

Today's Family  
Early Learning and Child Care



# 2024 SUMMER CAMP



**Lakewood  
Kinder Camp**

# 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.*

Today's Family is open for play all year round. We engage children and families with fun and innovative camp programs throughout the neighbourhoods we serve. Our programs are built around emergent curriculum following "How Does Learning Happen?" pedagogy. We believe that learning happens best through play, with engagement, expression, belonging, and well-being at the centre. Our camp programs provide opportunities for children to meet new friends, explore their communities, and have a lot of fun!

Are you thinking about joining us this summer? Learn more about our camp programs and take a look at what we have planned this summer. If you have any questions, please connect with us!

Contact our Day Camp Team at [camp@todaysfamily.ca](mailto:camp@todaysfamily.ca)



## What is great, what is awesome about camp?

They are run by Today's Family. Although we do not usually toot our own horn, it is true that we are one of the leading providers of early learning and child care in Ontario with more programs than you have fingers or toes. With over 40 years' experience in play, we are a non-profit, charitable agency serving more than 4,000 children (and their parents and caregivers) in Hamilton, Halton, Haldimand-Norfolk and surrounding areas.

**We explore the natural world.** Our camp programs take full advantage of local parks and play spaces throughout our communities. In partnership with the children, we engage in outdoor play that helps build meaningful relationships with nature.

**We explore our community.** Our programs belong to the community. Throughout the week, our camp programs make connections to community spaces (e.g swimming pools and libraries), events, and partners that help to enhance opportunities for play and allow for children to build a strong sense of belonging within their neighbourhoods.

**We encourage children to lead.** We believe that learning happens best through play. Working in partnership with children, we invite them to express and pursue their interests. We encourage children to be curious, ask questions, and express their ideas.



**We promote creative mastery.** Together with Arts for All's Artasia artists, we use art throughout the summer to empower the voices, imagination, and potential of artists in our community. Learn more about the work of Arts for All here: [www.artsforall.co](http://www.artsforall.co)

# Summer Camp FAQs

## What is the cancellation policy?

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Parents/guardians must give a minimum 30 days' written notice of intent to withdraw from any/all camp weeks from the first day of camp.

For summer camp, regardless of impacted week, all withdrawal requests for the summer season must be submitted in writing before June 1st.

If notice is not received, full program fees will be charged.

For more information on camp withdrawal dates, please see the camp registration form for terms and conditions.

Parent Handbooks can be found here:  
<https://www.todaysfamily.ca/locations/>

## What is a family meeting, why is this required?

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To ensure success of all children in our programs, Today's Family holds Family Meetings as part of the camp registration process. This allows us to show the child and family the location where they will be attending camp, allow your family to get to know the Program Supervisor and for us to get to know your child. It helps to ensure a great transition into program! 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@todaysfamily.ca](mailto:childcare@todaysfamily.ca) for more information.

## Is financial assistance available?

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

905 546-4870 City of Hamilton

905 825-6000 Halton Region

519 426-6170 Haldimand Norfolk

## What are the program hours?

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

## What should my camper bring each day?

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Campers should bring:

- Lunch labelled with your child's name (nut-free)
- Outdoor clothing
- Refillable water bottle labelled with your child's name
- Comfortable shoes

We ask that campers not bring any valuables to camp. This includes cell phones, electronics, and games.

## Weather Policy

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To ensure the health and safety of all, camp staff will modify activities to accommodate for weather. There will be outdoor time every day, weather permitting.

## Nutrition

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Today's Family provides snacks in accordance with the Canada Food Guide. Menus are posted and copies are 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.

## Guiding Behaviour

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Today's Family use re-direction and positive behaviour guidance techniques appropriate to the child's age to promote self-discipline and respect for others and their environment.

## Serious Occurrences

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

## Volunteer and Student Supervision Policy

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Only Today's Family employees 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.

## Week 1 – July 1 - 5

### Monday, July 1

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Program closed for the statutory holiday.

### Tuesday, July 2 Welcome to Camp! When We Are Kind Mural of Belonging

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Welcome to Camp! Today, campers are using Monique Gray Smith's book, *When We Are Kind*, to brainstorm ways we can perform acts of kindness throughout the week. Campers will work together to think about ways they can show acts of kindness in their community.

Children will create a camp wide cloth mural as we get to know one another. Everyone's expression of what belonging means to them will be incorporated with their addition of an inspirational word. Our camp banner of belonging will follow us all summer long.

