



Dear Families and Caregivers,

As we mentioned in earlier newsletter and emails, the Ministry of Education gave EarlyON Centre's permission to re-open on September 1st. However, EarlyON's are still waiting for the necessary requirements and guidance documentation from Toronto Public Health and the City of Toronto. All EarlyON Centre's need this information before we can re-open. Unfortunately, we will not be able to reopen on September 1st as we had hoped. Once we re-open we will be following the direction of the Ministry of Education, Toronto Public Health, and Toronto Children's Services. We look forward to re-opening when we can safely do so. Until then, we will continue to offer virtual programming and Zoom Sessions. The posted content on Facebook and our website is different than the sessions offered through Zoom. We hope you will join us!



We are also thrilled to welcome our new staff member Lashonnia, who will be working with us every day, and to welcome back Peggy who was away due to injury and is now well enough to return.

Thank you to our student Hilda, who is offering support and assistance to us virtually, for compiling the information below, and for putting together this month's calendar.

September is an exciting month for children and families because many children over the age of 4 will go back to school for learning either online or physically returning to the classroom. No matter whether children are learning from a classroom or virtually, they can still enjoy the sunnier and warmer moments during the daytime, especially the time between after-school and the weekend before the sunlight becomes shortened in the next few months.

To help children grasp this power of sunlight, let's set our curriculum in an outdoor environment such as our front or back yard, the park close to our home. By using chalk, kids can draw hopscotch on the ground. Hopping, jumping, walking, and counting on this hand-made chalk design. In addition, they can explore and use their gross motor skills that enhances their ability in coordination and endurance. Through counting, kids will get used to applying numbers to their daily living (ELECT, 2014).

Parents or caregivers, please join in this activity, marking down some favourite signs and letters on the ground, comparing the ones created by the kids. Take a rest for awhile after walking towards the shadow area. Kids can take their chalk out of pockets again. In an open area, let



place a toy under the sun where there is a shadow behind it. At this moment, kids can pick up the chalk, drawing their toys' outline through the shadow.

Children can arrange different objects under the sun e.g. cups, balls, boxes, shoes, etc. Therefore, they can copy the objects from the shadow.



If the temperature is too high during the day, kids can stay inside to extend this activity. First, place a few papers on a table under the sun. Put some 3D objects on a place that their shadows will appear on the paper. At this time, kids just sit comfortably with some markers, outlining the objects, and adding watercolor paints on them. What amazing is that a similar art activity can be played either an indoor or outdoor environment?

Please do not hesitate, to go outside with your kids or the kids you look after to enjoy this warm, lovely September.

Reference

Ontario Ministry of Education (2014). *Early Learning for every child today: A framework for Ontario early childhood settings* (ELECT). Best Start Expert Panel on Early Learning. Toronto: Author.