



Frequently Asked Questions

A brief overview of Our Kids Network for families, children and youth

What is Our Kids Network?

Our Kids Network is a partnership of organizations serving children and youth in Halton Region.

How do children, youth and families benefit from Our Kids Network?

People in many different organizations serve children in Halton Region. They are nurses, librarians, social workers, educators, police officers, pre-school teachers and many others. Our Kids Network brings our community together to support children, youth and families. When communities work together, children and their families stay positively connected and build the strong relationships needed for healthy child development.

What do children and youth need to thrive? Young children thrive when they live in a community that works together to keep them safe, healthy and economically secure. We need responsive community programs and services to help children grow up to be responsible and caring. Our Kids Network is a partnership system to help organizations and agencies achieve these goals. At the neighbourhood level OKN partners help families meet these goals by working with them to plan solutions and take action together.

What are the Halton 7?

Everybody in Halton Region – families, the government, businesses, children's services, educators - everyone must share the responsibility for creating a place where all children thrive. We know we are on the right track when we see these conditions being met in Halton Region:

1. Children are healthy
2. Children are learning
3. Children are positively connected
4. Children are safe
5. Families are strong and stable
6. Schools are connected to the community
7. Neighbourhoods are where we live, work and play

Vision: All children thrive!

Mission: To promote the healthy development, security and safety of all children, youth and families through neighbourhood collaboration, services integration and measuring results.

Over 120,000 children under age 18 live in Halton Region

In 2009-2010, three OKN neighbourhood hubs collectively operated 60 unique programs with 90 partners to build supportive neighbourhoods where families, children and youth can thrive.

What are Developmental Assets?

Developmental Assets[®] are the skills, qualities, opportunities, and relationships that children and young people need to help them grow into caring, responsible adults. The Search Institute[®] has developed a list of 40 Developmental Assets that children and youth need to succeed. Families empower children and teens when they help them build assets. Developmental Assets is one framework OKN is using to reach the Halton 7 conditions of well-being.

What are neighbourhood Hubs?

Our Kids Network brings together people from many different organizations to work together in the Region. OKN Hubs do the same thing in a local neighbourhood. A coordinator in each neighbourhood hub works with parents, teachers, healthcare workers, police, social and settlement workers and many others serving families. Together, they find ways to meet the needs and answer the concerns of families. Together, they identify where more services are needed, where services may overlap, and how to collaborate and plan for the right kind of help and support. There are now three hubs: one in rural Acton; one in the long-established neighbourhood of Aldershot in Burlington; and one in the fast growing community of West Milton.

Which organizations participate in Our Kids Network?

People in these organizations provide leadership for Our Kids Network: Halton Children's Aid Society; Regional Municipality of Halton; Halton Regional Police Services; Halton District School Board; Halton Catholic District School Board; ROCK Reach Out Centre for Kids; Halton Multicultural Council and ErinoakKids, Centre for Treatment and Development. They provide financial support, infrastructure such as meeting space, guidance and human resources. Numerous community agencies and groups (early learning and care field; library systems; child, youth and family services; faith-based organizations and the public, education, mental health and children's services) work within the community to carry out the OKN mission.

Where do I obtain more information?

www.ourkidsnetwork.ca

Our Kids Network Neighbourhood Hubs

Aldershot Hub

905-633-7108
Holy Rosary School
261 Plains Road East
Burlington, ON L7T 2C7

Acton Hub

Local in Acton: 289-428-5097
Local in south Halton: 647-258-9763
Mackenzie Smith-Bennett PS
69 Acton Blvd.,
Acton ON L7J 2H4

Milton Hub

905-876-1306
Our Lady of Victory School
540 Commercial Street
Milton, ON L9T 3R2