

Interactive Play Group Hours

Walker Family YMCA Site

25 YMCA Drive
905 938-9392

Mon., Wed. 9:00am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Tues, Thurs. 9:00am - 8:00pm
Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Grantham Site

469 Grantham Avenue
905 937-7007

Mon., Wed 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tues., Thurs. 9:00am - 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Thorold Site

15 Pine Street South
905 227-9783

Mon. to Thurs. 9:00am - 1:00pm
Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Bunting Road Site

234 Bunting Road
905 980-6000 ex 6211

Mon. to Fri. 9:00am - 12:00pm
Mon. to Thurs. 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Mobile Sites

905-708-8469

Monday:
9:30am - 12:00pm
YMCA HEALTHY KIDS CENTRE
360 Niagara Street, St. Catharines

Tuesday:
9:30am - 12:00 pm
BETHANY COMMUNITY CHURCH
1388 Third Street, St. Catharines

Wednesday:
9:00am-12:00pm
CONNAUGHT SCHOOL
please enter through the front door & sign in
28 Prince Street, St. Catharines

Thursday:
9:30am - 12:00 pm
CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
321 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines

Friday:
9:00am - 11:00 am
ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
33 Woodrow Street, St. Catharines

Saturday:
9:30am - 12:00pm
YMCA Employment Services and Newcomer
Information Centre
285 Bunting Road, St. Catharines

For further information please call:
905-938-9392

Ontario Early Years St. Catharines February 2012 Newsletter



Making a Difference....Invest in a child today!

As a charitable, community based association, the YMCA's mission is to be open to everyone. There are many children involved in the YMCA whose families cannot afford to pay full fees to participate. The YMCA financially assists individuals so that families of all income levels have the opportunity to play, learn and grow at the YMCA.

The Strong Kids Campaign enables the YMCA to share its story through commitment of a strong volunteer team and invites others to be involved in the YMCA. By supporting the YMCA through a charitable contribution, we can offer positive, value-based YMCA experiences to hundreds of children. We believe that building strong kids, builds strong families and strong communities.

Charitable gifts support children and youth so that they may benefit from a YMCA experience in camp, as a member, as a youth Leader-In-Training, in a Youth Action program or as a child care participant.

Specifically, in 2012, funds raised through the Strong Kids Campaign will impact lives by supporting children and youth from low-income families including:

- 650 kids in YMCA Day Camp
- 15 children in Child Care
- 3,000 youth attending Youth Action
- 6,000 children and youth in membership programs learning skills like swimming and leadership
- 590 children learn skills and have fun in YMCA community programs

The YMCA believes that investing in the development of youth today will help build strong families, which in turn will build strong communities. You can help to financially assist children and youth to participate in the Y. Your charitable contribution to the Strong Kids Campaign will help enrich the lives of over 12,000 children and youth who would otherwise not be able to afford to participate in a values-based, recreational YMCA experience. During the month of February and March, special events supporting the Strong Kids campaign will take place in our centres.

Our Ontario Early Years staff may invite you to consider a donation to the 2012 Strong Kids Campaign. To find out more about the campaign, please talk to any one of our program facilitators or supervisors or visit http://ymcaofniagara.org/donate-strong_kids.php



Tuesday February 21st All Sites

Come and enjoy a nutritious pancake breakfast with your friends as we kick-off the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign.

This is a great way to make a donation to this years' campaign.

Thank you for your support!

Adult Opportunities Parent/Caregiver Education

(All of the following workshops require registration)

