own needs, speaks clearly for the most part, and understands others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and talk about books and stories.</li> <li>• Talk about topics of interest to your child.</li> <li>• Use appropriate language, not “baby-talk”.</li> </ul>
<b>Language and Thinking Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has favourite books stories and magazines</li> <li>• Enjoys rhymes, songs, chants &amp; simple number games</li> <li>• Enjoys solving age appropriate riddles and puzzles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage your child to talk about stories and poems you read/recite together.</li> <li>• Play simple games (e.g. “I Spy...” and matching games).</li> </ul>

The Government of Canada’s Social Development Partnerships Program is proud to fund the Understanding the Early Years Project (UEY). “The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.”

# January 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Junior &amp; Senior Kindergarten registration begins in February. Contact your nearest school for details. To register, you will need your child's: Health Card; up-to-date Immunization Record; Birth Certificate (or proof of age); and, Baptismal certificate (Catholic schools only).</p>						1
2 Get out and play in the snow!	3	4	5	6	7 January is "National Non Smoking Month".	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Baking is a great way to practice math skills.	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Encourage your child to tidy up after him or herself.	28	29
30	31	<p><b>Visit an Ontario Early Years Centre today! See August for more details.</b></p>				

# Preschool Learning Tips



## Reading and Writing

- Begin reading to your child from birth.
- Sing songs, play rhyming games (“*I Spy*...”), label and describe things e.g., “*That’s a bulldozer. It pushes dirt*”.
- Read books that have lots of repetition e.g., *The Three Little Pigs*. Encourage your child to join in.
- Draw attention to words in your child’s everyday environment e.g., read signs, cereal boxes, shopping list, etc.
- When reading books, first look at the book cover and predict what the story will be about e.g., “*I think...*”, “*I wonder....*” Next look at the pictures, talk about them and then read the story.
- Make reading fun by changing your voice e.g., loud, soft, silly.
- Talk about how the pictures help to tell the story e.g., “*I can see that the wolf is trying to blow down the house*”.
- Talk about the story after you have read it e.g., “*Tell me your favourite part of the story*”, “*Tell me why you liked...(character’s name, setting)*”.
- Re-read your child’s favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them!
- Write stories, letters, notes, lists and make books together.
- Print familiar words e.g., your child’s name, Mom, Dad, love, etc.

## Numbers and Math

- Draw attention to numbers in your child’s everyday environment e.g., grocery stores, street signs, license plates, telephones.
- Play card games e.g., *Fish*, *Concentration*, *Crazy Eights* and board games.
- Involve your child in daily activities that are “rich” in math, such as shopping, cooking/baking (measuring) and counting place settings for the dinner table.
- Do puzzles together.
- Practice writing numbers with fun things! Try bingo dabbers, pudding on a plate or clay.
- Sort everyday objects, such as socks and plastic containers, into groups by colour, size or shape.
- Estimate and measure water, rice, sand, and other materials using different sized containers.
- Count things - forwards and backwards e.g., stairs, shirt buttons, etc.
- Include math concepts while playing e.g., “*I’m adding this car to my pile. Now, I have 3*”.
- Sing counting songs e.g., *This Old Man*, and read counting books.

# February 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Children learn what they live.		1	2	3	4	5
					Encourage imagination through story telling.	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Let your child help make the grocery list.			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Let your child help with the laundry by sorting socks.						Visit your local library.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28		<p><b>Are you worried about your child's speech, language, or overall development? Do you have concerns about your child's behaviour? Turn to the month of April for more information.</b></p>			
	Have alphabet soup or letter shaped pasta for lunch.					

# Healthy Eating

**A healthy diet is important for children aged 3 to 5 years as it provides energy and essential nutrients to grow, develop, and be active. Offering a variety of nutritious foods promotes an adequate intake of essential nutrients.**

Preschoolers develop a taste for flavours, textures and aromas, slowly building their acceptance of foods. Early and frequent exposure to healthy foods, without pressure, makes a difference. Serve meals and snacks in a relaxed environment. Offer your child nutritious foods every day and let him or her determine the quantity to eat. When offered nutritious and varied foods over time, preschoolers will get what they need.

