



EarlyON Family Survey November 2025

An online bilingual survey was conducted in November 2025 with 291 responses from families who attended EarlyON programming.



Families' Experiences

Families value EarlyON centres for helping children play, learn and socialize, while giving parents a place to connect with other caregivers and feel part of a community. They consistently praised the friendly, supportive staff and the wide range of activities available.



Experience Ratings

- Majority strongly agree EarlyON is accessible, inclusive, supportive and beneficial for child development
- High recommendation rates to friends



Barriers to Attendance

- Work schedules and limited hours
- Transportation and location challenges
- Children aging out of programs
- Illness or program closures



Desired Improvements

- Expanded hours: evenings, weekends, after-school
- More outdoor and active programs
- Programs for older children (6+)
- Better website/calendar usability
- Coffee/snacks for parents, larger spaces, more organized crafts



Agree or Strongly Agree

- EarlyON provides opportunities for children to participate in exploration and play.....99%
- I would recommend EarlyON to a friend98%
- EarlyON is welcoming and accepting of everyone96%
- I have a voice and am heard by staff92%
- The centres have toys, books or activities that reflect my family's ethnicity/culture/experiences.....90%
- EarlyON supports my family's health and well-being91%
- It's easy for my family to access EarlyON (times, location, transportation, language)90%
- My family has a sense of belonging and connection there89%
- By attending EarlyON, I learned about other services and supports that helped my family78%



Why Families Attend

1. To give child opportunities to play with others86%
2. To meet/socialize with other parents and caregivers58%
3. To support child's development50%
4. To support my mental health and well-being24%
5. For practical support (a break, extra food, access to toys and materials)20%
6. To help child prepare for school20%



Why Families Chose Their EarlyON Site

1. Was in my neighbourhood 57%
2. Trusted/liked staff47%
3. Felt a sense of belonging and connection35%
4. Program hours worked with schedule22%
5. Liked the programming offered20%



Types of Programs Respondents Attended

1. Playgroup/drop-in85%
2. Age-specific programming60%
3. Gym/physical activity programs44%
4. Outdoor programs43%
5. Special events/celebrations25%
6. Interest-specific programming (arts, cooking, literacy)25%
7. Francophone programming25%



Types of Programs Respondents Would Like to Attend

1. Interest-specific programming (arts, cooking, literacy)64%
2. School readiness programming ..61%
3. Visits from professionals58%
4. Parent education/workshops50%
5. Gym/physical activity programs50%
6. Outdoor programs50%

35%

Attend 1-2 Years

29%

Attended 1 Site

65%

Prefer Weekday Mornings

53%

Stopped Attending > Went Back To Work

How Long Respondents Have Been Attending EarlyON Centres

- 5 or more years 11%
- 3-4 years 22%
- 1-2 years 35%
- 6-11 months 15%
- Less than 6 months 17%

Number of EarlyON Sites Attended

- 1 29%
- 2 25%
- 3 14%
- 4 10%
- 5 9%
- 6 3%
- 7+ 9%

Times Families Are Likely to Attend

- Weekday afternoons 34%
- Weekday evenings 35%
- Saturdays 48%
- Weekday mornings 65%

Why Families Stopped Attending

1. Went back to work 53%
2. Youngest child started school 18%
3. Too difficult to attend (times, locations, transportation) . 13%
4. No longer have children under the age of 6 4%
5. Child started daycare 3%
6. Busy with other things 3%
7. Didn't feel comfortable in the environment 2%
8. Homeschool/new baby 1%
9. Moved out of Greater Sudbury 1%



About Respondents



Age of Respondants

25-34.....	49.5%
35-44.....	39.3%
55-64.....	5.5%
45-54.....	2.9%
65+	1.1%
18-24.....	1.1%
Under 18.....	0.4%



