

First Aid



A first aid kit is available at the greeting area for each program. Parents and caregivers can access the kit to administer first aid as needed. EarlyON educators are trained in CPR & First Aid, and carry a first aid kit and whistle.

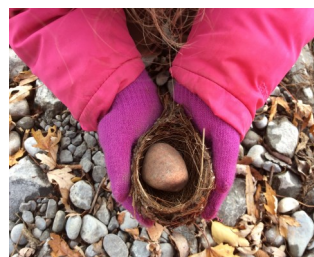
In the event of poison ivy exposure, we encourage washing the affected area of the skin with soap and water.

We recommend parents do a thorough tick check at the end of program and again at bath time. In the event of tick exposure, we suggest that parents brush the tick off. If the tick is attached, the parent can remove it using the tick key or tweezers found in the first aid kit.

Educators will assist with the identification of hazards, plants to avoid and other precautions. Please ask if you need help!

Emergency Procedures

All Wildwood sites have a designated greeting area where a map of the Wildwood site is available, along with daily *site-risk assessments* and our *experience risk-benefit assessments*.



In case of emergency, you will hear three sharp loud blows of a whistle. Please **proceed to the greeting area immediately in a safe manner**.

Educators will provide details of the emergency.

Site evacuation: proceed to exit immediately

Missing child: educators form a search party

Injury: educators call 911, lead educator starts first aid



Wildwood



Forest & Nature EarlyON Programs






Wildwood Forest & Nature EarlyON Programs


are FREE, outdoor play-based experiences to connect parents, caregivers and children (birth to six years) to the natural world.

Wildwood follows guiding principles of **Forest School Canada**:

- regular and repeated access to the same natural outdoor space, over an extended period of time
- child-led, emergent, play and inquiry-based learning

Research indicates that engagement with nature in the outdoors is crucial to a child’s healthy brain development, and is essential for overall health and well-being. *“Children are provided with opportunities to build an on-going relationship with the land, to a dedicated educator, to one another, and to themselves through this educational approach.”* (Forest and Nature School in Canada: A Head, Heart, Hands Approach to Outdoor Learning)

 **Wildwood** offers children an optimum learning environment, utilizing their innate curiosity in the natural world, supported by responsive qualified educators.

 **Wildwood** promotes a reciprocal relationship with the land and an understanding of themselves as part of the natural world. We model respectful and caring attitudes & behaviour.

Clothing

All participants (children and adults) are encouraged to dress for adventurous play, weather and prevention (poison ivy, ticks)

We suggest the following:

Winter- warm waterproof boots, snowsuit, hat and mittens; wool socks; extra mittens

Spring and Fall- waterproof boots, pants and jacket; extra insulation and mittens on colder days; sun hat; bug jacket

Summer- waterproof boots; long light-coloured pants tucked into socks; sun hat; lightweight clothing; bug jacket; sunscreen; insect repellent



Weather


Wildwood operates in all seasons / weather!
Check Family Space website/ Facebook for cancellations in **extreme conditions** (freezing rain, wind-chill, high winds etc.)

<https://www.familyspace.ca/>
<https://www.facebook.com/FamilySpaceQuinte>

Food & Hygiene

All Wildwood programs are offered in spaces with public access; therefore, we cannot guarantee a nut-free zone. Families provide their own snack and water if desired (pack-in & pack-out, no garbage)

Toileting is typically a “port-a-potty”. Please come prepared with your own sanitizing/handwashing supplies to ensure they are available

 **Learning & Development** As educators, we observe and connect our observations to the developmental domains (social, emotional, cognitive, physical, communication), with the intention of moving the learning forward. Responding to our observations, we encourage inquiry-driven, emergent play that supports a child's interests. We document the experiences we observe to help make the children's learning visible using photos and videos. Learning is shared with families and colleagues to better understand how children play and learn in natural settings outdoors

Follow our stories on social media and join our Facebook group: **Wildwood Forest & Nature EarlyON Program**



Outdoor Play

Challenging play-something children create that involves excitement and adventure

Adventurous play-children take opportunities to explore, test their own capabilities, to manage risks and to grow in their capacity, resourcefulness and resilience

Risky play-children engaging in thrilling and exciting experiences that involves a potential risk of injury, but most importantly offers challenge, testing and limits

We believe that children play differently outdoors, and for children's healthy development and learning, they need to experience risk. We aim to offer play experiences that are *"as safe as necessary, not as safe as possible"*. We support children to co-manage risks



The Forest and Nature School Difference (FNS)

FNS is an educational ethos and practice that centres the Land and the child-at-play. We support learning that is rooted in place and play, inspired by the child, and built on relationships.

Wildwood is a parent-child FNS model. In this approach:

- children play outdoors in all weather/seasons
- children play independently or in groups, developing their own theories and wonderings about the natural world
- learning happens in the moment and is inspired by the children's interests
- children develop a relationship with the natural world
- children practice risk management through adventurous and challenging play



Wildwood Locations—9:30-12:00

Monday / **Stirling**: Sager C.A. / 30 Golf Course Road

Tuesday / **Batawa**: Dino Dig / 99 Ski Club Lane

Wednesday / **Madoc**: O'Hara Mill C.A. / 638 Mill Road

Thursday / **Plainfield**: Frink Centre / 381 Thrasher Road

Friday / **Belleville**: Potters Creek C.A. / 2061 Old Hwy #2 / + Potters on last Saturday of the month

What to Expect

Regular and repeated visits are encouraged because:

- ♥ The longer you linger, the more you learn
- ♥ The more you visit, the deeper the learning
- ♥ Children's competencies, capabilities and confidence will grow

Typical Wildwood Mornings:

9:30 **arrival**, unstructured free play exploring the land, loose parts and re-purposed materials, guided hikes

11:15 **gathering**, fairy fires, forest tea, campfire, stories & songs



Seasons & weather may alter this "flow of the day"

Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities:

- Monitor your child's safety (assessing risky play together)
- Follow your child's lead, offering time and space to play and explore
- Co-discover and learn together
- Engage with spirit, heart, mind and body. Be curious.
- Model, and promote interest and respect for all of nature
- Slow down! Model your wonder and interest. Ask questions!



Forest & Nature School Practitioners

Donna Kaye and Julie Hickey from Family Space Quinte, are Registered Early Childhood Educators who are also certified as Forest and Nature School Practitioners, through Forest School Canada (Child & Nature Alliance Canada)

Donna and Julie work side by side with a team of passionate EarlyON educators. Most have certifications in Outdoor Play Training and continue to strengthen knowledge and skills in outdoor play/nature inspired teaching and learning methods. We are on this learning journey with you!



Our Educators view children as innately competent, curious and capable learners

Educator Responsibilities

- Collaborate with families to ensure children's safety, on the land and with the use of tools
- Encourage slowing down, noticing, wondering, thinking and sharing of observations, thoughts and questions
- Listen to children's ideas/theories to strengthen our relationship and deepen our understanding of their learning
- Work in partnership with families to support children's investigations and build on children's natural curiosity
- Share power with learners through play-based, emergent and inquiry-driven teaching and learning methods

