

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM8.12	ACTION			Ward: 10
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Finding a new home for the EarlyON Child and Family Centre at Niagara Street Junior Public School - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailao, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Children's Services to work with the Toronto District School Board and community partners and identify options for the replacement of the EarlyON program at Niagara Street Junior Public School and report back to the September 5, 2019 meeting of the Economic and Community Development Committee with updates.

Summary

EarlyON Centres provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating program where children can play and parents can connect. EarlyON programs provide free services for families and ensure that everyone regardless of financial capacity can have access to crucial services for children in their community. There are nearly 300 EarlyON Centres across the City of Toronto, including 77 in Toronto District School Board schools, and each provides important programs and supports to local families. EarlyON Centres offer free programs for parents and caregivers with children up to age six.

Two weeks ago, families at Niagara Street Junior Public School received notice from the Toronto District School Board that the school's EarlyON Child and Family Centre will be closing at the end of this school year, on June 26, 2019. With increasing student enrollment at Niagara Street Junior Public School, there is no longer enough physical space in the building for the EarlyON Centre. For this coming September, that space is needed for classrooms.

This means there is an urgent need to find a new space nearby to continue providing this service in the community. The Province of Ontario funds the EarlyON program, while the City acts as the service manager, such as with our licensed childcare system.

It is critical that we work with the Toronto District School Board to find a new location for this service in the community.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.12

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-134481.pdf>)