



The Early Years Initiative

Mobilizing Communities to Give Young Kids What They Need to Thrive

South Central Burlington: Using Existing Community Assets and Relationships to Support High Needs families

The South Central Burlington neighbourhood is bounded by the Queen Elizabeth Way, Lake Ontario, and Walkers Line. This area is diverse in terms of socio-economic status of residents, due to a higher Social Risk Index, a substantial social housing population, and higher rental rates compared to other areas within Halton Region. This neighbourhood was identified because of the high number of community facilities and services, and the ability to enhance existing opportunities and grants. Many table members have established relationships and sit at other community tables, such as the Healthy Kids Community Challenge.

The South Central Burlington Table includes:

- Burlington Public Library
- City of Burlington Parks and Recreation
- Community Development Halton
- Community Living Burlington
- Halton Catholic District School Board
- Halton District School Board
- HMC Connection
- Halton Region Health Department
- Halton Region Housing Services
- Halton Region Social and Employment Services
- Reach out Centre for Kids (ROCK)
- YMCA of Hamilton, Burlington and Brantford

Many of these professionals have worked together before, so this group was able to quickly brainstorm and generate ideas. The table have agreed to work to improve EDI vulnerabilities in the areas of Physical Health and Wellbeing (fine and gross motor skills) and Emotional Maturity (aggressive, hyperactive, and inattentive behaviour).

The South Central Burlington Table is committed planning and implementing the following activities:

- Expansion of service with the delivery of an 8 week mobile OEYC program focusing on gross motor, literacy and general child development, through a ROCK, Have a Heart Burlington, and the Burlington Public Library partnership.
- Conduct an asset mapping exercise for the geographical area, mapping existing services and service provisions and identifying gaps and opportunities.
- Common messages to support consistent, focused messaging and the development of a parent engagement strategy and portable display to attend various local events.
- Exploration of hosting A Loose Parts / Adventure Play program for preschool and school age children, in partnership with Have a Heart Burlington

For more information about the Our Kids Network Early Years Initiative, contact Shawna Scale, Community Impact Animator at shawna@ourkidsnetwork.ca

