



**SUMMER  
2025**

# R.A. RIDDELL KINDER CAMP



# Our Approach to Play

At Today's Family, we celebrate play as the heart of learning, sparking curiosity, connection, and growth for every child. Through outdoor exploration, children engage with the world in meaningful ways, learning by doing, imagining, and discovering. We see nature as our playground, where every element invites adventure and creativity. In this environment, play isn't just fun, it's a powerful pathway to help children build lasting connections to the land, their community, each other, and to themselves.

*It is our vision that every child experiences the joy of learning through play.*



## Co-creating Play: A Shared Journey

We believe play is most meaningful when it is shared. Co-creating play with children is at the heart of our summer day camps, where educators collaborate with children, following their lead, their interests, building on their ideas, and nurturing curiosity. Whether storytelling, exploring, or imagining new worlds, play becomes a dynamic journey of discovery. By valuing every child's voice, we foster belonging and community. When play is co-created, learning has no limits.

## Rooted in Play with the Natural World

This summer, we embrace the land as our playground and inspiration. Through outdoor exploration and child-led discovery, campers will deepen their connection to nature, observing, questioning, and creating as they play. Whether exploring habitats or following the flow of water, they will shape their own experiences, building connections with nature, community, and each other, fostering curiosity, resilience, and a lifelong respect for the natural world.

## Leading through the Arts

Artasia brings together children of all ages across all Today's Family camps to explore the transformative role of the arts. Artist educators partner with children, guiding arts exploration through a variety of topics. Designed to foster creativity and leadership, the program encourages collaboration across generations, empowering children to share their voice on interests and issues through creative expression.

**Are you thinking about joining us this summer?** Learn more about our camp programs and look at what we have planned this summer.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [camp@todaysfamily.ca](mailto:camp@todaysfamily.ca).



# Summer Camp FAQs

## What is the cancellation policy?

Due to increased demand for camp programming, our cancellation policy has been updated. Parents/guardians must give a minimum of 30 days' written notice of intent to withdraw from any/all camp weeks from the first day of camp. For summer camp, regardless of the impacted week, **all withdrawal requests for the summer season must be received by Sunday, June 1, 2025.** If notice is not received, full program fees will be charged. For more information on terms, location details and fees, please see our parent handbooks.

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

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## What is a family meeting and 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 get to know each other and allows children and families to explore their camp environment. 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.

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## 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, call:

905 546-4870 City of Hamilton  
905 825-6000 Halton Region  
519 426-6170 Haldimand Norfolk

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## What are the program hours?

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

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## What occurs during extreme weather events?

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. Please note that Today's Family adheres to extreme heat procedures outlined by our local municipalities. Any impacts experienced to program schedules or operations due to extreme heat will be communicated with families.

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## What happens during a serious occurrence?

Safety of children is our top priority. A serious occurrence is an incident that poses a significant risk to a child's health, safety, or well-being. Serious occurrences that happen in your child's Camp Program are posted at the program location for your information. To learn more about site-specific procedures to ensure child safety, please contact your Program Supervisor.

## What should my child bring each day?

### Campers should bring:

- ✓ A nut-free lunch labelled with your child's name
- ✓ Outdoor clothing
- ✓ Refillable water bottle labelled with your child's name
- ✓ Swimsuit and towel or a change of clothes
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Comfortable shoes
- ✓ Hat

Campers will enjoy swimming each week at a recreation centre pool or splash pad, please pack a swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, and a water bottle daily.

To keep camp focused on play, we ask that valuables, including electronics, stay home to prevent loss or damage and encourage engagement. If a personal item is needed, please inform us in advance. Families can stay connected through our staff, the supervisor's office, or the Family Fridge App for communication.

## Are healthy snacks provided?

Today's Family provides healthy snacks made with whole ingredients in accordance with the Canada Food Guide. Menus are posted within program rooms and copies are also 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.

## How do educators guide and support behaviour?

Today's Family educators 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.

## 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.



# Our Summer at a Glance

## Week 1: June 30 to July 4\*

\*Program will be closed for the statutory holiday on July 1 (Canada Day).