Children love to imitate their parents. Eating a variety of nutritious foods from the four food groups is important for the entire family.

Grain Products	Vegetables and Fruit	Milk Products	Meat and Alternatives
Include enriched or whole grain products such as rice, pasta, cereal and breads in meals and snacks.	Offer plenty of fruits and vegetables. Try to serve two at main meals to increase the chances that your child will find one he or she likes.	Milk products are the main source of calcium and vitamin D in children's diets. Make milk the family mealtime beverage. Lower fat milk such as 2% or 1% is okay, provided there are other good sources of fat in your child's diet.	Offer two or three small, tender servings of meat and/or meat alternates each day and include a variety of choices e.g., lean ground beef; fish fillets; canned tuna or salmon; ham roasts or slices; baked, or precooked canned beans; and eggs.

**Nourishing snacks make an important contribution to a healthy diet for preschoolers. Offering 2 or 3 nutritious snacks allows children to eat small amounts of food frequently throughout the day. Try the following snack suggestions:**

- Whole grain crackers and dry cereal
- Oatmeal cookies
- Whole grain muffins
- Thin strips of raw or partially cooked vegetables
- Fruit or fruit juice
- Yogurt, milk, and cheese
- Avoid choking hazards like hard, small and round foods

**Happy eating experiences have an impact.  
Eventually, children will learn to enjoy a variety of healthy foods.**

# March 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Focus on the quality of food your child eats rather than the quantity.		1	2	3	4	5 Start each day with a healthy breakfast.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Find a simple recipe that you can make together.	14	15	16	17	18 Make time to share a meal as a family.	19
20	21	22	23 Choose a variety of foods from all four food groups.	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Healthy eating supports healthy development.	

# How is Your Child's Speech & Language Development?



**Speech Services Niagara** coordinates speech and language services for preschoolers, free of charge, throughout the Niagara Region. They offer screenings, training opportunities for parents and caregivers, a full range of intervention services for all preschool children at geographically situated treatment sites, and Francophone services.

Attend a **Child Wellness Clinic** - they are offered throughout the region all year long. Child Wellness is a drop-in clinic where children from birth to 4 years of age can be screened by a professional for overall growth and development including: behavioural difficulties; speech and language development; and dental health. All this in the same facility! For more information about this free service, or a listing of locations nearest you, contact Speech Services Niagara or the Regional Niagara Public Health Department.

## How do I know if I should call?

Use the checklist provided here. If your child does not meet all of the criteria listed for his or her age, you are encouraged to refer your child for a screening right away. You do not need a doctor's referral; simply call the number below.

**1-905-688 3550 (St. Catharines)**  
**1-800-896-5496 (Toll Free)**  
**1-905-688-4665 (Fax)**

**If your child is entering Junior Kindergarten he or she is eligible for a screening through our program providing that you call before the end of December.**

## Speech and Language Checklist

### At 2 - 3 years of age can your child:

- Use short sentences (e.g. "Me do it," "Daddy going car")
- Listen to stories and answer simple questions
- Have a conversation with family members or other familiar people (By 3 years, most children will not need parents to interpret for them.)

### At 3 - 4 years of age can your child:

- Use sentences of four to six words with adult-like grammar
- Give directions like "Fix this for me." Ask many questions like "What...?" "Where...?" "Why...?"
- Tell about things they have done in the past
- Talk to themselves and their toys
- Tell a story or sing a song

### If you answered "no" to any of the above, you are encouraged to call. Also call if your child:

- Has an odd or different sound to their voice
- Has pronunciation problems (with the exception of 'th' & 'r')
- Has a high-risk history or diagnosis such as cleft palate, hearing loss or PDD/Autism
- Is stuttering
- Appears to have inappropriate play or social skills
- Is embarrassed by his or her speech

# April 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>April is “TV Turnoff Month”.</b>  <b>Turn off the TV and play a game with your child.</b></p>					1	2  Sing songs and nursery rhymes together.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11  Listen to your child with interest.	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23  Is your child watching age appropriate programs and videos?
24  Go puddle jumping on a rainy day!	25	26	27	28	29	30

# Child Health Checklist



## Has your child:

## Information for parents:

had his or her eyes checked during the preschool years

Signs of vision difficulty include: complaints of tired eyes or not seeing well; frequent eye rubbing; blinking; squinting; head tilting; difficulty copying; and holding a book close to the face.

visited the dentist during the preschool years.

