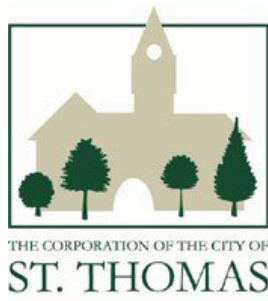


EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE INFORMATION BIRTH TO 12 YEARS OF AGE ST. THOMAS - ELGIN



In partnership with:



St. Thomas Elgin Ontario Works
Children's Services Division



Published 2013



Making a Quality Child Care Choice

Notes:

When looking for quality child care for your family, there are a number of important questions to ask yourself and any potential child care provider. Below are helpful questions and qualities to help you make an informed choice.

Questions to help clarify your needs and priorities:

- Do the hours and days of care meet your needs?
- What are the child care fees? Are there any additional charges? Are fees charged when children are on vacation or ill?
- Is there transportation available?
- Is fee subsidy available?
- Are your child's needs able to be accommodated? E.g. (medical, language etc.)
- How many children are in my child's group?

Qualities to look for in an early childhood educator/caregivers:

- The Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) is friendly and welcoming.
- The RECE interacts positively with the children.
- The RECE uses positive behaviour guidance methods that boost the children's self-esteem.
- The Early Childhood Educator is a registered member in good standing with the College of Early Childhood Educators.

Characteristics of a quality child care setting:

- The program is licenced by the Ministry of Education.
- Operating licence and inspection summary are clearly displayed
- Caregivers are Early Childhood Educators registered with the College of Early Childhood Educators
- The centre is clean and well maintained
- There are a wide variety of age appropriate toys and activities available
- Parents are kept informed by postings, newsletter, websites, etc.

Parent/Child Resources and Support

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Merrymount - All Kids Belong 579 Talbot Street (519) 631-2321 St. Thomas, ON Fax: (519) 673-2230 N5P 1H4 Email: akbelgin@mnsi.net</p> | <p>Providing support to Early Years programs for families and children 0-12yrs.</p> |
| <p>Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) 7 Morrison Dr. (519) 631-9496 St. Thomas, ON N5R 4S5 www.ontarioearlyyears.ca</p> | <p>Programs, activities and parent resources for families and children 0-6 years.</p> |
| <p>St. Thomas Public Library Children's Dept. 153 Curtis St. (519) 631-1987 St. Thomas, ON N5P 3Z7</p> | <p>Programs and resource materials for parents/families with children 0-5 years.</p> |
| <p>West Elgin Community Health Centre 153 Main St. (519) 768-1715 West Lorne, ON NOL 2P0 www.wehc.on.ca</p> | <p>Programs, education and services for families with children 0-6 years.</p> |
| <p>Elgin - St. Thomas Public Health 99 Edward St. (519) 631-9900 St. Thomas, ON N5P 1Y8 www.elginhealth.on.ca</p> | <p>Provides parent education, home visiting, dental screening and a wide variety of information and support services.</p> |
| <p>Aspen Continuous Care 1 Aspen Ave (519) 631-7018 St. Thomas, ON N5R 5G5 www.earlylearningcentre.ca</p> | <p>Flexible, extended hours. Weekend and overnight care for children 0-12 years.</p> |
| <p>Thames Valley Children's Centre 779 Base Line Road East London, ON (519) 685-8680 N6C 5Y6</p> | <p>Programs and resources for children and youth with physical disabilities, communication disorders, developmental delays and autism spectrum disorders.</p> |
| <p>Tiny Tots Toy and Resource Lending Library Box 539 Rodney, ON NOL 2C0 www.ttcns.ca</p> | <p>Provides programs, activities and parent resources for families with children 0-6 years.</p> |
| <p>Oxford Elgin Child and Youth Centre 300 South Edgeware Road Unit 100 St. Thomas, ON Toll Free: 1-877-539-0463 N5P4L1 Fax: (519) 637-8170 Email: info@ocyc.on.ca</p> | <p>Providing support to children and youth as an approved Children's Mental Health Centre.</p> |
| <p>tykeTALK (519) 663-0273 Toll Free: 1-877-818-8255 www.tyketak.com</p> | <p>Programs for children in the Thames Valley District, aged birth to school-age with speech and/or language difficulties. All services are offered at no charge to families.</p> |

Recognizing Quality Child Care


Recognizing High Quality Care

Parents recognize quality in child care by looking for characteristics that will increase the well-being of their children and strengthen relationships with their caregivers.

