

LION Program Information:

Families come on the LION to attend parent/child interactive play-based programs focussing on language, literacy and numeracy supported through play, songs and stories. Parents and caregivers can talk to early childhood professionals about parenting and early child development and access information on services to support individual and family needs. Newcomers to Canada can learn about services throughout Peel including settlement, employment and language support programs. Participants have the opportunity to socialize and enjoy guest speakers.

Brampton Public Library has provided books on two Brampton LION vehicles and periodically visits them to offer programs as well as book lending and card registrations. Mississauga Library recently came onboard and has similar plans for Mississauga LION sites.

Early Literacy Specialists from the Region of Peel are providing literacy workshops on Brampton vehicle visiting Ward 10 and Mississauga LION on selected days of the month.

CDRCP Information and Referral Specialist will soon visit LION vehicles to provide information sessions on a variety of topics including licensed and unlicensed child care, early years, special needs services etc.

Specific programs offered by LION:

The *Baby and Me* Program provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers with children birth to 12 months to play with their baby through music and activities and connect with other parents. LION also offers the *Come Learn With Us* program for parents and children birth to 6 years, which explores math, language, art and science through a variety of activities.

As anticipated, we had clients on waitlist for *Come Learn With Us* programs at many LION sites and to accommodate them (space constraints) many LION sites are now running two *Come Learn With Us* programs; one in the morning and the other in the afternoon together with *Baby and Me* program running in between. All sites have allotted time for questions/ information & referral after each program.

