

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

March 12, 2024

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Durham Region's Early Learning and Child Care Showcase
- Poster to promote Durham Region's Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan, 2023-2027
- Share your input on Durham Region's Strategic Plan
- Update on Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) directed growth spaces
- How to view version history in the Operator Portal for a child's placement
- Ontario's 2023 early years and child care annual report
- The solar eclipse

Durham Region's Early Learning and Child Care Showcase

The early learning and child care showcase will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ajax Community Centre, HMS Hall, 75 Centennial Rd., Ajax. Click [here](#) to register at no cost. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak with local child care and early learning organizations about career opportunities, meet with representatives from post-secondary programs, view interactive and engaging child-inspired learning experiences, and speak with passionate educators about the profession. For more information, contact Tracy at Tracy.Barclay@durham.ca.

Poster to promote Durham Region's Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan, 2023-2027

Help promote Durham's new early learning and child care service plan. Please print and post the attached poster in an area visible to families and staff. The detailed service plan can be found on Durham Region's [website](#).

Share your input on Durham Region's Strategic Plan

The current Durham Region Strategic Plan is approaching its end in December 2024. Work is underway to develop Durham Region's 2025 Strategic Plan, which will guide the direction of the Region's work over the next few years. The plan will outline how programs and services will be delivered and advance the work on the future we want to create. Between March 1 to March 31, the Region is inviting members of the community to have their say in the future of Durham Region by [completing a survey](#) or [entering an art contest](#). Community members can also [enter to win one of 20 \\$100 gift cards](#).

Update on Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) directed growth spaces

The application for Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) directed growth spaces will be available on the Children's Services website between March 18 and April 15, 2024. The application will allow operators to indicate their intent to enrol or expand their licensed spaces in the CWELCC system in 2024, 2025, or 2026. Operators who applied for expansion or enrolment in the CWELCC system in 2023 and were not approved can use the online application to submit a new request.

School-based directed growth for programs for children aged zero to four opening in 2024-2026 are approved by the Region of Durham as part of the school board capital submission process. As such, no application is necessary.

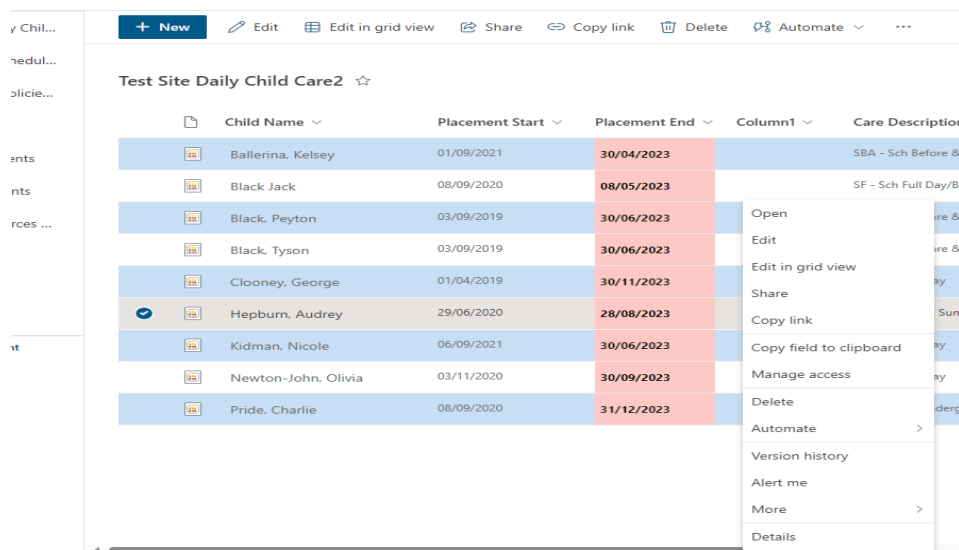
All available 2024 community-based directed growth spaces that were allocated by the Ministry of Education for the Region of Durham have been fully expended. 2024 directed growth spaces have been used to support changes to home child care licensing and previously approved before and after school projects in alignment with the Region's directed growth strategy.

The Region of Durham was allocated 0 new community-based spaces for 2025 and 489 community-based spaces for 2026.

We recognize the need for child care continues to grow throughout the Region and have requested additional growth spaces from the Ontario government. This request is under review by the Ministry of Education. Completed applications for CWELCC-directed growth spaces will be reviewed and responded to based on alignment with the [Directed Growth Plan](#) and pending the availability of spaces.

How to view version history in the Operator Portal for a child's placement

Version history refers to the history of changes made to a child's placement in the Operator Portal (OPR). Version history will identify the date the placement was created as well as the date(s) any additional changes to the placement were made and what those subsequent changes were. To access version history, click on the row with the child's placement in the list of active placements in the Operator Portal. Right-click on the placement and a list of options will appear. Select version history.



Version history

4.0	17/09/2021 15:37	<input type="checkbox"/> Darlene Burns
	Please ignore: SystemDate1 No	
	System Date2 28/02/1900	
3.0	17/09/2021 15:37	<input type="checkbox"/> Darlene Burns
	Care Description SEF - Sch/Kind Summer Program	
2.0	22/04/2021 10:21	<input type="checkbox"/> Darlene Burns
	Placement End 28/08/2021	
1.0	26/02/2021 12:15	<input type="checkbox"/> Darlene Burns
	Child Name Hepburn, Audrey	
	Placement Start 29/06/2020	
	Placement End 28/08/2020	
	Care Description SESC - Sch/Kind Summer Program	
	Approved Rate \$43.00	
	Parent Rate \$18.00	
	Mthly Contrib \$977.42	
	Set Days Per Week 5	
	Board of Education Durham District Sch Brd DDSB	
	Remaining Absent Days 35	
	Please ignore: SystemDate1 0	
	System Date2 0	

When a child's code (care description) is no longer applicable, the code will be deleted within two months of the code being inactive. This will be the case when a child leaves the site for a period (E.g., if a child attends an alternate site for the summer months) or when the child's code (care description) changes (E.g., a child attending full-day preschool (PF) starts before and after school in September. The before and after school code will be added and the PF code will be deleted within two months of the placement end date).

For questions about the OPR, email ChildCareTechSupport@durham.ca. For questions about specific placements in the OPR, contact the caseworker assigned to your site.

Ontario's 2023 early years and child care annual report

Ontario's 2023 early years and child care annual report is available on the [ministry's website](#). The report contains information about Ontario's child care and early years system as well as Ontario's progress in achieving its early years and child care commitments. Data within the report was generated from the Child Care Licensing System (CCLS) and the Ministry of Education's annual data collection from licensed child care centres and home child care agencies.

The solar eclipse

On Monday, April 8, 2024, Ontario will experience a total solar eclipse. A solar eclipse is an event in which the sun is completely covered by the moon's shadow for a brief period. The solar eclipse will start at 2:05 p.m. and conclude at 4:32 p.m. There are significant risks associated with viewing a solar eclipse, as looking at the sun, even during an eclipse, can lead to eye damage or loss of sight. Those wishing to view the eclipse must ensure they are wearing appropriate eye protection.

In response to the event, most school boards in Durham Region have moved their Professional Activity (PA) Day to Monday, April 8. These boards include Durham District School Board, Durham Catholic District School Board, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, and Peterborough Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic School Board. Students of Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir and Conseil Scolaire Viamonde will have an asynchronous learning day at home. Payment is approved for eligible fee subsidy school-age children who are normally enrolled for a part day, but who require a full day due to the PA Day. If a service provider is unable to provide care, they must mark the day as a non-paid (N) day. No parent rate may be charged, and no absent day will be used.