Research shows that these characteristics include:

- Relationship between educator and child is positive
- Educators are given opportunities for ongoing training
- The physical setting includes a wide variety of age appropriate materials
- The nature of the program includes individual daily planning for children
- Quality goes beyond minimum licencing requirements
- The supervision children receive is beyond minimum requirements
- Parent involvement is extensive
- Parents are encouraged to visit any time and form strong supportive relationships with the educators

Raising the Bar on Quality

Many child care centres participate in Raising the Bar on Quality. Raising the Bar on Quality is a voluntary community standards program for licenced child care programs in London, Middlesex, Perth, Elgin and Oxford. 

Type of Child Care

The following chart can help you to make a child care choice that will support and promote your child's healthy development. There are a variety of child care / early childhood education options below that are licensed by the Ministry of Education. Choosing the one that is best for your child and family is one of the most important decisions that you will

| | SETTING | PROGRAMS OFFERED | NUMBER OF CHILDREN |
|---|---|---|--|
| Child Care/ Early Childhood Education Centres | Qualified early childhood educators provide programs year-round in licenced settings. Centres are located in free standing buildings or within schools, workplaces or churches. | Full-day and part-time programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children, up to 12 years old. | Maximum number of children in a group and staff:child ratios are set by the government, based on age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 staff to 3 infants • 1 staff to 5 toddlers • 1 staff to 8 preschoolers • 1 staff to 10 JK/SKs • 1 staff to 15 school-age children (6-12) |
| Preschools and Nursery Schools | Qualified early childhood educators provide programs from September to June in licenced settings in schools, churches or community locations. | Half-day programs for one to five days per week, for children 2 to 5 years old. Some co-operative programs require parent participation. | Maximum number of children in a group and staff:child ratios are set by the government, based on age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 staff to 8 preschoolers |
| Home Child Care | Self-employed caregivers offer child care in their homes. Caregivers connected with a licenced agency are approved as meeting government standards. | Full-day and part-time programs for infants, toddlers, preschools and school age children, up to 12 years old. | Caregivers may provide care for up to 5 children. All children being cared for must be counted and not exceed the limit of five at any one time. |
| School Age Programs | Qualified staff provide supervised programs year-round in licenced settings in schools, child care centres or community locations. | Before and/or after school, as well as full day programs on professional development days, holidays and summer months for children 4 to 12 years old. | Maximum number of children in a licenced program is set by the government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 staff to 10 JK/SK school aged children. • 1 staff to 15 school-age children (6-12yrs) |

Home Child Care Programs

Early Learning Centre

Elgin Home Childcare
575 Burwell Rd. (519) 631-0897
St. Thomas, ON
N5P 0B4
www.earlylearningcentre.ca

Caregivers must ensure that the number of children under six years of age, including their own does not exceed five children. Participates in Raising the Bar.

St. Thomas Elgin Ontario Works - Child Care Fee Subsidy

To qualify for Child Care Fee Subsidy in Elgin County you must be resident of Elgin County, have legal status in Canada, both parents or the single parent, must be working, self employed or going to school during the hours when your child would be in Child Care. You must also be in financial need as determined by the most recent Income Tax Federal Notice of Assessment. If your child has diagnosed special needs, you may also qualify. You may also be considered to be in financial need if you are eligible for social assistance.

Working Parents: Generally, Child Care fee assistance is available for those days/hours that you are working. **Students:** Students must be attending school or a recognized training program on a regular basis. Child Care is available for those days/hours that you are attending classes. **Self Employed Parents:** Parents who are self employed must be actively engaged in a registered business full time and claim business expenses against income. Documentation is required including BN number.

It is the responsibility of the parent to choose a child care program for their child from the listing of licenced Child Care providers and programs in Elgin County. It is a good idea to plan and visit several programs, meet the staff and secure a space at the Child Care Centre you decide upon. The next step is to call for an appointment to apply for Child Care Fee Subsidy.

The Child Care Assessment Coordinator will call you to set up that appointment. During the appointment time a determine is made on whether you qualify for subsidy under Ministry regulations. Each parent's need for Child Care varies as determined by hours of work, school attendance, and other factors. Fee subsidy does not begin until the approval process is completed.

The office hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 pm. The number to call is 519-631-9350 Option 3 at St. Thomas-Elgin Ontario Works. Parents are seen by appointment only. Appointments are usually scheduled two weeks in advance. Wait times for a subsidy appointment may increase during peak times throughout the year.