If your child is fourteen or younger, he or she may be eligible for dental financial assistance through the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program. Call 905-688-8248 ext. 7203 or 1-888-505-6074 for details.

developed the habit of brushing his or her teeth morning and night for two minutes each time with help.

had a physical check-up in the last year and received their most recent immunization shot.

had his or her hearing checked.

Consult a doctor if your child complains of hearing difficulty; speaks too loudly; needs directions repeated many times; often does not pay attention; or has had repeated ear infections.

developed the habit of starting everyday with a healthy breakfast.

Regular meals include foods from at least three of the four food groups (vegetables/fruits, grains, meats and alternatives, and milk products).

developed a routine that includes a regular bedtime and at least 10-12 hours of sleep each night.

developed a daily routine that includes at least 60 minutes of physical activity.

learned about safety at home.

To learn fun safety tips, visit the Public Health Department's interactive web game at [www.regional.niagara.on.ca/safetyhouse](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/safetyhouse)

For local parenting information, visit [www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting)

# May 2005

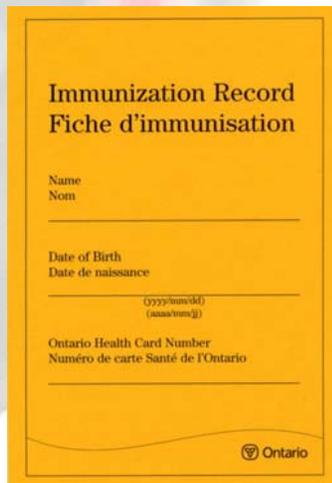
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Make sure your child is toilet trained by school entry.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Visit your local park or playground.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Establish a consistent bedtime routine.	23	24	25	26	27 Has your child been to meet the dentist?	28
29	30	31	<p><b>Play with your child today. Shape who they will be tomorrow.</b></p>			

# Immunize Your Child



Immunization (also called vaccination, baby shots or needles) is the best protection against many serious childhood diseases, like whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus measles, mumps and rubella, to name a few. For immunization to work best, children must have all their vaccinations – on time.

Keep a written record of all your child's shots in your child's personal yellow Immunization Record. Call the department's Immunization Report Line at 905-688-8248 ext. 7459 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7459 to allow us to record each vaccination.



**Keep your child's  
yellow immunization card**

***Immunize  
your child on time!***

**Notify the  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**

***Everytime!***

Call 905-688-8248, ext. 7459 or 1-888-505-6074, ext. 7459 (available 24 hours)

For local parenting information, visit [www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting)

# June 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Immunize your child <u>on time</u>.</b>  <b>Notify the Health Unit <u>every time</u>.</b></p>			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					<p>Check your local library  for children's books  about visiting the doctor.</p>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			<p>Are your child's needles  up to date?</p>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p>Take your child's  immunization record to  school registration.</p>					
26	27	28	29	30		
			<p>Parents, remember to  keep your own needles  up to date.</p>			

# Choosing Quality Child Care

One of the most important decisions parents have to make is choosing the child care program your child will be placed in. Research indicates that a quality child care program increases a child's readiness to learn.