### Wednesday, July 3 Outside Sensory Walk & Outdoor Water Play

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Outside, we will use our five senses on a sensory walk exploring all our greenspace has to offer.

We will also be gathering some of our fun outdoor water play materials from sponge toss, water balloons, slip and slide, just to name a few, to splash around in the sun or sun shower.

### Thursday, July 4 Reflection Journals

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Today, campers will start their own personal journal: a special book where they can record all the interesting thoughts, inquiries, and special interest projects to be completed throughout their time at camp.

### Friday, July 5 Plant the Seed

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Today we will be planting the seeds for a summer filled with growth. As a group, we will be choosing what we would like to plant then we'll get down to the dirty work. We will be able to nurture our seeds through to the sprouting stage as the weeks pass on.



## Week 2 – July 8 - 12

### Monday, July 8 Self-Portraits & Local Community Park

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Today we will continue to cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone at camp. Using various art mediums (printmaking, pastels, paint, and collage) campers will create self-portraits representing themselves to display around the program.

We will then take a walk over to one of our local community parks where we will enjoy all the green space has to offer.

### Tuesday, July 9 Nature Pinch Pots & Outdoor Water Play

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Today campers will explore combining pottery and nature to create our very own keepsakes. We will go on a nature hunt in our outdoor greenspaces to gather natural items that speak to us. We will then roll up our sleeves and use our best ceramic skills to incorporate our treasures into our creations.

We will also be gathering some of our fun outdoor water play materials from sponge toss, water balloons, slip and slide just to name a few to splash around in the sun or sun shower.

### Wednesday, July 10 Clovermead Bee Farm

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11302 Imperial Rd., Alymer  
<https://clovermead.com/attractions/>

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Today we will be going on an adventure to Clovermead Bee Farm. We will spend some time at Ontario's largest glass bee display hive, visit the animals at the barn and try not to get lost in the corn maze. In the afternoon we will take some time to cool off in the splash pad.

**Thursday, July 11**  
**Foods From Around the World**  
**& Ice Cream in a Bag**

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Today's Family embraces the many gifts of diversity in our program and to share we will explore through food. Food is an important part of different cultures and can be a fun way for our campers to explore the world around us. Each week our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

We will also be experimenting with making our very own ice cream in a bag and become our very own creamery specialists.

**Friday, July 12**  
**We Belong Book Club**  
**& Outdoor Water Play**

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We will choose a book to explore that will focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion. As we think about everyone's daily contributions to fostering a culture of belonging at camp, campers will take all their learning and inspiration to create their own stories to share with each other.

We will also be gathering some of our fun outdoor water play materials from sponge toss, water balloons, slip and slide just to name a few to splash around in the sun or sun shower.

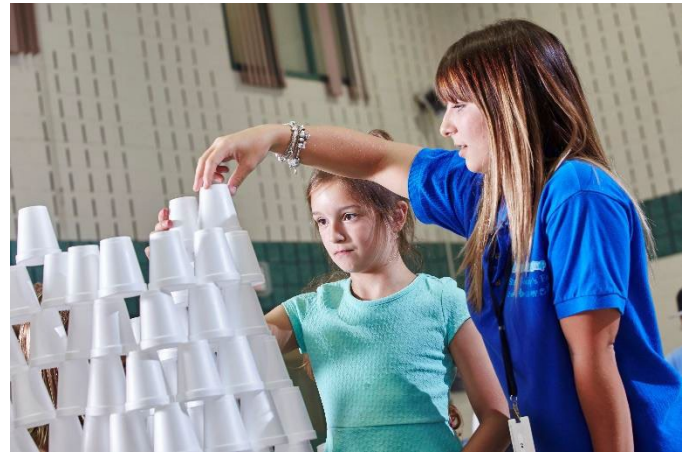
**Week 3 – July 15 - 19**

**Monday, July 15**  
**Bird House Creations**  
**& Outdoor Water Play**

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Today, we will brush off our woodworking skills and use our creativity to build dwellings for our feathered friends. We will design a template, gather our materials, and get to work. Finding the perfect spot to hang our creations will be important to make sure we have a stellar view of our friends using their new spaces.

We will also be gathering some of our fun outdoor water play materials from sponge toss, water balloons, slip and slide just to name a few to splash around in the sun or sun shower.



