
Press Release – For Immediate Release

RisingOaks Early Learning | St. Patrick Officially Opens, Expanding Access to Affordable, High-Quality Child Care in Kitchener

Kitchener, ON – September 9, 2025

RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario proudly celebrated the official opening of RisingOaks Early Learning | St. Patrick today with a community Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 1201 River Road East in Kitchener. Families, neighbours, community partners, local officials, and media joined RisingOaks leadership to mark this exciting milestone.

The new centre provides high-quality early learning and care for children from birth to age 12, offering:

- 10 infant spaces
- 30 toddler spaces
- 48 preschool spaces
- Before- and after-school care for children in JK to Grade 6

This new centre was made possible through a joint investment by the Governments of Canada and Ontario, ensuring that more families in Waterloo Region have access to affordable, high-quality child care close to home. Thanks to the Canada–Ontario Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (2021-2026), families with children under the age of six will benefit from affordable child care, with fees currently set at a maximum of \$22/day.

“Government of Canada investments like these in affordable child care spaces on school grounds are good for families, good for children, and good for the Kitchener-Waterloo community. Getting off wait lists means more parents can save thousands of dollars in fees and more primary caregivers can join the workforce.” said Anna Gainey, Canada’s Secretary of State for Children and Youth.

“Congratulations to RisingOaks on the opening of this new centre,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Education. “It will give more families in the community access to high-quality, affordable child care and help children get the start they need to succeed in school and in life.”

A Commitment to Excellence in Early Learning

At RisingOaks Early Learning, we believe every child deserves the best possible start in life. Early childhood education has a profound impact on lifelong success, and our approach nurtures curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills through play-based learning.

“Today’s celebration marks more than the opening of a new centre – it represents our commitment to ensuring every child thrives. Through high-quality programming and dedication to excellence, RisingOaks continues to empower children, families, and communities with enriching early learning experiences,” said Lori Prospero, Chief Executive Officer.



"The Region of Waterloo is proud to have participated in the opening of these 88 new affordable child care spaces as part of the St. Patrick school community. Congratulations to RisingOaks Early Learning and everyone who played a part in the creation of this new centre. These new, much-needed child care spaces are an example of what is possible from the strong partnerships in Waterloo Region – between providers, school boards, and all levels of government. Together, we're expanding access and working to meet the unique needs of families as our community continues to grow." --- Regional Chair Karen Redman

Enrolment Information

Infant, toddler, and preschool programs at RisingOaks Early Learning | St. Patrick are currently full. Families interested in future openings are encouraged to add their child's name to the wait list through OneList Waterloo Region, the region's central registry and waitlist. More details at: www.risingoaks.ca/st-patrick.

No matter the child care option parents choose, the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) provides direct, tax-free support, helping about 3.5 million families, including over 6 million children every year. While families can use the benefit however they need, for many it significantly reduces the burden of child care expenses – in some cases, cutting them entirely thanks to federal, provincial, and territorial investments to reduce child care fees in the Canada-wide early learning and child care system.

About RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario

RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario is a registered charity and one of the largest centre-based early learning and care providers in Waterloo Region. RisingOaks serves over 1,400 children from birth to age 12 across 10 locations. As a strong advocate for universal child care, RisingOaks champions affordability for parents, high-quality programming for children, and professional recognition for educators. RisingOaks is a member of the Quality Early Learning Network, with representation on the College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario and the Early Years Coalition Waterloo Region.

About the Canada–Ontario Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

For more information about the Canada–Ontario Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (2021-2026), please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/ontario-canada-wide-2021.html>

Media Contact:

Lori Prospero, Chief Executive Officer
Email: lprospero@risingoaks.ca
Tel: 519-894-0581 ext. 102

Photo available at: <https://risingoaks.ca/st-patrick>