

Generations Connected at Perley Health



Sharing news about the Intergenerational Child Care program

Edition 6

January 29, 2026

Welcome to the sixth edition of our **Generations Connected** newsletter, your home for project schedules, safety measures, programming information and opportunities to support.

The intergenerational child care program is a partnership between Perley Health, which provides a community of care and services for Seniors and Veterans; the Perley Health Foundation, which raises and manages funds to support programs, services, and capital needs; and Andrew Fleck Children's Services (AFCS), a non-profit organization that operates child care centres across the region.

Read recent updates and visit our webpage: PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected

Connecting Generations Through Professional Early Learning Practice

By: Kim Rogers RECE, BA(Hons.), Registered Early Childhood Educator, Certified Forest & Nature School Practitioner (C.FNS)

Imagine a space where young children and older adults giggle together over a storybook, share a glue stick, plant a garden, or delight in music side by side. This is the magic of intergenerational early learning programs and, at its heart, the magic of human connection.

Set to open in 2026, Perley Health's intergenerational childcare program, developed in partnership with Andrew Fleck Children's Services (AFCS), will bring this vision to life. In these thoughtfully designed learning environments, children and older adults, affectionately known as "Grandfriends," come together to learn, play, and connect. Older adults contribute life experience, patience, and warmth, while children bring curiosity, energy, and joy. Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) guide these shared experiences, modelling empathy, respect, and cooperation while supporting each child's development.



Intergenerational programming goes beyond traditional childcare. It is a community-building approach that intentionally creates opportunities for learning, empathy, and social connection across generations. Through shared activities and meaningful interactions, teachable moments naturally emerge, allowing learning to evolve through mutual engagement and responsiveness. At the centre of these shared experiences are Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs), whose professional training, ethical standards, and regulatory oversight ensure that intergenerational learning is safe, intentional, and developmentally meaningful.

Research has shown that play-based early learning environments support foundational cognitive, social, and self-regulation skills while offering positive benefits for people of all ages, both the young and the young at heart. In early learning and care settings, RECEs are responsible for designing inclusive, responsive, and play-based environments that spark curiosity and joy, often inspired by children's own interests and inquiries. Their professional expertise ensures that every interaction is safe, developmentally enriching, and grounded in best practice. In intergenerational settings like the

one being co-built at Perley Health, these shared experiences help children build lifelong skills while offering Grandfriends a sense of belonging, opportunity, and connection within the learning space.

At AFCS, ongoing professional learning is strongly supported, with training opportunities in areas such as diversity and inclusion, neurodivergence, and nature-based learning, to name a few. RECEs are committed to reflective practice, innovation, and continuous skill development, always centred on the needs of children, families, colleagues, and the broader community.

AFCS and Perley Health's shared commitment to intergenerational programming reflects a belief in early learning environments that support connection, engagement, and belonging. The addition of onsite intergenerational childcare at Perley Health offers a unique opportunity to further enrich the professional practice of RECEs while elevating the quality of early learning and child care. Most importantly, it creates welcoming, vibrant spaces where children and their Grandfriends can learn from one another, build meaningful relationships, and experience the joy of human connection.

Staff Registration Moves to the Next Step

The first registration period for Perley Health's new intergenerational child care program has closed.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the many members of our community who expressed interest in this new service and helped to spread the word.

- Applicants between November 14 and January 9: You will be contacted in March to be notified if a space is available for your family.

Please note that the initial cohort of those who registered between November and January, was prioritized by the staff member's seniority (the person's date of hire).

All future applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis based on the person's date of their application to register.

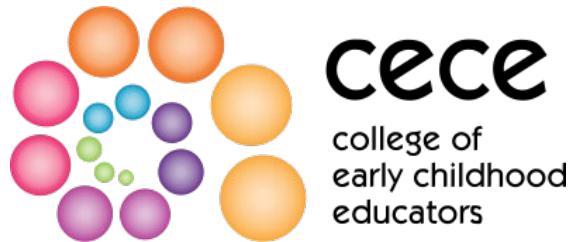
Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) in Ontario

Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) are trained early learning professionals educated at the college and/or university level and regulated in the public interest.

In Ontario, RECEs are:

- Regulated by the [College of Early Childhood Educators](http://www.college-ece.ca)
www.college-ece.ca
- Governed under the *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*
- Required to meet registration, ethical, and professional standards
- Expected to engage in ongoing professional learning
- Accountable through a public complaints and discipline process

Together, this regulatory framework supports high-quality early learning and ensures RECEs remain accountable, ethical, and well equipped to support children and families.



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The child care centre is set to open in Spring 2026 on the first floor of the Perley Centre. It will offer 49 total spaces:

- 10 Infant spaces
- 15 Toddler spaces
- 24 Preschool spaces

We are planning a formal registration process and will share plenty of updates, including details about an open house. More details and specific timing will be shared as we get closer to a confirmed opening date.

For specific questions regarding the waitlist, please contact Nicole, the Andrew Fleck Children Services Parent Navigator, PN@afchilddrensservices.ca.

Construction is progressing and more than 67% complete with a target date to open in the Spring on the first floor of the Perley Centre.

Pictured Right (Left to Right):

- Neeka Barnes, Director Special Projects, AFCS;
- Katrin Spencer, Director, Strategy, Partnerships and Growth, Perley Health ;
- Kim Hiscott, CEO, AFCS; and
- Akos Hoffer, CEO, Perley Health



Thank you from the Perley Health Foundation

Thanks to your generous support, we've raised approximately \$1.5 million toward our \$2 million campaign goal. You're the reason we're within reach of creating a transformative intergenerational space where seniors, Veterans, and children can connect, learn, and thrive together.

Help us cross the finish line! Every gift at this stage will help ensure the Centre opens this spring fully funded and ready to serve families, seniors, and Veterans from day one.

And when you donate to Perley Health Foundation before March 31st, your name will be placed on a bookplate inside a book in the Intergenerational Child Care Centre's reading library—a lasting tribute to your support.

Ways to give:

- Online at PerleyHealthFoundation.ca/bridging-generations
- Call the Foundation office at 613-526-7173
- Visit the Foundation office 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday

Your generosity today will create meaningful moments for generations. Thank you for caring.

Your Safety is Our Top Priority

Your safety is paramount throughout this construction project. Please help us keep everyone safe by paying close attention to all signs and following all safety directions in and around construction areas.

Free hearing protection is available from the Support Services offices on the second floor of the Perley Centre for anyone affected by the noise disruptions construction may cause.

Stay Informed

We frequently produce two newsletters: one provides construction updates and the second is dedicated to all topics related to the child care centre.

Print: Copies are available throughout the Perley Health community.

Online:

1. Visit our Generations Connected webpage for updates, FAQs and more:
PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected
2. Access the Construction Newsletter:
PerleyHealth.ca/public-announcement

For questions or concerns, please contact info@PerleyHealth.ca.