

# Application Information Package

Ontario Early Years Centres  
A Place For Parents And Their Children.



## Information for Volunteer Applicants

The Ontario Early Years Centre of Leeds and Grenville is committed to responding to the needs of parents, caregivers and young children, in partnership with the community, to encourage healthy child development and positive outcomes for all. The OEYC team is dedicated to providing support to parents and caregivers with children between the ages of zero to six years.

### Why Become a Volunteer?

There are many great reasons for becoming a volunteer with the Ontario Early Years Centre of Leeds and Grenville. Being a volunteer can be a challenging, satisfying, and rewarding experience. Volunteering is an excellent opportunity to meet new people, build self-esteem, gain new experiences, share your expertise, give back to your local community, and most of all have fun!

## The Ontario Early Years Centre Background

Based on the Early Years study, which was co-chaired by Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain and J.Fraser Mustard, a new understanding of brain development was formed. The conclusion was that the first six years are the most important years in a child's life. In the early years, the brain forms connections that set the stage for lifelong learning, behaviour and health. By age six, children have a solid foundation for reaching their full potential in the years ahead. This information encouraged all levels of government and other organizations to work towards improving the circumstances in and outside the home for early child development. From this information, the concept of the Ontario Early Years Centre

was born. There are approximately 103 Ontario Early Years Centres across the province.

### What is an Ontario Early Years Centre?

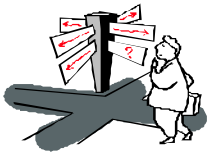


An Ontario Early Years Centre is a place for parents and caregivers, of children up to the age of six; to go to get information they need about their children's development and about services to support that development.

The Ontario Early Years Centre of Leeds and Grenville offer the following free services.

- ✓ Drop-in for parents and caregivers with young children
- ✓ Facilitated playgroups
- ✓ Toy lending library
- ✓ Parent and caregiver education
- ✓ Information and referral services
- ✓ Child care listing
- ✓ Volunteer opportunities
- ✓ Access to services of the Early Literacy Specialist

### OEYC Locations



The Ontario Early Years Centre of Leeds and Grenville has one main site located at 166 Pearl Street East, Brockville. There are three satellite locations:

- ❖ 215 Sanders Street, Kemptville
- ❖ Central Public School, Hyde St. entrance, Prescott
- ❖ 375 William St. S., Suite 100, Gananoque

In order to accommodate all the areas within the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville there are also outreach services to the various smaller locations.

### Things to Consider Before Volunteering



#### ***Time Commitment:***

Prospective volunteers must be aware of the time commitment required. Volunteers are an important part of the delivery of service to participants. If someone is unable to fulfill their commitment it may result in the cancellation/postponing of valuable services. Without the assistance of dependable and reliable volunteers the OEYC will not be able to meet the needs of the families.

Therefore, we ask volunteers to agree to volunteer with us for a minimum of three months. During this time you will be expected to fulfill your responsibilities

as a volunteer. After the three months an interview will be scheduled. During this time the Volunteer Coordinator will discuss your options. If you do not feel this is the volunteer opportunity for you, you may opt to try a new role or leave the association.

If you have a special talent or gift that you wish to share with our program, these opportunities are also welcomed. Let us know what you are able to commit to and we will discuss your options. Our agency is dedicated to finding a suitable arrangement that works for you.

We take the role of a volunteer seriously and we expect our volunteers to do the same. Everyone plays an important role in our team.

### ***Training:***

All volunteers over the age of 18 years must attend the orientation and training session(s). Our volunteers will be expected to take advantage of the ongoing training opportunities available to them.

## Steps To Become a Volunteer



Please read the information package carefully and decide whether this is something you can commit to. Once you have made your decision drop off or mail in your completed Volunteer Application Form, along with two completed reference interview forms. Once your application has been reviewed the Volunteer Coordinator will call to set up an interview.

The interview will involve a series of questions and an opportunity to discuss your volunteer options in detail. At this time you will be given a letter to take to your local police department to complete a Criminal Reference Check. Once all the information is received a final decision will be made.

A final decision will be rendered, based on the information provided. At this time you will receive an acceptance letter and a schedule based on the information obtained during the interview stage. If there are any questions at any time during the process, please contact Leona Berrea at 613-341-9044.

Please note that the Ontario Early Years Centre reserves the right to discontinue the application at any time.