**Tuesday, July 16**  
**Community Mapping**  
**& Local Community Park**

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We will be taking a walk through our neighbourhood with a paper map in hand, embracing our gifts to guide our way through our community. After an important stop at our local park and greenspace to enjoy some large group games, we will then return to create a large size mural of our specifically designed map including our favourite landmarks.

In the afternoon, we will put our mapping skills to work and visit the local community park to enjoy some large group games.

**Wednesday, July 17**  
**Grand River Watershed**  
**Brant Conservation Area**

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119 Jennings Rd., Brantford  
[www.grandriver.ca/en/outdoor-recreation/Brant.aspx](http://www.grandriver.ca/en/outdoor-recreation/Brant.aspx)

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Today we will be taking a walk along the Grand, the largest watershed in Ontario. Here we will explore the shoreline looking for water bugs and other aquatic life. Campers will also examine the effects humans have had on the waterway and brainstorm ways they can help keep waterways clean in their community. After a picnic lunch, campers will have the opportunity to go for a swim in the pool.

**Thursday, July 18**  
**Foods From Around the World**  
**& Leak-proof Bag Experiment**

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Food is an important part of different cultures and can be a fun way for our campers to explore the world around us. Each week our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

We will also be conducting a science experiment to investigate whether we can puncture holes in a bag and keep the contents of water from leaking using a variety of everyday items.

**Friday, July 19**  
**Nature Shadow Boxes**  
**Local Community Park**

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Today we will be exploring our outdoor spaces for a variety of nature items. We will then be creating our own shadow boxes to capture all the beauty that nature offers us.

In the afternoon, we will take a walk to visit our local community park, where we will join in large group games.

## **Week 4 – July 22 - 26**

**Monday, July 22**  
**Mindful Movement**

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Today, we are asking our campers to slow things down and check in with their body. We will learn different yoga poses and how to breathe like a bear to manage our bodies, breath, and emotions.

We will then head outdoors to move, flex, and stretch as we explore Pilates.

**Tuesday, July 23**  
**Tree Bark Rubbing & Outdoor Water Play**

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Today campers will discuss the different names and types of trees in their community, how they can tell them apart, and who lives in them. The children will be able to bring their art materials outside to observe the trees in their community and create tree bark rubbings.

We will also be gathering some of our fun outdoor water play materials from sponge toss, water balloons, slip and slide, just to name a few, to splash around in the sun or sun shower.

**Wednesday, July 24**  
**Earl Haig Family Fun Park**

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101 Market St. S. Brantford  
[www.brantford.ca/en/things-to-do/earl-haig-family-fun-park-brantford.aspx](http://www.brantford.ca/en/things-to-do/earl-haig-family-fun-park-brantford.aspx)

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Pack your bathing suit because today is going to be a splash! Earl Haig has a variety of activities to enjoy

including a splash pad, a pool with a water slide, a lazy river and mini golf.

**Thursday, July 25**  
**Foods From Around the World**  
**& Marble Maze STEM Challenge**

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Food is an important part of different cultures and can be a fun way for our campers to explore the world around us. Each week our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

We will also be creating Marble Mazes where campers will be challenged to use everyday materials to create their maze. We will follow all elements of a real design process, including brainstorming, blueprints, prototypes, tweaking, and testing their designs.

**Friday, July 26**  
**Tie Dye Art**  
**& Grocery Store Tour (Lakewood Only)**  
**Farmer's Market (Holy Trinity Only)**

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We're getting creative at camp today with a tie-dyeing extravaganza! Remember to bring in an article of white or light coloured clothing to turn into the ultimate fashion statement. No white clothes? No problem! We'll have a few pieces on hand for you to make your colourful creation.

In the afternoon we will be walking to our local grocery store (Lakewood) Farmer's Market (Holy Trinity) to take a tour. We will explore local produce and offerings and learn how our grocery stores/Farmer's Market source various items. We will be sure to purchase a special fruit or vegetable that we may not have tried before.

## **Week 5 – July 29 – August 2**

**Monday, July 29**  
**Building Structures STEM Activity**

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In the afternoon, campers will work in groups to build structures out of various recycled materials. We will test our skills at building tall structures, and learn elements of architecture such as providing a strong foundation for support.



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### **Tuesday, July 30 Rock Storytelling**

Campers are going to arrive at camp today bringing with them a rock or stone from somewhere they have spent time. After sharing their rock's story, campers will head outside to collect natural materials to create a map of where their personal rock was found.