Adult Workshop	Date & Time	OEYC Location and Registration	Description
Asset Building	Tues., Feb. 7 th 9:30am to 10:30am	Bunting Road Site 234 Bunting Road St. Catharines 905-980-6000 ex 6211	This workshop will introduce a set of 40 developmental tools and resources that are proven to help children be successful throughout their lives. This workshop will give you hands on ideas of how you can instil these assets into your children. Childcare is available but limited.
Scrapbooking	Thurs., Feb. 16 th 6:15pm to 7:30pm	Walker Family YMCA Site 25 YMCA Drive St. Catharines 905-934-9622 ex 265	Create some wonderful memories with photos and journaling. Join Mariesa and make a folded photo album to place your photos in. Please bring 10 photos along. No child care available.
Nutrition and Your Toddler	Wed., Feb. 22 nd 9:30am to 10:30am	Thorold Site 15 Pine Street South Thorold 905-227-9783	Join Melissa, a Public Health Dietician, for this informative session on how to raise a healthy eater. We will discuss how much and what types of food your toddler needs, how to deal with common feeding challenges such as picky eaters and tips for making mealtimes enjoyable. Childcare is available but limited.
Clothespin Letter Match	Thurs., Feb. 23 rd 9:30am to 10:30am	Bunting Road Site 234 Bunting Road St. Catharines 905-980-6000 ex 6211	Sign up to make this simple letter matching game. It not only teaches letter recognition but also helps develop fine motor skills, and eye hand co-ordination. This workshop is for children 3 years of age and older.
Get Ready for Kindergarten	Thurs., Feb. 23 rd 10:00am to 11:00am	Grantham Site 469 Grantham Site St. Catharines 905-937-7007	One of the biggest steps in a child's life is starting school. As a parent/guardian are you ready for the big day? Join us this morning for an information workshop on the many things parents should be aware of when preparing your child for their first experiences at school. Childcare is available but limited.
Make Your Own Baby Food	Mon., Feb. 27 th 10:00am to 11:00am	Mobile Site YMCA Healthy Kids Centre 360 Niagara Street St. Catharines 905-708-8469	There are many benefits of making your own baby food. Save money and take advantage of the fresh fruits and vegetables of the season. You also can adjust the texture as your baby grows. Join Susie today as she explains how to puree and store your food for baby. Childcare is available but limited. If you have a magic bullet or baby bullet blender, please bring it along.
Can't Wait for JK!	Tues., Feb. 28 th 9:30am to 10:30am	Thorold Site 15 Pine Street South Thorold 905-227-9783	It is never too soon to start preparing your child for the leap to JK. Begin here with important tips and information about the things you can help your child with, for example recognizing the letter his or her name starts with. Sign up today to give your child a head start to success in JK. Childcare is available but limited.

Sleep Routines	Tues., Feb. 28 th 1:00pm to 2:30pm	Walker Family YMCA Site 25 YMCA Drive St. Catharines 905-934-9622 ex 265	From Public Health will be coming to talk about Sleep Routines. She will have a short presentation, and then open it up for discussion and questions. Child care available but limited
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Opportunities to Grow with your Child Child and Parent/Caregiver Education

(All of the following workshops require registration)

Workshop	Date & Time	OEYC Location and Registration	Description
Infant Picasso	Thurs., Feb. 9 th 10:00am to 11:00am	Grantham Site 469 Grantham Avenue St. Catharines 905-937-7007	Early art activities can play a major role in many of your child's developing skills. For instance grasping, tearing and crumpling paper encourages fine-motor exploration as well as brain development! We will explore and discuss a few more ways in which your child is developing during creative experiences before you and your baby (5-12 months) participate in some hands-on creative experiences. Please dress you and your baby for getting messy!
Connect with Baby	Fridays Feb. 24 th and March 2 nd 9:30am to 10:30am	Mobile Site St. Christopher School 33 Woodrow Street St. Catharines 905-708-8469	Join us for a two week informative program on how to bond and connect with baby. Be prepared to interact with your baby and learn some fun new songs and activities to stimulate your baby and form an important connection with them. This workshop is designed for babies from birth to twelve months of age.
Mini Make the Connection	Tuesdays Feb., 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th , Mar., 6 th and 13 th 9:30am to 11:00am	Mobile Site Bethany Community Church 1388 Third Street St. Catharines 905-708-8469	Mini Make The Connection is an adult-infant attachment group that is based on songs, rhymes, magic moments and toy box experiences. This is a 6 session group and attendance at all sessions is mandatory. Participants and their infants are involved in many attachment based experiences focused on love, language and learning. This workshop is for caregiver and their infant aged 0-12months.

Nurturing Children's Creativity Child and Parent/Caregiver Interactions

(All of the following workshops require registration)

Children's Workshop	Date & Time	OEYC Location and Registration	Description
Make Your Own Playdough	Thurs., Feb. 2 nd 10:00am to 11:00am	Mobile Site Church of the Transfiguration 321 Glenridge Avenue St. Catharines 905-708-8469	Ever want to make your own nice smelly play dough? Today we will mix pour and measure the ingredients together to make red play dough. We will read a book about colours, and everyone will bring home a sample of the dough and a recipe to make more at home.

