



## **FIREFLY EarlyON Centres providing mix of in-person and virtual services**

**Kenora (October 19, 2020)** – FIREFLY EarlyON Kenora and Minto are excited to offer families some in-person programming starting later this week. At this time, in-person programming will only be available by pre-registering. Sessions will be taking place at the Kenora Public Library location on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 11 AM and 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM and at the Minto location Wednesdays and Fridays from 1PM to 3 PM. Kenora and Minto EarlyON staff will continue to provide virtual programming throughout the remainder of the week. Families are encouraged to watch the FIREFLY EarlyON Kenora and FIREFLY EarlyON Minto Facebook pages for information about both in-person and virtual programming options.

“We have had a lot of positive feedback from families about the virtual programming that we have been providing throughout the pandemic and we are excited to continue to provide those services,” said Leanne Mineault, Manager of Early Years for FIREFLY. “However, we do know that some of our families might not have access to virtual platforms. We recognize the importance of connecting with others in these unprecedented times and we are looking to safely provide some in-person programming to help families to participate and connect.”

Unlike in the past, families will not be able to simply drop into the centres. Families interested in joining in-person programming at the FIREFLY EarlyON Kenora or FIREFLY EarlyON Minto centres can find information about what’s being offered and how to register on the centre’s Facebook pages (@FIREFLYEarlyONKenora and @FIREFLYEarlyONMinto). Families will be asked to register by phone for any of the in-person programs. Registration is not being accepted via email or Facebook at this time, as staff will need to speak to someone to explain new processes and screening in order to ensure the safety of participants. In addition to having to pre-register for programs, families can expect to wear a mask (masks for children will be dependant on age), hand wash, and remain physically distanced from one another while at the EarlyON Centre. When attending programming at the Kenora site, located in the Kenora Public Library, families will be asked to enter through the Harbourfront entrance.

“The safety of the children and families we serve as well as the safety of our staff is of the utmost importance to us. We are following all guidelines of Public Health as recommended by the Northwestern Health Unit. This is why we will need our families to call in to register, so we can walk them through what they can expect when they come to the centre,” said Leanne Mineault. “We are very excited to be able to welcome families into the centre again, even though things will be a little different.”

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