We're excited to kick off the summer with a week of exploration, connection, and creativity! This week, campers will have the chance to meet our amazing staff and educators, who are here to guide us through all the fun and play ahead. We'll begin by starting our camp mural, a collaborative art project that will grow throughout the summer, capturing the spirit of our community. Campers will also explore the space where camp is held, discovering the special places and hidden gems that make our camp environment unique.

Join us for a week of introductions, creativity, and adventure as we lay the foundation for an unforgettable summer together.

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## Week 2: July 7 to 11

This week, campers will have the chance to experiment with making natural paper, explore different art techniques, and discover creative ways to document their experiences in nature. Whether they choose to sketch or write, their journal will be a reflection of their unique perspective. They will also have the opportunity to observe wildlife, track discoveries, and spend quiet moments in nature, noticing the world in new ways.

A trip to Dundas Driving Park will offer even more inspiration, how they explore is up to them! Will they sketch the trees, write about the sounds around them, or create something entirely new? The possibilities are endless.

**Thursday, July 10 | Dundas Driving Park**

71 Cross St., Dundas

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## Week 3: July 14 to 18

Step into the wild and uncover the world of habitats! This week, they'll have the chance to explore what makes a habitat unique, discover the animals that live there, and think about how we can help protect these special spaces. Through hands-on play, they'll investigate different habitats, get creative with building their own, and find new ways to observe how plants and animals share their environment.

Their adventure will continue with a trip to Bronte Creek Conservation Area, where they can explore diverse habitats, look for wildlife, and choose how they want to document their discoveries, whether through sketches, stories, or interactive projects of their own design.

**Thursday, July 17 | Bronte Creek Conservation Area**

1219 Burloak Dr., Oakville

[www.ontarioparks.ca/park/brontecreek](http://www.ontarioparks.ca/park/brontecreek)



## Week 4: July 21 to 25

Get ready to dive into a week of discovery as we explore the wonders of water! Campers will lead the way in investigating how water moves, shapes the environment, and supports life. As their curiosity flows, we'll follow their ideas, experimenting, observing, and playing to deepen our view of water's role in the world around us.

We will be visiting Kelso Lake, where campers will experience the beauty and power of water firsthand. As we explore, observe, and play, we will deepen our connection to water in ways that inspire curiosity and creativity. Whether investigating how water moves, discovering local ecosystems, or simply enjoying a swim, this adventure will be shaped by their interests and discoveries along the way. Join us for a week where science, exploration, and play flow together!

### Thursday, July 24 | Kelso Conservation Area

5234 Kelso Rd., Milton

[www.conservationhalton.ca/parks/kelso](http://www.conservationhalton.ca/parks/kelso)

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## Week 5: July 28 to August 1

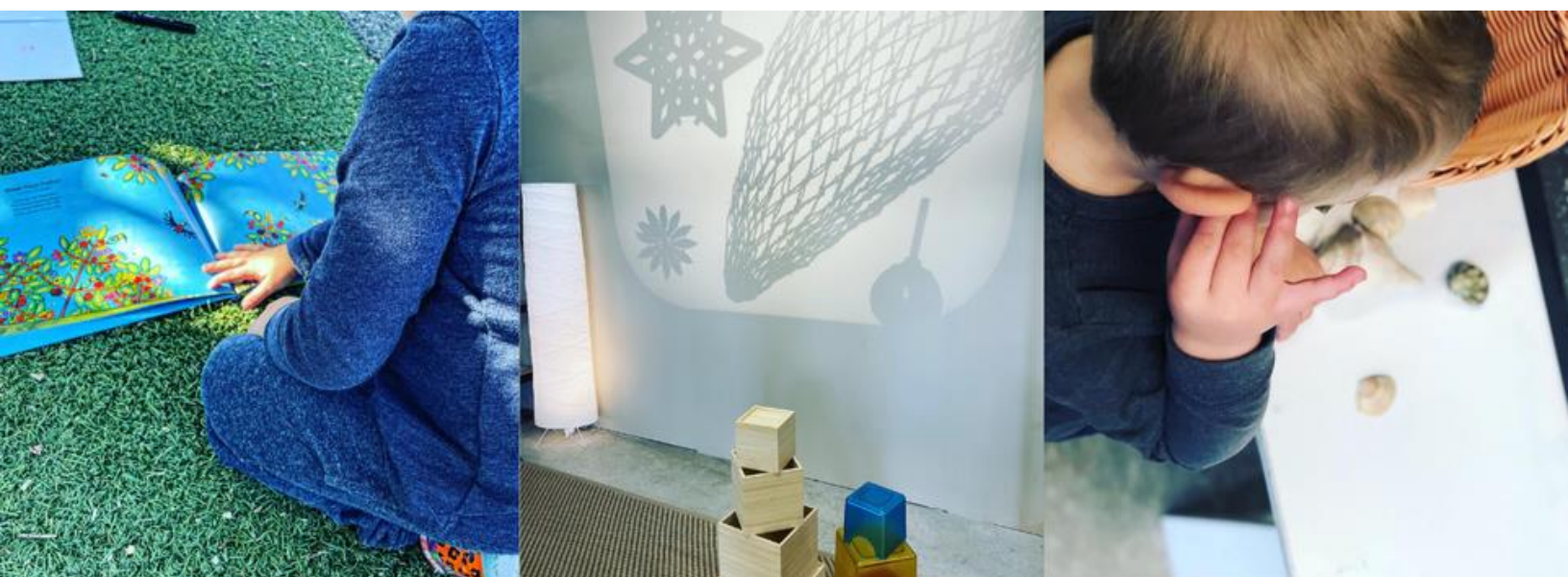
Get ready to embark on an exciting adventure of mapmaking and discovery! This week, campers will learn the art of creating their own maps, dive into the world of geocaching to explore hidden treasures, and practice map reading to navigate the great outdoors.