Valentine's Day Gift	Tues., Feb. 7 th 9:30am to 10:30am	Grantham Site 469 Grantham Avenue St. Catharines 905-937-7007	Valentine's Day is for letting those you love know you love them and what better way than with a gift that keeps on giving? We are going to make "Cookies in a Jar" using our creativity to decorate a jar that your special person is going to love. We will use our math skills to measure out ingredients and fill our jar. Please bring your own jar (approx. 1 quart jar) and all other ingredients will be provided.
Musical Mini-Mozarts	Tue., Feb. 7 th 9:30am to 10:30am	Thorold Site 15 Pine Street South Thorold 905-227-9783	Bang-bang, rattle- bing-bang...Bring your toddler in for a fun session of making music. We will use instruments, scarves, and ribbons to express the sounds through motion and movement. This is for children 12 to 18 months of age.
Sweet Floral Bouquet	Thurs., Feb. 9 th 9:30am to 10:30am	Thorold Site 15 Pine Street South Thorold 905-227-9783	A sweet surprise waits inside this paper floral bouquet fashioned from bright, colourful hearts Children 24 months and older will incorporate eye/hand coordination, and fine motor skills in putting this craft together.
CD Picture Frame	Thurs., Feb. 9 th 9:30am to 10:30am	Bunting Road Site 234 Bunting Road St. Catharines 905-980-6000 ex 6211	With Valentine's Day just around the corner, this craft will be a beautiful gift for someone special. Please bring 2 photos that can be cut to a 3x3 inch size. This workshop is for children 3 years of age and older.
3D Valentine Card Making	Thurs., Feb. 9 th 10:00am to 11:00am	Mobile Site Church of the Transfiguration 321 Glenridge Avenue St. Catharines 905-708-8469	Come on out to the Church of the Transfiguration where we will make beautiful Valentine's Day cards. Learn how to make a 3 dimensional card for that special parent or grandparent.
Valentine's Day Infant Hand Prints	Sat., Feb. 11 th 9:30am to 10:30am	Walker Family YMCA Site 25 YMCA Drive St. Catharines 905-934-9622 ex 265	Come with your baby to create a special handprint heart so you can treasure the love that your baby brings. This workshop is for infants 6 to 12 months.
Windy Math	Tues., Feb. 21 st 6:15pm to 7:15pm	Walker Family YMCA Site 25 YMCA Drive St. Catharines 905-934-9622 ex 265	From birth children are surrounded by math in their environment. Join us today to help your child develop their math skills and learn how to enhance math in their everyday routines. This workshop is for children 3 to 6 years of age.
Fishing for Letters	Mon., Feb. 27 th 9:30am to 10:30am	Grantham Site 469 Grantham Avenue St. Catharines 905-937-7007	Join us today and make a fishing craft with your child. This activity is an exciting way to practice the alphabet and develop letter recognition and early reading skills.
Tye Dye T-shirt	Tues., Feb. 28 th 10:30am to 11:30am	Bunting Road Site 234 Bunting Road St. Catharines 905-980-6000 ex 6211	Please supply the white or light coloured t-shirt for your child to decorate. Each child will create a one of a kind T that will imitate tye dye without the mess. Your child(ren) will be eager and proud to wear their uniquely designed top! This workshop is for children 2 years of age and older.

Join Us on Our Adventures

(All of the following adventures require registration)

Trip	Date & Time	OEYC Location and Registration	Description
Petland <i>(318 Ontario Street)</i>	Wed., Feb. 15 th 10:30am to 11:30am	Grantham Site 469 Grantham Avenue St. Catharines 905-937-7007	Chirp-chirp, woof-woof, meow. Is your child curious about what tropical fish eat or why hamsters spend so much time going around in a wheel? Come along and visit Petland with us. We will find out about pet foods, sleep habits, preferred environments and how often you should walk a chinchilla.
A Winter Walk	Tues., Feb. 15 th 10:00am to 10:45am	Thorold Site 15 Pine Street South Thorold 905-227-9783	Bundle up and join us this morning for a fresh air walk about the neighbourhood. We will observe the environment around us, the weather and any animals who put in an appearance. Then head back inside for some hot chocolate and a cosy book in circle time.



Two upcoming free, community events for the whole family!

St. Catharines Family Literacy Event
Walker Family YMCA
Saturday, April 14th, 2012
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Enjoy free books, literacy activities, entertainment and snacks for the children.

Ontario Early Years of the Niagara Region
10 Year Celebration
MacBain Community Centre, Niagara Falls
Saturday, April 28th, 2012
9:30 am - 12:30 pm



Bring the whole family to celebrate the impact of our programs these past 10 years. Entertainment for the children, games, interactive crafts, storytelling, refreshments, swimming and guest speakers.

Watch for further information in our next newsletter or speak to one of our staff for more details.

NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

Valentine Celebrations

Tuesday February 14th
All Sites



Everyone is invited to dress in shades of red today as we celebrate this day of sharing affection amongst our friends here at the center. Encourage your child(ren) to print their names on some cards if they'd like to pass them out during circle time.



Friendship Tea Party

Walker Family YMCA Site

Join us today to celebrate love and friendship. We will play special circle time games, get our bodies moving with the "Queen of Hearts" and decorate special cookies for snack.

Little Kickers

Thorold Site
Monday February 13th
9:30am



Join us at gym time this morning where our special guest will lead two 20 minutes soccer sessions with children and parents. Children will be assigned into the age appropriate session. This is a great opportunity to expose your little one to soccer and be active together. Registration is required.

Gym Days

Walker Family YMCA Site
Fridays
February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
11:15am to 11:45am

Gym time encourages you to get active with your children. Children will enhance their co-ordination, balance and gross motor skills.

