

Early Learning and Care Centre at Perley Health



Frequently Asked Questions

We're excited to share updates on the progress of our intergenerational child care centre, called the Early Learning and Care Centre at Perley Health!

We understand that you may have questions, so we've compiled answers to the most common inquiries. This page will be updated regularly as the project develops.

This FAQ has been updated to address questions and comments arising from the April 2025 survey of Perley Health staff care needs.

What is the Early Learning and Care Centre at Perley Health?

- We are thrilled to announce the upcoming intergenerational licensed Early Learning and Care Centre at Perley Health, made possible through funding approval for up to 49 child care spaces under the Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. These spaces will be available for children from infancy through kindergarten age.

Where will the care centre be located?

- The child care centre will be situated on the first floor of Perley Centre, directly across from the pharmacy.

What's different about the care centre?

- This care centre will feature intergenerational programming, where children and seniors interact and build meaningful relationships. This approach enriches experiences for all generations, promoting social connection and learning.

When will the care centre open?

- The planned opening is mid-2026, with the possibility of aligning with Perley Health's 30th anniversary in June.

Who will operate the Early Learning and Care Centre at Perley Health?

- Andrew Fleck Children's Services is our partner and service provider for this project. They will be responsible for staffing, curriculum, and overall program delivery. Andrew Fleck Children's Services is a multi-service, multi-site not-for-profit agency with a long history in Ottawa. They operate many licensed child care programs across the City.

How much will the care cost?

- Cost will be determined under the Canada-Wide Early Learning & Child Care (CWELCC) System. The centre will prioritize access for Perley Health staff at a rate of \$12 per day (estimated CWELCC rate by our anticipated opening date) The Child Care Fee Subsidy will also be available for families that are eligible, details about the City of Ottawa's Child Care Fee Subsidy options can be found here: <https://ottawa.ca/en/family-and-social-services/childrens-services/get-help-your-child-care-costs/apply-child-care-fee-subsidy>

Will Perley Health staff have priority access?

- Yes, Perley Health staff will have priority access.

When will registration begin?

- Registration is expected to open once construction begins. We will provide advance notice of the construction schedule and inform everyone before the waitlist opens.

What is the process for registration and the waitlist?

- Registration will be through the City of Ottawa's centralized Registry and Waitlist. While Perley Health staff will have priority access, community members are welcome as well. We will provide ample notice when the waitlist opens.

What programs will be offered?

- Program details, including the educational philosophy, will be shared closer to the opening date.

Describe the planned intergenerational activities

- The intergenerational program will offer daily opportunities for interaction between the children and seniors and direct participation is encouraged. Observation through windows is possible into the program room and outside to the playground. Planned activities include shared reading, art projects, puzzles, outdoor play, and lunch in the cafeteria. These activities aim to help the children and seniors build positive relationships and even learn each other's names.

What are the hours of operation?

- The hours of operation are being finalized and will be announced in future updates.

Will there be bilingual and multilingual child care?

- While we anticipate having some French-speaking staff members, we are not currently equipped to offer fully bilingual or multilingual child care programs.

Will the program have support for children with special needs?

- We are committed to inclusivity. The child care experts and program facilitators from AFCS are trained to provide comprehensive care for children with a wide range of needs. Detailed information about these services can be found on the Andrew Fleck Children's Services' website.

Will there be overnight care available?

- Although the centre will not be offering overnight child care, resources for alternative care options may be available through the AFCS website. More information to follow.

Will there be an outdoor play area?

- Yes, the care centre will include dedicated outdoor play areas, as required under the Ministry of Education, which allows for the extension of learning to be brought outdoors.

What renovations are planned for the centre?

- Renovations and a building expansion are needed to create an inspiring and accommodating environment. The design is nearly complete, and a building permit application has been submitted to the City of Ottawa. The development is informed by feedback from our community, including experts and participants from current intergenerational programs at Perley Health.

Will the new centre be accessible?

- Yes, the child care centre will be fully accessible, including wide doorways are wider to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility devices.

Is there eligibility for staff residing in Quebec?

- Yes, Perley Health staff and their families living in Quebec are eligible to use the centre for the same daily rate as Ottawa residents. The centre will prioritize access for Perley Health staff at the rate set by the Canada-Wide Early Learning & Child Care (CWELCC) program. If you require an additional fee subsidy (to reduce your daily fee) and live in Quebec, the City of Ottawa will not provide funding unless you are a resident. If the City of Ottawa changes its policies, we will notify staff.

What is the impact on the adjacent courtyard?

- The building expansion will have some impact on the existing courtyard. We are working to minimize disruption while enhancing the space for everyone.

What are the staffing needs?

- Andrew Fleck Children's Services will be recruiting for the team at this new location closer to opening date, they successful candidates will be employees of Andrew Fleck Children's Services. There will be three Registered Early Childhood Educators in each of the three program rooms plus an assistant and an onsite Program Coordinator.

Are volunteers permitted to attend this program?

- Yes, we are looking for volunteers. Information will be communicated in future updates.

Will I be able to watch the children play or participate in events?

- Yes, there will be many opportunities to view the indoor and outdoor activities, and we will encourage active participation in the intergenerational program.

Will children visit the resident units in long-term care?

- Yes, children will visit resident units at scheduled times.

How is the Perley Health Foundation involved in this project?

- With the generous support of our donors, the Bridging Generations campaign is raising \$2 million to expand and enhance Perley Health's intergenerational program. This initiative will create dedicated spaces where meaningful connections between seniors, Veterans, and children can thrive—spaces designed with warmth, accessibility, and community at their core.
- Campaign funds will support the development of program rooms, activity areas, and outdoor spaces tailored to foster interaction. Whether through crafting, storytelling, gardening, or sharing meals, these purpose-built environments will remove barriers and bring two generations together in natural and impactful ways.
- By strengthening these connections, we're enriching lives, reducing isolation, and creating a more vibrant and inclusive community for everyone at Perley Health.
- To learn more about Bridging Generations, visit: PerleyHealthFoundation.ca/bridging-generations/

What are the proven benefits of intergenerational programs?

- Research shows that intergenerational programs offer numerous benefits to both seniors and children, including improved physical and cognitive health, increased social engagement, and enhanced emotional well-being.

What is the role of the Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™ in this program?

- The Centre of Excellence will be actively involved in evaluating the program to measure the impact on both seniors and children. Various research projects will provide evidence of the program's impact and support ongoing improvements, investments and potential expansion.

What are the goals of the evaluation?

The evaluation aims to:

- Measure and document the outcomes of the program.
- Demonstrate that the program is a worthwhile investment.
- Provide evidence to support the continuation and potential expansion of the program.
- Create a “proof of concept” that can be replicated in other jurisdictions and long-term care homes.

What are the hopes for the future of the program?

- The hope is to scale the program and transport it to other jurisdictions and long-term care homes, making it available to more seniors and children.

What does Perley Health's research focus contribute to the program?

- Perley Health's research focus allows for evaluation of the program, providing concrete evidence of its benefits and supporting its long-term sustainability and growth.

What will be the community engagement in this process?

- Plans are in the works to inform and engage our community papers, so everyone is aware of this new program at Perley Health.

Can I receive updates about the child care centre?

- We will continue to share updates as the project progresses, including details on registration and the construction schedule.

How can I stay connected and get involved?

- For the latest updates and to follow the progress of this exciting project, please visit our dedicated webpage: PerleyHealth.ca/early-learning-and-care-centre
- If you have further questions or comments, please contact info@perleyhealth.ca.