**Consider these 14 tips when choosing a Child Care program. Does the Child Care program have:**

1. A posted license under the Day Nurseries Act?
2. A feeling when you visit that children and staff are happy?
3. An “open door” policy, which invites you to visit at any time?
4. Opportunities for you to participate in the program?
5. A bright and cheerful feeling?
6. A variety of equipment and furnishings that are safe, age appropriate, and cleaned regularly?
7. Consistent routines that are age appropriate and posted for you to see and your child to participate in everyday?
8. A healthy menu plan, which is posted?
9. Tools to regularly evaluate the program and assess children's developmental strengths and needs?
10. Regular program feedback opportunities such as parent surveys?
11. Clear policies and consistent practices for things such as managing children's behaviour, emergencies, hours, and fees?
12. Other parents whom you can talk to about the program?
13. Early Childhood Educators who have post secondary training?
14. Staff who have participated in the Quality Child Care Niagara training program?

**Quality Child Care Niagara provides training to support Child Care staff to plan programs that promote children's learning. The Quality Child Care Niagara Training Program facilitates the use of standardized assessment tools in Child Care programs.**

For further information on child care options, please refer to the Early Childhood Community Development Centre website at [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org) and select “Child Care Choices” or visit them at 395 Ontario St., St. Catharines.

You can pick up a “Choosing Quality Child Care in Niagara” brochure at your local Family Resource Centre or Ontario Early Years Centre.



# July 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
A good life needs a good start.					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Remember sun safety: Slip on a shirt; Slap on a hat; and Slop on sunscreen					Be a role model - children learn by example.	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Teach your child to handle small upsets.		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Take time to discuss your child's day with his or her caregiver.					
31			The nurturing and stimulation that children receive in their early years can have a major impact on the rest of their lives.			

# Ontario Early Years Centres in Niagara

## Erie-Lincoln

905-834-9071

Toll Free 1-866-933-9633



## Niagara Centre

905-734-3563

Toll Free 1-888-937-7731 Ext. 2217



## Niagara Falls

905-357-2398



## St. Catharines

905-938-9392



**“It is clear that the early years, from conception to age six, have the most important influence of any time in the life cycle on brain development and subsequent learning, behaviour and health” *Early Years Report, April 1999.***

## Ontario Early Years Centres

*A Place For Parents And Their Children.*



## Centres de la petite enfance

*Un endroit pour les parents et leurs enfants.*

### Our FREE services include:

- ✓ Interactive play programs
- ✓ Parent education workshops
- ✓ Pre & post-natal resources and information
- ✓ Information & linkages to other Early Years services
- ✓ Outreach services such as Mobile Resource Programs etc.
- ✓ Opportunities for volunteers
- ✓ Francophone services available

**For more information on early years, check out [www.ontarioearlyyears.com](http://www.ontarioearlyyears.com)**



**Ontario Early Years Centres are where parents & caregivers, along with their children, can access information and speak with professional staff about the programs and services available for families with young children, newborn to 6 years of age. There are many Family Resource Programs and Satellites operating in your community – call your local Ontario Early Years Centre for additional information!**

# August 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Go on an "adventure" walk around your neighbourhood.	5	6
7 Practice being firm but lovely by having clear rules.	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Simple board games are a great way to develop math & social skills.
21	22	23 Find out what is happening at your local Early Years Centre.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Visit a Family Resource Program. Locations can be found on the back page of this calendar.		

# Support Your School-Aged Child

Your child's experience in the primary grades is critical – much in the same way that an infant's first connection with a parent is so important. By age five, most youngsters have the cognitive and social requirements to begin Kindergarten. However, every child is different in temperament, and emotional and cognitive growth. These tips will help strengthen your relationship with your school-aged child.

- Communicate your love to your child in word and action each and everyday – kisses, hugs and pats on the back are great!
- Listen for the feelings behind your child's verbal communication and respond to those feelings in an accepting way.
- Model and teach courtesy, patience, kindness, thoughtfulness, honesty, loyalty, responsibility, fairness, and forgiveness.
- Recognize, acknowledge, and praise your child when he or she makes an effort to do something well (school projects, obeying parents, helping at home). Make a big deal out of it!
- Use positive discipline. The impact of natural consequences teaches your child more than the results of punishment. Positive discipline helps children develop inner self-control and self-discipline.