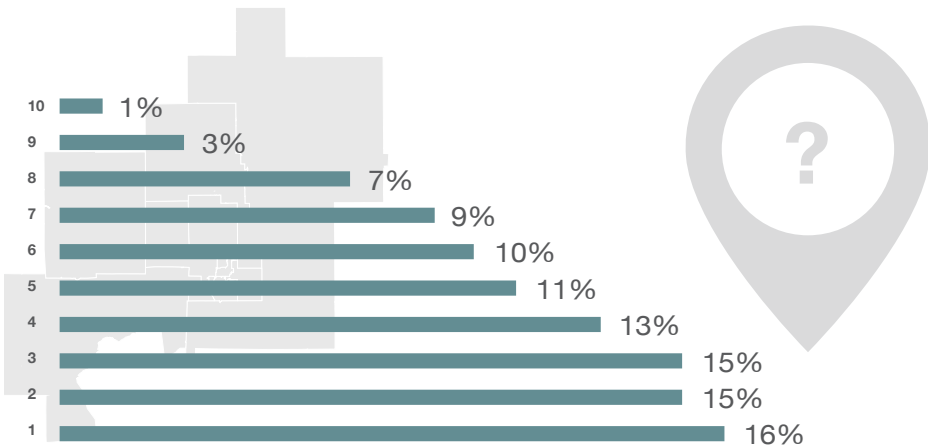
Relationship with Children

Parent	89%
Grandparent	8%
Home child care provider	2%
Caregiver	1%



Family Structure

Two-parent family	83%
Single-parent family	9%
Blended family.....	5%
Multigenerational.....	2%
Grandparent-led family.....	1%
Foster parent or guardian-led family.....	1%



Neighbourhood Where Respondents Live

1. Azilda, Chelmsford, Levack, Onaping	16%
2. New Sudbury	15%
3. South End/ Four Corners/ Long Lake/Wanup.....	15%
4. Valley/Capreol.....	13%
5. Downtown/West End.....	11%
6. Minnow Lake.....	10%
7. Lively/Copper Cliff/ Naughton	9%
8. Garson/Coniston/ Falconbridge/Skead.....	7%
9. Flour Mill/Donovan.....	3%
10. Outside of Greater Sudbury	1%



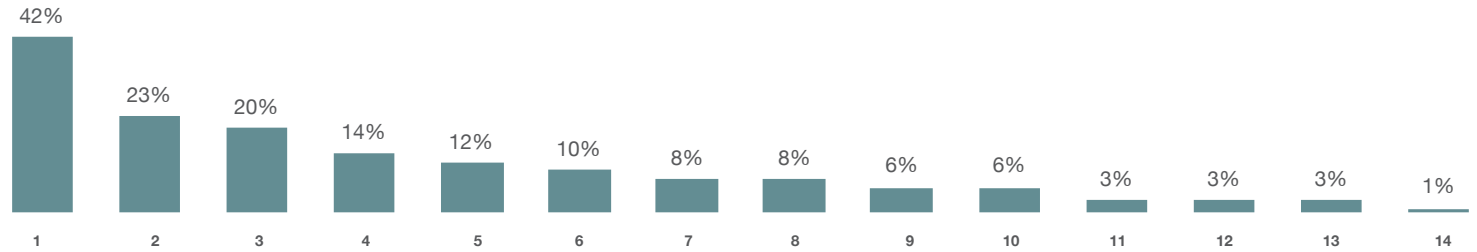
Lived in Canada

1. My whole life	83%
2. 2-4 years	5%
3. 10 or more years	4%
4. 5-9 years	4%
5. Less than 2 years	4%

Newcomers' Country of Origin

A. India	5
B. United States	4
C. Ghana	4
D. China.....	4
E. UK	3
F. Plus one or two families from 28 other countries	

Diversity Indicators



- 1. Francophone42%
- 2. None apply to my family 23%
- 3. Lack of social supports (family or close friends)..... 20%
- 4. New to Greater Sudbury..... 14%
- 5. Indigenous 12%
- 6. English or French is not my first language 10%
- 7. Don't have regular access to a vehicle 8%
- 8. Struggling financially to meet family's basic needs 8%
- 9. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of colour) 6%
- 10. Special needs or disability - child..... 6%
- 11. Special needs or disability parent/guardian 3%
- 12. LGBTQ2S+ 3%
- 13. Grandparent-led household 3%
- 14. Teen/young parent..... 1%

We Hear You!

In 2026 watch for changes to our programming, including:



Additional evening and Saturday programs



New interest-based program offerings



Outdoor and gym program opportunities

