



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

**Sioux Lookout (October 19, 2020)** – FIREFLY EarlyON Sioux Lookout is excited to be able to offer families some in-person programming starting this week, Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. At this time, in-person programming will only be available by pre-registering. Sessions will be taking place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM and 2 PM to 3 PM. Sioux Lookout EarlyON staff will continue to provide virtual programming throughout the remainder of the week. Families are encouraged to follow the FIREFLY EarlyON Sioux Lookout Facebook page 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.”

FIREFLY EarlyON has worked closely with the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to be prepared to provide in-person services at the shared location in Sioux Mountain Public School. The FIREFLY EarlyON Centre has an entrance separate from the school, which allows any in-person participants to access the site without affecting the school.

Unlike in the past, families will not be able to simply drop into the centre. Families interested in joining in-person programming at the FIREFLY EarlyON Sioux Lookout Centre can find information about what’s being offered and how to register on the Facebook page (@FIREFLYEarlyON SiouxLookout). 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.

“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.”

### **Contacts:**

**Leanne Mineault**  
Manager of Early Years, FIREFLY  
[lmineault@fireflynw.ca](mailto:lmineault@fireflynw.ca)  
807-467-5417 ext. 2308

**Jennifer Marquis**  
Manager of Communication and Organizational  
Development  
[jmarquis@fireflynw.ca](mailto:jmarquis@fireflynw.ca)  
807-467-5417 ext. 2322

