



Hamilton

April 6, 2017

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

Beginning in January 2018, there will be a transformation of the existing child and family programs known as the Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYCs) and Parenting and Family Literacy Centres (PFLCs) into a new system of early years programs called the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFCs). This change is part of a provincial plan that will take place in all municipalities across Ontario.

In Hamilton, the City of Hamilton will be responsible for the local planning, implementation, funding, and ongoing management of these early years programs.

The City of Hamilton is currently working with the existing OEYC lead agencies and school boards to plan for the new OEYCFC system. The planning group has committed to building on the strengths and assets of both the OEYC and PFLC systems, as well as looking for new opportunities to realign early years services to better meet the needs of the families and children living in Hamilton.

Does this mean the OEYC or PFLC site that I attend will be closing?

Not necessarily. We are still in the early planning stages and do not yet have this information. In some cases existing OEYC and PFLC sites may evolve into OEYCFC sites. In other cases, services will be relocated from existing sites to new locations to better meet the needs of families. The City will work closely with school boards and service providers to minimize any disruptions to families throughout these transitions.

Where will the OEYCFC sites be located?

The locations and operators of the OEYCFC sites have not yet been determined. A transparent process is being developed to help inform these decisions. The OEYCFC sites will be located in a range of settings across the city, including schools and community locations based on neighbourhood needs.

When are these changes happening?

The City of Hamilton will take a phased in approach to the implementation of the new system in order to minimize any disruptions to families and staff. Existing PFLCs will remain in operation until June 2018, to align with the end of the school year. Any changes to existing OEYC sites will be phased in throughout 2018, on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis.

We want to continue to seek feedback from families and will ensure that parents, caregivers and children have ample opportunity to help us design the new sites to reflect the specific needs of their community. Information about these opportunities will be communicated as we move further along in the planning process.

The City of Hamilton and the OEYCFC planning group would like to thank you for your patience during this planning phase. We are committed to providing further updates as more information becomes available. If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak with one of the OEYC or PFLC staff at the location you attend.