**For local parenting information, visit**  
**[www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting)**

# September 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>You are your child's first, best, &amp; most important teacher!</b></p>				1	2	3
4	5 Ask your child, "How was your day?"	6	7	8	9 Know where your child is and let him or her know where you are.	10
11	12	13 Get to know your child's teacher.	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Get involved in school activities.	23	24
25 Set aside time for homework.	26	27	28	29	30	

# How Long Must My Child Stay Home When Sick?

Children with the following diseases should remain at home and away from others:

## Chickenpox

For mild illness (low fever, less than 30 spots) – no exclusion as long as your child is well enough to participate normally in all activities; For moderate illness (fever over 38.5°C and many new rash spots) – until 5 days after onset of rash.

## Diarrhea

Until 24 hours after diarrhea stops.

## Fifth's disease

Until your child is feeling well enough to participate normally in all activities.

## Hand/Foot/Mouth

Until your child is feeling well enough to participate normally in all activities.

## Impetigo

Until the antibiotic prescribed by a doctor has been taken for at least 1 full day.



## Measles

For at least 4 days after the rash appears.

## Pink-eye

Until the antibiotic prescribed by a doctor has been taken for at least 1 full day.

## Rubella (German Measles)

Until at least 7 days after the rash first appears.

## Strep Throat

Until antibiotic treatment has been taken for 1 full day.

## Whooping Cough (pertussis)

Until antibiotic treatment has been taken for at least 5 days. If no treatment is given, wait 3 weeks from when the cough began.

Keep your child at home and away from others, if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- ★ Fever
- ★ Diarrhea
- ★ Rash
- ★ Vomiting
- ★ Sore throat
- ★ Earache
- ★ Frequent coughing or sneezing
- ★ Yellow or green discharge from the nose, ears or eyes.



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROGRAM  
905-688-3762 or 1-800-263-7248  
[www.regional.niagara.on.ca](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca)

Contact your family doctor for a diagnosis. He or she will advise you about care and treatment if a communicable disease is diagnosed.

# October 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Comfort your child every day.						1
	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Remind your child to cover his or her mouth when coughing.			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						Have a plan for sick days and emergencies.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				Make sure the school has up to date emergency contact information.		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Teach your child to wash his or her hands after using the bathroom.					
30	31	Your time is the best gift you can give to your child.				

# It's Booster Seat Time!



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
INJURY/SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM  
905-688-3762 or 1-800-263-7248  
[www.regional.niagara.on.ca](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca)

Booster seats are the safest choice for children who have outgrown their forward facing car seat. A young child wearing an adult seat belt before he or she is ready is 3 ½ times more likely to be injured during a crash than if they were in a booster seat. Using a booster seat until your child is a minimum of 8 years old, or 36 kg (80 lbs), provides the safest ride.

## Does Your Child Need a Booster Seat?

If you checked either of the points below, your child should be in a booster seat.

- My child weighs between 18 kg (40 lbs) and 36 kg (80 lbs) and is less than eight years old.
- My child has a sitting height of less than 74 cm (29 in) or a standing height of less than 148 cm (58 in).

For local parenting information, visit  
[www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting)



When correctly used, the lap belt should rest across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt should be centred on the shoulder and chest. When sitting back, the child's knees should bend comfortably over the edge of the vehicle seat.

# November 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Booster seats are the law.</b>		1	2	3	4	5
					Teach your child his or her last name, address and phone number.	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Helmets and hockey go together!				Review traffic safety rules often.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Teach your child how to dial 911 and what to do in case of emergency.					
27	28	29	30	<b>For local parenting information, visit <a href="http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting">www.regional.niagara.on.ca/parenting</a></b>		

# Special Needs Children



The transition to school is an important milestone for children with special needs and their families. Because of this, school boards and agencies providing services to children with special needs are committed to ensuring that the process is as smooth as possible. As a parent of a child with special needs, you are an important partner in making your child's entry into the school system a success.

