

Child Care Systems Management

Our Mission:

To ensure access to a coordinated diverse range of affordable quality services and supports for young children and families residing in Niagara.

Niagara Region has responsibility for the development and delivery of the local child care system, providing a comprehensive range of services for families with children between birth to twelve years of age.

Children's Services plans and manages the child care system with a focus on interagency coordination, the integration of government initiatives, and the development of new programs. Children's Services allocates financial resources across Niagara which is cost shared by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and develops quality assurance initiatives for the child care community.

Management of the child care system includes:

- Planning and coordination to ensure that a range of high quality options are available including licensed child care centres and home child care programs, recreation services, and resource centres
- Financial assistance/fee subsidy for eligible families to assist with child care costs
- Supports for the inclusion of children with special needs
- Resource centres that provide unique services for parents and caregivers including playgroups and professional development
- Wage Subsidy/Improvement distribution to service providers to support staff salaries in licensed child care programs which contributes towards off-setting parent/caregiver fees

Services are provided through more than 70 service contracts with a range of community-based children's agencies across Niagara.

Community service providers include licensed child care programs, recreation, agencies providing supports to children with special needs and resource centres. Six licensed programs are directly operated by Niagara Region.



Children's Services

To inquire about services and supports, please call Children's Services at 905-984-6900 or visit the website at: www.regional.niagara.on.ca

For information on how to choose quality child care, call the Early Childhood Community Development Centre at 905-646-7311 or visit the website at: www.eccdc.org/choose.htm

For information related to child care licensing, call the Ministry of Children and Youth Services at 905-521-7280 or toll free 1-800-263-5413 or visit the website at: www.children.gov.on.ca/mcys/index

For greater detail on our services, please refer to the following inserts:

- Financial Supports and Services
- Supports to Children with Special Needs
- Choosing Quality Child Care
- Licensed Regional Child Care Services