Before and After School Aged Programs Full Day School Aged Programs

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Cornerview YMCA before and after school age programs at the following locations:</p> <p>June Rose Callwood P.S. Monsignor Morrison Catholic School St. Anne's Catholic School</p> <p>For more information or to register contact Cornerview YMCA 11 Park Ave St. Thomas, ON N5R4V4 (519)633-7900</p> <p>7:00am-6:00pm</p> <p>Ages 3.8-12yrs</p> | <p>Milestones Children's Centre before and after school age programs at the following locations:</p> <p>Forest Park P.S. Pierre Elliot Trudeau P.S. Locke's P.S. John Wise P.S. Port Stanley P.S.</p> <p>Full day care for PD Day's, March Break and Christmas.</p> <p>For more information or to register contact Milestone's Children's Centre 5 Shaw Valley Drive, St. Thomas ON N5R6J9 (519)631-0952.</p> <p>7:00am-6:00pm</p> <p>Ages 3.8-12yrs</p> |
| <p>YWCA before and after school age programs at the following locations:</p> <p>Elgin Court P.S. McGregor P.S. Mitchell Hepburn P.S. New Sarum P.S. Sparta P.S. Springfield P.S.</p> <p>Full day care for PD Day's, March Break and Christmas.</p> <p>For more information or to register contact YWCA 16 Mary Street W. St. Thomas, ON N5P2S3 (519) 631-9800 or Aylmer Community Services 25 Centre Street Aylmer, ON N5H2Z4 (519)765-2082. Subsidies available.</p> <p>7:00am-6:00pm</p> <p>Ages 3.8-12yrs</p> | <p>Early Learning Centre</p> <p>Before and After School Age care, Full day care for Summer, PD Days, March Break, Christmas. Closures due to inclement weather.</p> <p>For more information or to register contact Early Learning Centre 575 Burwell Rd St. Thomas ON N5P0B4 (519) 631-7018 www.earlylearningcentre.ca</p> <p>Next To Mom Inc.</p> <p>Before and After School Age care, Full day care for Summer, PD Days, March Break, Christmas. Closures due to inclement weather.</p> <p>For more information or to register contact Next To Mom Inc. 231 College Street Belmont ON N0L1B0 (519)644-0201 www.nexttomom.ca</p> |
| <p>Early Learning Centre-Port Burwell</p> <p>Before and after School Aged care September-June. Full day care for PD Day's, March Break and Christmas.</p> <p>For more information or to register contact Early Learning Centre - Port Burwell 28 Strachan Street Port Burwell ON N0J1T0 (519)519-631-7018 www.earlylearningcentre.ca</p> | <p>YMCA</p> <p>Full day care programs for Summer, PD Day's, March Break and Christmas.</p> <p>For more information or to register contact YMCA 20 High Street St. Thomas ON N5R5V2 (519)631-2418</p> |

Child Care/Early Childhood Education Centres

| Name, Address and Phone Number (519 Area Code) | Age | Hours | Raising the Bar |
|--|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <p>Cornerview YMCA Childcare Centre 11 Park Ave (519) 633-7900 St. Thomas, ON N5R 4V4</p> | 0-5yrs | Monday to Friday 6am-6pm | |
| <p>Dutton Co-operative Child Care Inc. 3 Lion's Rd (519) 762-2399 Dutton, ON N0L 1J0 www.duttonchildcare.ca</p> | 0-5yrs | Monday to Friday 7am-6pm | |
| <p>Early Learning Centre 575 Burwell Rd (519) 631-7018 1 Aspen Ave N5P 0B4, N5R 5G5 St. Thomas, ON www.earlylearningcentre.ca</p> | 0-12yrs | Monday to Friday 6:30am-10:00pm (Burwell location) | |
| <p>Milestones Children's Centre 5 Shaw Valley Dr. (519) 631-0952 St. Thomas, ON N5R 6J9 www.milestonescc.ca</p> | Birth to 5years | Monday to Friday 6:30am - 5:30pm | |
| <p>Next To Mom Inc. 231 College Street (519) 644-0201 Belmont, ON N0L1B0 www.nexttomom.ca</p> | 0-5yrs | Monday to Friday 6:30am - 6pm | |
| <p>Early Learning Centre-Port Burwell 28 Strachan St. (519) 631-7018 Port Burwell, ON N0J 1T0 www.earlylearningcentre.ca</p> | 12months-6yrs | Monday to Friday 6:30am-5:30pm | |
| <p>Robin's Nest (519) 631-1658 8 Hammond St. St. Thomas, ON N5P 2B5 *Transportation available</p> | 0-5yrs | Monday to Friday 6am-5:30pm | |
| <p>St. Thomas Co-op Nursery 158 1/2 Centre St. (519) 631-7899 St. Thomas, ON N5R 3A3</p> | 2-5yrs | Monday to Friday 9:15 am - 11:45am Tuesday & Thursday 12:30pm-3:00pm | |
| <p>Tiny Tots Co-op Nursery School 217 Furnival Rd. (519) 785-2164 Rodney, ON N0L 2C0 www.ttcns.ca</p> | Toddler & Preschoolers | Call for hours | |

Licensed Child Care Centres in St. Thomas - Elgin