**A number of activities have been developed to assist you and your child to make the transition to school:**

- In October or November of the year before your child is eligible to go to school, your preschool agency will begin to talk to you about your plans for the following year. You will be asked to sign consents to allow for information to be shared between the school boards and the various agencies your child may be involved with. Written reports on your child's needs, and progress to date, will be developed for sharing with the school system.
- In early December, school orientation evenings will be held for families. These sessions provide information on the services and supports offered to special needs children entering the school system. In addition, you will have an opportunity to meet representatives of School Boards and support agencies on these evenings.
- Formal meetings will be held in the spring to discuss the specifics of your child's needs upon entering the school system and allow the individual school to prepare for your child's attendance.

**You will also be invited to participate in any regular activities that your school may be offering for families and children entering into school.**

## **Useful Numbers:**

- **CONTACT Niagara (905) 684-3407**
- **District School Board of Niagara, Special Education Services (905) 227-5551**
- **Niagara Catholic District School Board, Student Support Services (905) 735-0240**
- **Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre (905) 688-3550**
- **Niagara Child and Youth Services (905) 384-9551**

# December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Laugh, talk, listen, and play, each and every day.</p>						
4 Let your child take the lead today, and plan an activity.	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Cuddle up and share a book.
18	19	20	21	22 Recognize and praise your child's strengths and abilities.	23	24
25	26 Make snow angels!	27	28	29	30	31

## Niagara Public Libraries

### FORT ERIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fort Erie Centennial Branch  
136 Gilmore Road, Fort Erie

Crystal Ridge Branch  
89 Ridge Road, Ridgeway

### GRIMSBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

18 Carnegie Lane, Grimsby

### LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vineland Branch  
4080 John Charles Boulevard, Vineland

Beamsville Branch  
4996 Beam Street, Beamsville

### NIAGARA FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Victoria Avenue Branch  
4848 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls,

Chippawa Branch  
3763 Main Street, Niagara Falls

Stamford Centre Branch  
Town and Country Plaza  
3643 Portage Road, Niagara Falls

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
10 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake

PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Fonthill Branch  
43 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill

Maple Acre Branch  
781 Canboro Road, Fenwick

PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
310 King Street, Port Colborne

### ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Central Branch  
54 Church Street, St. Catharines

Grantham Branch  
Grantham Plaza, 400 Scott Street,  
St. Catharines

Merritt Branch  
149 Hartzel Road, St. Catharines

Port Dalhousie Branch  
23 Brock Street, St. Catharines

THOROLD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Main Branch  
14 Ormond Street North, Thorold

Port Robinson Branch  
46 Cross Street, Port Robinson

WAINFLEET PUBLIC LIBRARY  
19M9 Park Street, Wainfleet

WELLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Main Branch  
140 King Street, Welland

Northwest Branch  
650 South Pelham Road, Welland

WEST LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Smithville Branch  
318 Canborough Rd., Smithville

Wellandport Branch  
5042 Canborough Road, Wellandport

Caistorville Branch  
716 John Street, Caistorville

## Family Resource Programs

Family Resource Programs are warm, welcoming environments where parents and home child care providers, together with their children, can drop by and join in interactive activities that are carefully planned by trained staff members. These open-concept, flexible, family-oriented centres provide support and education through a wide variety of activities, programs, and services such as:

- **Interactive drop-in playgroups**
- **Toy lending libraries**
- **Educational workshops**
- **Support to home child care providers**
- **Resource lending libraries**
- **Referral services**

### Family Resource Program Locations:

**Bethlehem  
Early Learning Centre**  
58 Welland Avenue  
St. Catharines  
**Tel: 905-641-1660**

**Brighter Day  
Early Learning Centre**  
Christ Anglican Church  
4 Lisgar Street  
St. Catharines  
**Tel: 905-685-0366**

**Coin Des Familles**  
Centre de Santé Communautaire  
1 Promenade Vanier  
Welland  
**Tel: 905-734 -141**

**Under the Rainbow  
Resource Centre**  
748 Buffalo Road  
Fort Erie  
**Tel: 905-87- 3033**