

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM8.47	ACTION			Ward: 14
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Finding a New Home for the EarlyON Child and Family Centre at Blake Street Junior Public School - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Children's Services to work with the Toronto District School Board, community partners, including Eastview Community Centre and the local Councillor and identify options for the replacement of the EarlyON program which will be closing at Blake Street Junior Public School.

Summary

Our EarlyON Child and Family Centres offer critical programs to parents/caregivers and their children from birth to six years of age. These programs are a free service that welcome all families to participate in quality programs that strengthen adult-child relationships, support parent education and foster healthy child development.

In some 300 EarlyON Centres in Toronto, qualified professionals can help families and caregivers find support, get advice, make personal connections and access a network of resources.

Recently, notices from the Toronto District School Board were given to local families that Blake Street Junior Public School's EarlyON Child and Family Centre will be closing at the end of this school year, on June 26, 2019. Sadly, other EarlyON Child and Family Centres in the area have also closed down at Earl Haig and Greenwood Schools. Wilkinson, a large public school in the neighbourhood has never had an EarlyON Centre. A family drop in program nearby in a local church was recently closed.

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.

This Motion is urgent as sufficient time is needed to find a suitable solution to this matter before school starts up again in September and parents need reassurance that this serious disruption to their family life will be addressed.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.47