



The Early Years Initiative

Mobilizing Communities to Give Young Kids What They Need to Thrive

Upper East Milton: A Community Ready, Willing and Able to Collaborate to help Kids Do Better

Upper East Milton is the neighbourhood bounded by James Snow Parkway, Derry Rd, Thompson Rd, and the 401 highway. This neighbourhood was chosen in 2016 as an Early Years Initiative site because of its dramatic growth, diverse population, and lower number of programs found within its boundaries. Despite having a moderate EDI score, Upper East Milton has 110 children vulnerable on one or more EDI domains, providing the Early Years Initiative with an opportunity to have a high impact within this neighbourhood.

The Upper East Milton Table includes:

- Community Living North Halton
- Grace Anglican Church
- Halton Multicultural Council Connections
- Halton Region Health Department
- Milton Community Resource Centre
- Milton Public Library
- Town of Milton Recreation Department,
- Halton District School Board,
- Halton Catholic District School Board
- YMCA of Greater Toronto

The Upper East Milton Table has decided to address physical health and wellbeing, gross and fine motor and physical independence, and social competence.

The table has been quick to identify areas of need and gaps in the local community (space, parent engagement, outdoor play and program opportunities) and to take action. Overall, the theme of the importance of play, and specifically outdoor play, has emerged as a common area of focus.

The Upper East Milton Table is planning or has already implemented the following activities:

- Distribution of outdoor play buckets, promoting fine motor and nature play, to all incoming JK children registered in the area through both the HDSB and HCDSB
- Mobile pop up and play programs, focusing on physical literacy and fine motor skills, in the fall at a neighbourhood park, delivered by the Town of Milton
- Developing common messages to support a parent engagement and communications strategy for the remainder of the project.

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