

2026

SUMMER CAMP Program Brochure

MacLachlan Avenue



Today's Family
Early Learning and Child Care



About Summer Day Camp at Today's Family



"It is not only about where we go...it is also, what we do when we get there."

At Today's Family, we believe in the joy of play as a powerful tool for fostering connection, curiosity, and growth. Through outdoor exploration, children engage with the world around them, learning by doing, imagining, and discovering. We embrace the idea that nature is the ultimate playground, where every rock, tree, and creature invites moments of creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. In this environment, play becomes a pathway to understanding, allowing children to build lasting connections with the land and each other.

Our programs, offered year-round throughout the neighbourhoods we serve, are guided by emergent curriculum and rooted in the principles of the "How Does Learning Happen?" pedagogy. This approach emphasizes that learning is most effective when it is play-based, child-centered, and fosters deep engagement. By prioritizing meaningful play, we ensure that children experience expression, belonging, and well-being—key elements that support their growth and development. Our camp programs offer opportunities for children to make new friends, explore their communities, and have fun while learning through their natural curiosity and creativity. Throughout the summer, programming will be visible through documentation and journaling, allowing children to reflect on their experiences and showcase their learning journey. Through this approach, we create a positive, engaging, and impactful learning experience for every child.

Collaborative Creativity

Artasia is a community-wide program that brings together children of all ages across various locations to explore the transformative power of the arts. Artist educators will be joining the program, guiding participants in art education, civic engagement, environmentalism, innovation, and storytelling. Artasia reaches over 500 young people each summer, with their work showcased in a collaborative exhibition that tours the region. Designed to foster creativity and development, the program encourages collaboration across generations, bringing together children, secondary students, emerging artists, and professionals to address community challenges and unlock the potential for positive change.



Are you thinking about joining us this summer?

Learn more about our camp programs and look at what we have planned this summer. If you have any questions, please contact us!

Website: www.todaysfamily.ca

Email: childcare@todaysfamily.ca

Hamilton: 905-574-9344

Halton: 289-288-0059

Haldimand-Norfolk: 844-574-9344

Today's Family 
Early Learning and Child Care

MacLachlan Avenue
Summer 2026

Frequently asked questions



What is the Cancellation Policy?

Due to increased demand for camp programming, our cancellation policy has been updated.

For summer camp, regardless of the impacted week, **all withdrawal requests for the summer season must be received by Tuesday March 31, 2026**. If notice is not received, full program fees will be charged. For more information on terms, location details and fees, please see our parent handbooks.

Parent Handbooks can be found here:

<https://www.todayfamily.ca/location/maclachlan-ave-early-learning-and-child-care/>

What is a family meeting?

To ensure the success of all children in our programs, Today's Family hosts Family Meetings as part of the camp registration process. This allows us to get to know each other allowing children and families to explore their camp environment. Family Meetings are in person and may be group sessions. You can request an individual appointment, should you want to discuss your child's needs or require accommodation. Please reach out to childcare@todayfamily.ca for more information.

Is Financial Assistance available?

Qualifying families may be eligible for subsidy through the Social Development and Early Childhood Services Child Care Fee Subsidy Office. For further information, call:

- 905 546-4870 [City of Hamilton](#)
- 905 825-6000 [Halton Region](#)
- 519 426-6170 [Haldimand Norfolk](#)
- 905 791-1585 [Peel Region](#)
- 519 539-9800 [Oxford](#)

Are healthy snacks provided?

Today's Family provides healthy snacks made with whole ingredients in accordance with the Canada Food Guide. Menus are posted within program rooms and copies are also available to parents and families. Please be sure to alert us of any allergies or food restrictions. If possible, we will try to provide an alternative. Please bring a nut-free lunch and refillable water bottle every day.

Can families volunteer during the summer?

If you are interested in volunteering on a field trip, please contact your Program Supervisor. Only staff of Today's Family will have the direct responsibility for the supervision of children in the camp programs. Please note: Volunteers and students are not considered part of the staff / caregiver to child ratio.

What are the program hours?

Today's Family Summer Camp Programs operate from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. We are closed on statutory holidays.

Frequently asked questions



What occurs during extreme weather events?

To ensure the health and safety of all, camp staff will modify activities to accommodate for weather. Weather permitting, children will have time outdoors every day. Today's Family adheres with extreme heat/weather procedures outlined by local municipalities, any impact to scheduled programs or operations will be communicated with families.

What happens during a serious occurrence?

Safety of children is our top priority. A serious occurrence is an incident that poses a significant risk to a child's health, safety, or well-being. To learn more about site-specific procedures to ensure child safety, please contact your Program Supervisor.

Serious occurrences that happen in your child's Camp Program will be posted at the program location for your information.

What should my camper bring to camp each day?

- A nut-free lunch labelled with your child's name
- Weather appropriate outdoor clothing
- Refillable water bottle labelled with your child's name
- Swimsuit and towel
- Change of clothes
- Sunscreen
- Comfortable, closed-toed shoes
- Hat

Each week campers will have an opportunity to visit recreation centre pools or splash pads, please pack a swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, and a water bottle daily.

To keep camp focused on play, we ask that valuables, including electronics, stay home to prevent loss or damage and encourage engagement.

If a personal item is needed, please inform us in advance and we will attempt to make accommodations. Families are encouraged to stay connected through the educators, the supervisor's office, or the Family Fridge App for communication.

Note: Families will be informed in advance of any changes to trip or off-site excursion plans.



Summer at a glance

Week 1

June 29 to July 3



Wednesday, July 1

Program closed for the statutory holiday.

Welcome to Summer Camp!

