



## The Early Years Initiative

Mobilizing Communities to Give Young Kids What They Need to Thrive

### North Central Oakville: Building on Events and Activities to Engage Parents and Help Young Kids

The North Central Oakville neighbourhood is bounded by the QEW and Upper Middle Rd, Sixteen Mile Creek and Eighth line. There are few services offered in the neighbourhood and few spaces available to attend programs, beyond an OEYC satellite, parks and recreation, and the library. This neighbourhood was chosen as an Early Years Initiative site due to limited services, transition to a more culturally diverse population, and the fact that local schools are enthusiastic about addressing the transition to school for kids.

The North Central Oakville Table includes:

- Halton District School Board
- Halton Catholic District School Board
- Halton Multicultural Council
- Halton Region Health Department
- Halton Region Housing Corporation
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Instruction (HIPPI)
- Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre
- Oakville Parent Child Centre
- Oakville Public Library,
- Town of Oakville Recreation Department

The goals of the North Central Oakville Table address the EDI areas of Physical Health and Wellbeing (fine and gross motor skills), and Language and Cognitive Development (basic literacy and numeracy; interest in literacy, numeracy and memory).

This table's strategy is to create common messages, parent resources and activity kits, for distribution at existing events within the local neighbourhood, as well as through table partners and service providers delivering programs in the area.

The work of the North Central Oakville Table includes:

- Mapping existing events and opportunities in the area in order to develop a parent engagement strategy taking into account existing events such as OPNC Annual Fall Fair, Oakville Children' Festival, and HMC Multiculturalism Day, schools and school-related events, local programs and service providers, etc.
- Developing a parent engagement kit with a focus on fine motor skills, literacy and numeracy, and outlining the importance of play in general.
- Common messages for use in developing resources by table members and for sharing information in the community
- Adapting a "Family Playbook" resource for North Central Oakville to promote outdoor play, exploration and service utilization within the neighbourhood and beyond.

For more information about the Our Kids Network Early Years Initiative, contact Shawna Scale, Community Impact Animator at [shawna@ourkidsnetwork.ca](mailto:shawna@ourkidsnetwork.ca)