Music/ Movement and Fun Science Activities

Activities are scheduled regularly at all sites.

Ontario Early Years Newsletter

To view the Ontario Early Years Monthly Newsletter visit:
http://www.ymcaofniagara.org/childcare_childrens_programs-early_years_centres.php

Mobile Site

Saturdays 9:30am to 12:00pm
YMCA Employment and Newcomer Centre
285 Bunting Road
(in the plaza behind Walmart)

Did you know we offer another Ontario Early Years location on Saturday? Come visit our new site at the YMCA Employment and Newcomer Centre. A great way to spend a Saturday morning with your child.



Car Seat Information Clinic

Mobile Site
YMCA Employment and Newcomer Centre
285 Bunting Road
10:00am



These sessions are intended to teach parents and caregivers how to safely install and use their own child car seats. Sessions cover all types of seats (rear-facing, forward-facing and booster) for children of all ages. To register call 905-708-8469.

Recreational Swim

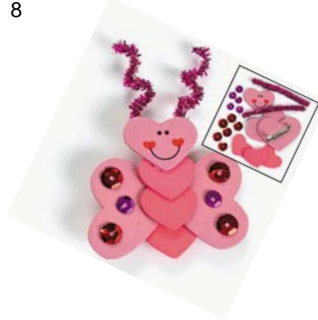




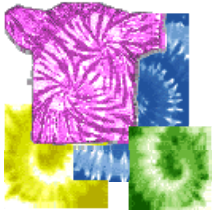
Walker Family YMCA Site
Monday February 6th
Wednesday February 15th
Wednesday February 22nd
Monday February 27th
1:30pm to 2:10pm

YMCA Canada encourages that all children are a minimum of six months of age to participate. One adult per child is required for water activities. If your child is not fully toilet trained they must wear swim diapers or plastic pants. Registration is required. Please sign in at the centre and pick up a swim pass.

February Closures

All Sites
Monday February 20th –Family Day



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	Children's Workshop-Make Your Own Playdough 10:00am (MS)	3 Gym Time 11:15am	4
6 Recreational Swim 1:15pm (WFYS)	7 Adult/Child Workshop-Mini Make the Connection 9:30am (MS) Adult Workshop-Asset Building 9:30am (BRS) Children's Workshop-Valentine's Day Gift 9:30am (GS) Children's Workshop-Musical Mini-Mozart's 9:30am (TS)	8 	9 Children' Workshop-CD Picture Frame 9:30am (BRS) Children's Workshop-Sweet Floral Bouquet 9:30am (TS) Adult/Child Workshop-Infant Picasso 10:00am (GS) Children's Workshop-3D Valentine's Card Making 10:00am (MS)	10 Gym Time 11:15am	11 Children's Workshop-Valentine's Day Infant Hand Prints 9:30am (WFYS) 
13 Little Kickers 9:30am (TS)	14 Friendship Tea Party (WFYS) Valentine Celebrations-All Other Sites Adult/Child Workshop-Mini Make the Connection 9:30am (MS)	15 Trip-A Winter Walk 10:00am (TS) Trip-Petland 10:30am (GS) Recreational Swim 1:15pm (WFYS)	16 Adult Workshop-Scrapbooking 6:15pm (WFYS)	17 Gym Time 11:15am	18 Car Seat Information Session 10:00am (MS) 
20 Family Day All Sites Closed 	21 Strong Kids Campaign Kick-off Pancake Breakfast-All Sites Adult/Child Workshop-Mini Make the Connection 9:30am (MS) Children's Workshop-Wintery Math 6:15pm (WFYS) 	22 Adult Workshop-Nutrition and Your Toddler 9:30am (TS) Recreational Swim 1:15pm (WFYS)	23 Adult Workshop-Get Ready for Kindergarten 10:00am (GS) Adult Workshop-Clothespin Letter Match 9:30am (BRS)	24 Adult/Child Workshop-Connect with Baby 9:30am (MS) Gym Time 11:15am	25
27 Children's Workshop-Fishing for Letters 9:30am (GS) Adult Workshop- Make Your Own Baby Food 10:00am (MS) Recreational Swim 1:15pm (WFYS)	28 Adult Workshop-Can't Wait for JK 9:30am (TS) Adult/Child Workshop-Mini Make the Connection 9:30am (MS) Children's Workshop-Tye Dye T-shirt 10:30am (BRS) Adult Workshop-Sleep Routines 1:00pm (WFYS)	29 	March 1	March 2 Adult/Child Workshop-Connect with Baby 9:30am (MS) Gym Time 11:15am (WFYS)	March 3

Legend:
WFYS – Walker Family YMCA Site
GS – Grantham Site
TS – Thorold Site
BRS – Bunting Road Site
MS – Mobile Site