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### **Wednesday, July 31 Kickball Tournament Brant Conservation Area**

119 Jennings Rd., Brantford  
[www.grandriver.ca/en/outdoor-recreation/Brant.aspx](http://www.grandriver.ca/en/outdoor-recreation/Brant.aspx)

Today we will be challenging our fellow campers to a kick-ball tournament. Best out of five wins! After a picnic lunch, campers will have the opportunity to go for a swim in the pool.

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### **Thursday, August 1 – Foods From Around the World & Cloud in a Jar Experiment**

Food is an important part of different cultures and can be a fun way for our campers to explore the world around us. Each week our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

Ever wonder how clouds are made? This experiment will help teach us about the physical changes and reactions that happen as clouds form within the atmosphere.

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### **Friday, August 2 Community Garden & Outdoor Water Play**

Today, campers will visit a local Community Garden to see what's growing. We will walk through the community

created and nurtured garden using all our senses to explore the seasonal vegetables, plants, and flowers.

We will also be gathering some of our fun outdoor water play materials from sponge toss, water balloons, slip and slide just to name a few to splash around in the sun or sun shower.

## **Week 6 – August 5 - 9**

### **Monday, August 5**

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Program closed for the statutory holiday.

### **Tuesday, August 6 Camp Mural**

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Today, using various art mediums, campers will explore identity, community, family, and peers exploring techniques to help develop a visual language. Various mediums (printmaking, drawing with charcoal and pastels, paint, and collage) will be used, which will contribute to the overall design of the mural.

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### **Wednesday, August 7 Generation Marketplace**

200 Concession 13 Townsend, Simcoe  
[www.generationsmarketplace.ca](http://www.generationsmarketplace.ca)

Today, we are visiting Generation Marketplace, an on-farm learning centre with a focus on self-sustainability. We will have the opportunity to take a tour and experience hands on learning to be inspired to become stewards of the land.

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### **Thursday, August 8 Foods From Around the World & Rainbow Jars**

Food is an important part of different cultures and can be a fun way for our campers to explore the world around us. Each week our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate. Today, campers will be preparing Pico De Gallo and whole wheat nacho chips.

We will also be experimenting with our very own rainbows. With just a few common household ingredients like dish soap and honey, our scientists will be able to pour their rainbow in a jar.

### **Friday, August 9**

## Recycled Fashion Show

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Campers can bring in recycling from home to turn into sustainable fashions. Our show stopping looks made from beautiful junk will save items from landing in the landfill and have them landing on our camp runway!

## Week 7 – August 12 - 16

### Monday, August 12 What Makes Me, Me? & Bowling Outing

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Today we are asking our campers to share what makes them unique. Campers can write, draw, collage, or paint to share their various identities with the group. We will also spend time outdoors building our connection to the land we play and learn by asking questions such as “What stories can we find in this place?” and “Who was here first?”

In the afternoon, we will be taking the bus to the local bowling alley to bowl a few frames.

### Tuesday, August 13 Camp's Got Talent! & Outdoor Obstacle Course

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Everyone's a star today in our camp wide talent show. Today we are spending our last week together celebrating each other's unique talents.

We will then be choosing our teams for a series of outdoor obstacles and relays.

### Wednesday, August 14 Wild Waterworks

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680 Waterfront Trail, Hamilton  
[www.wild-waterworks.com](http://www.wild-waterworks.com)

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Pack your bathing suit because today is going to be a splash! Wild Waterworks is the largest water park in Hamilton, complete with splash pads, a lazy river, and an outdoor wave pool! We'll break for lunch and then get back in the water!

### Thursday, August 15 Local Library

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Today, we will venture out to our local library to explore all the diverse literary offerings. We will enjoy the story time of I Am Human - a book of Empathy and explore what empathy means to us and discuss how we incorporate empathy in our everyday lives.



### Friday, August 16 Postcards From Summer Camp & Movie and Dance Party

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What better way to tell your family what you did at Summer Camp than to write them a postcard? Campers will create postcards describing all the fun they had this summer. We will then put a stamp on them, walk over to the mailbox and send them home!

In the afternoon, we will enjoy a Children's Movie on the projector and then have a glowing dance party to celebrate all the fun we had this summer!!

### (Additional activity should one not work well) Planting Seeds of Hope

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Planting Seeds of Hope is a non-profit organization that delivers land-based programs to community groups. From 46 acres of organic farmland, meadows, trails and forests and wetlands, we will have the opportunity to develop a meaningful relationship with the natural world. Campers will have the opportunity to learn about planting seeds and sustainability.