We're excited to kick off the summer with a week of exploration, connection, and creativity! This week, campers will have the chance to meet our amazing staff and educators, who are here to guide campers through all the fun and learning ahead. We'll begin by starting our camp mural, a collaborative art project that will grow throughout the summer, capturing the spirit of our community. Campers will also explore the space where camp is held, discovering the special places and hidden gems that make our camp environments unique. Join us for a week of introductions, creativity, and adventure as we lay the foundation for an unforgettable summer together.

Mad Science will be joining us to engage campers in STEM activities as we open our curiosities and explore the world of science.

Week 2

July 6 to 10

Nature Journals Week at Summer Camp

Get ready to document the wonders of nature in your very own handmade journal! This week, campers will create their own nature journals, learn the art of making natural paper, and explore different art mediums to bring their observations to life. They'll also practice tracking wildlife, recording their discoveries, and connecting with nature through sit spots, where they can quietly observe and reflect on the world around them.

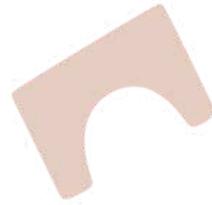
To top off this exciting week, we're heading to **Hagersville Lions Park and Splash Pad** where campers will explore the local wildlife, and fill their journals with firsthand nature experiences. We will then cool off in the splashpad!

Wednesday, July 8

Hagersville Lion's Park
13 Laidlaw St, Hagersville

Week 3

July 13 to 17



Water Week at Summer Camp

Get ready to dive into a week of discovery and hands-on fun as we explore the wonders of water! Campers will investigate basic water properties, uncover how water moves through different environments, and bring their creativity to life by building a water-themed diorama. Through interactive experiments and activities, they'll learn about the water cycle and the importance of water conservation.

We will be taking a trip to **Brant Conservation Area**, for a thrilling water experience, where campers can splash, swim, and cool off in the summer sun. Don't miss this adventure where science and fun flow together!

Wednesday, July 15

Brant Conservation Area

119 Jennings Rd, Brantford

<https://www.grandriver.ca/outdoor-recreation/conservation-areas/brant/>

Week 4

July 20 to 24

Habitat Week at Summer Camp

Step into the wild and discover the incredible world of habitats! This week, campers will explore what makes a habitat, learn about the animals that call it home, and dive into the importance of preserving natural spaces. Through hands-on activities, they'll take part in a habitat scavenger hunt, get creative with habitat building, and uncover how different species live together in their unique environments.

We will be taking a trip to **Grand Trunk Railway Station and Museum**, where campers will experience the rich history and the role the railway station played in the development of the area.



Wednesday, July 22

Grand Trunk Railway Station and Museum

1 Grand Trunk Ln, Caledonia

Week 5

July 27 to 31



Map Making Week at Summer Camp

Get ready to embark on an exciting adventure of map making and discovery! This week, campers will learn the art of creating their own maps, dive into the world of geocaching to explore hidden treasures, and practice map reading to navigate the great outdoors. They'll also draw local communities and animals, connecting with their environment in new ways, and explore how to use digital map tools to enhance their understanding.

We will be exploring the iconic **Port Dover Beach**, where campers will hunt for seashells and put their mapping skills to the test in a real-world setting. Campers will also have the opportunity to take in a round of mini golf.

Wednesday, July 29

A Day at the Beach, Port Dover

Walker St, Port Dover



Week 6

August 3 to 7

Monday, August 3

Program closed for the statutory holiday.

Bird Week at Summer Camp

Spread your wings and join us for an exciting week of bird exploration! Campers will observe and identify birds in the community, uncover fascinating bird behaviours, and learn about the important role birds play in our environment. Through hands-on activities, they'll even get to build their own bird nests, just like real feathered architects!

Campers will get ready for an adventure as we visit **Long Point Eco Adventures**! We will discover the trails as we observe the birds and nature around us.

Wednesday, August 5

Long Point Eco Adventures

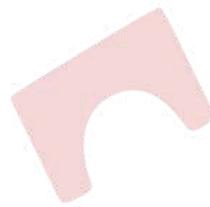
1730 Front Rd, Turkey Point

<https://www.lpfun.ca/>



Week 7

August 10 to 14



Tree Week at Summer Camp

Get ready to branch out and explore the amazing world of trees! This week, campers will discover why trees are essential to our environment, learn about tree conservation, and uncover all the incredible things we can do with trees. They'll also take part in tree identification activities, getting to know different species up close, and enjoy the magic of storytelling with trees, where nature inspires creativity and imagination. Campers will also explore our local beautiful tree-filled landscapes, learn about local tree species, and connect with nature in a meaningful way.

We will be headed to **Brantwood Farms** to explore nature trails and see farm life and homesteading in action. Join us for an adventure-filled week of exploration, conservation, and discovery!

Wednesday, August 12

Brantwood Farms

351 German School Road, Paris

<https://brantwoodfarms.com>



Week 8

August 17 to 21

Reflection Week at Summer Camp

As summer comes to a close, it's time to reflect on all the amazing experiences we've had! Reflection Week is all about looking back on the adventures, trips, and community outings that made this summer unforgettable. Campers will share their favorite memories, highlight the friends they've made, and celebrate the fun and growth they've experienced together. Through creative activities and group discussions, we'll reflect on the journey and cherish the connections we've built.

Also, a special end of summer celebration trip to **Clovermead**, where campers will explore a variety of activities, including bouncing pillow, zip lines and petting zoo.

Wednesday, August 19

Clovermead

11302 Imperial Rd, Aylmer

<https://clovermead.com/>

Please note: We will not have access to the splash pad.

