

Today's Family
Early Learning and Child Care



2024 SUMMER CAMP



**RA Riddell
Extreme 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



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

Summer Camp FAQs

What is the cancellation policy?

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?

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 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, please call:

905 546-4870 City of Hamilton

905 825-6000 Halton Region

519 426-6170 Haldimand Norfolk

What are the program hours?

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?

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer and Student Supervision Policy

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

Program closed for the statutory holiday.

Tuesday, July 2

Welcome to Camp! Mural of Belonging

Welcome to Camp! Today, campers are using Danielle Daniel's book, *Sometimes I Feel Like a River*, to brainstorm ways we can connect with one another. 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

Community Walk & Swimming at Recreation Centre

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

We will also be heading to our local outdoor recreation centre to cool off with a swim!

Thursday, July 4 Plant the Seed & Obstacle Course

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

In the afternoon we will be enjoying our greenspace with a variety of challenging large obstacles to race through and explore.

Friday, July 5

Community Outing to Local Park

Campers will venture out to a local park to engage in activities such as kickball, and exploring nature.



Week 2 – July 8 - 12

Monday, July 8

Self-Portraits

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.

Tuesday, July 9

Nature Pinch Pots & Outdoor Water Play

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

Wild Water Works

680 Waterfront Trail, Hamilton

www.wild-waterworks.com

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 will break for lunch and then get back to the water

Thursday, July 11
We Belong Book Club &
Swimming at Recreation Centre

We will choose a book to explore the meaning of belonging. As we think about everyone's daily contributions to fostering a culture of belonging at camp, Camper's will then take all their learning and inspiration to create their own stories to share with each other.

In the afternoon, we will walk or hop on local transit to visit our local recreation centre. We will join in large group games before we jump in the pool for a swim.

Friday, July 12
Foods from Around the World

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. Our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

Week 3 – July 15 - 19

Monday, July 15
Bird House Creations
& Outdoor Water Play

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 Recycled Fashion Show &
Swimming at Local Recreation Centre

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!

In the afternoon, we will walk or hop on local transit to visit our local recreation centre. We will join in large group games before we jump in the pool for a swim.

Wednesday, July 17
Bronte Creek Provincial Park

1219 Burloak Drive, Burlington
www.ontarioparks.com/park/brontecreek

Today we are taking the Half Moon Valley trail down to the edge of Bronte Creek. 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.

Thursday, July 18
Foods From Around the World

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. Our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

Friday, July 19
Community Mapping & Farmer's Market

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 take local transit to visit the our local market. We will investigate all of the interesting and diverse culinary options available.

Week 4 – July 22 - 26

Monday, July 22 Mindful Movement

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

Today, campers will discuss the different names and types of trees in their community, how they can tell them a part 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 Byng Conservation Area

4969 Country Road 20, Dunnville
<https://www.grandriver.ca/en/outdoor-recreation/Byng.aspx#gsc.tab=0>

Campers will be heading to Byng Conservation Area today, to explore a historic part of Ontario. We will be hiking and enjoying a picnic in the park.

Thursday, July 25 Natural Dyes and Group Games

The plants in our community provide a natural rainbow of colours that can be used for many things. Today, campers will be exploring various plant materials and learning how to make their own natural dye.

Using the materials found in our outside space campers will also create their own nature bingo cards.

Friday, July 26 Foods from Around the World & Marble Maze STEM Challenge

Food is an important part of different cultures and can be a fun way for our campers to explore the world around us. 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.

Week 5 – July 29 – August 2

Monday, July 29 Reflection Journals & STEM Activity

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.

In the afternoon, campers will work in groups to build structures out of various recycled materials.



Tuesday, July 30 Foods from Around the World & Science Experiment

Today's Family embraces the many gifts of diversity in our program and to share we will explore through food. Our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

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.

Wednesday, July 31 **Kelso Conservation Area**

5234 Kelso Rd., Milton ON
<https://www.conservationhalton.ca/parks/kelso/>

We will hike through the extensive network of trails and take in all that nature has to offer. In the afternoon, we will enjoy time on the beach, explore the boardwalk and go for a swim in the Kelso Reservoir.

Thursday, August 1 **Local Community Garden & Reflection Journals**

Today, campers will visit a local Community Garden to see what is growing. We will walk through the community created and nurtured garden using all of our senses to explore the seasonal vegetables, plants and flowers. We will bring our nature journals along with us, to document all the things we see!

Friday, August 2 **Rock Storytelling & Swimming at the Local Recreation Centre**

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.

In the afternoon, we will walk or hop on local transit to visit our local recreation centre. We will join in large group games before we jump in the pool for a swim.

Week 6 – August 5 - 9

Monday, August 5

Program closed for the statutory holiday.

Tuesday, August 6 **Mural Walk and Planning**

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 to be created later in the week.

Wednesday, August 7 **Royal Botanical Gardens**

680 Plains Road W, Burlington
www.rbg.ca

Today, we will explore the Royal Botanical Gardens! Be on the lookout for some of the prettiest flowers from around the world. We will also learn some useful gardening tips and inspire our campers to connect with their green thumbs. Children will have the opportunity to explore the Hendrie Garden.

Thursday, August 8 **Nature Shadow Boxes & Swimming at Recreation Centre**

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 of the beauty that nature offers us.

In the afternoon, we will walk to our local recreation centre to enjoy a relaxing swim!

Friday, August 9 **Foods from Around the World**

Today's Family embraces the many gifts of diversity in our program and to share we will explore through food. Our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

Week 7 – August 12 - 16

Monday, August 12 **Bowling Outing**

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

In the afternoon, we will be hoping on our local HSR bus to the local bowling alley to bowl a few frames.

Tuesday, August 13

Habitat Hunting and Swimming at Recreation Center

Today, campers will be detectives in their outdoor space looking for what plants and animals that live there. They will explore ideas of where it lives, what is around it and where does it get food and water. Back inside, campers will make a colour representation of the species and habitat they discovered. We will put them all together to create our own Habitat Biodiversity Mural.

We will also be heading to our local outdoor recreation centre to cool off with a swim!

Wednesday, August 14

Brant Conservation Area

119 Jennings Rd., Brantford ON
<https://www.grandriver.ca/en/outdoor-recreation/Brant.aspx#gsc.tab=0>

Campers will be heading to Brant Conservation Area today, to explore a historic part of Ontario. We will be hiking, and enjoying a picnic in the park.

Thursday, August 15

Local Library

Today, we will venture out to our local library to explore all of the diverse literary offerings. Campers will participate in a story time.



Friday, August 16

Foods from Around the World & Science Experiment

Today's Family embraces the many gifts of diversity in our program and to share we will explore through food.

Our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

In the afternoon, we will be participating in a science experiment: unpopable bubbles!

Week 8 – August 19 - 23

Monday, August 19

Postcards from Camp

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.

Tuesday, August 20

Slimy Fun & Community Walk

Today we will be heading out into our Community to take in the nature around us, while out on a walk!

We will also be making our own slime using everyday items. We will then explore all of the slimy things we can do with our new creation.

Wednesday, August 21

Wild Water Works

680 Waterfront Trail, Hamilton
www.wild-waterworks.com

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 will break for lunch and then get back to the water.

Thursday, August 22

Foods From Around the World

Today's Family embraces the many gifts of diversity in our program and to share we will explore through food. Our campers will be choosing a different snack from around the world to learn, prepare and celebrate.

Friday, August 23 Camp's Got Talent! & Outdoor Obstacle Course

Everyone is a star today in our camp wide talent show. Today we are spending our last day together celebrating each other's unique talents. We will then be choosing our teams for a series of outdoor obstacles and relays.