We will be taking a trip to Crawford Lake Conservation Area, where campers will explore Indigenous village sites, hike scenic trails, and put mapping skills to the test in a real-world setting! Join us for a week of exploration, creativity, and teamwork as we map our way through the world around us!

### Thursday, July 31 | Crawford Lake

3115 Conservation Rd., Milton

[www.conservationhalton.ca](http://www.conservationhalton.ca)



## Week 6: August 4 to 8\*

\*Program closed for the statutory holiday, August 4 (Civic Holiday).

Spread your wings and let curiosity take flight! This week, they'll have the chance to observe and identify birds in the community, uncover fascinating bird behaviours, and explore the important role birds play in nature. How will they connect with the world of birds? Will they sketch their sightings, mimic bird calls, or create their own bird song? It's up to them!

Our adventure will take us to the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), where campers can explore diverse bird habitats, search for wildlife along scenic trails, and take part in a nature scavenger hunt, finding not just birds, but also unique plants, insects, and hidden treasures in the gardens. What will we discover?

### Thursday, August 7 | Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)

680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington

[www.rbq.ca](http://www.rbq.ca)

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## Week 7: August 11 to 15

Get ready to branch out and explore the incredible world of trees! This week, campers will lead their own discoveries, investigating why trees are essential, exploring conservation efforts, and uncovering the many ways trees shape our world. Through play, exploration, and imagination, campers will deepen their connection to the trees around them in ways that are meaningful to them.

We will take a trip to Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum, where campers will explore beautiful tree-filled landscapes and connect with nature in a meaningful way. Join us for a week of discovery, hands-on learning, and appreciation for the towering giants that help our planet thrive.

### Thursday, August 14 | Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum

64 Sulphur Springs Rd., Ancaster

[www.hamilton.ca/things-do/hamilton-civic-museums](http://www.hamilton.ca/things-do/hamilton-civic-museums)

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## Week 8: August 18 to 22

As summer ends, it's time to reflect on all the amazing experiences we've had! We will all be looking back on the adventures, trips, and community outings that made this summer unforgettable. Campers will share their favourite memories, highlight the friends they've made, and celebrate the fun and growth we've experienced together. Through creative activities and group discussions, we'll reflect on the journey and cherish the connections we've built.

The grand finale? A year-end gathering at Westfield Heritage Village, where we'll celebrate our memories with fun games, a picnic, and a chance to relive the highlights of the summer in the beautiful outdoors. Join us for a week of sharing, appreciation, and celebration as we wrap up a summer full of laughter, learning, and lasting memories!

### Thursday, August 21 | Westfield Heritage Village

1049 Kirkwall Rd., Rockton

[www.westfieldheritage.ca](http://www.westfieldheritage.ca)