

## **Tender awarded for Aldborough PS child care centre**

The Thames Valley District School Board is excited to announce work will soon get underway on a \$3.9-million Child Care Centre and EarlyON Child and Family Centre at Aldborough Public School in the community of Rodney.

“This is excellent news for Thames Valley families in western Elgin County,” said Board Chair Lori-Ann Pizzolato, noting that construction is expected to get underway in Spring 2022 with a projected opening in January 2023.

The Child Care Centre will provide licensed child care for 10 infants, 15 toddlers, and 24 preschoolers. In addition, there will be a Family Age Group of 15 children that will provide child care for multi-aged children to meet the unique rural child care needs in the community.

“Hard-working families deserve safe and affordable high-quality child care,” said Minister of Education Stephen Lecce. “By building a new Child Care Centre and EarlyON Child and Family Centre at Aldborough Public School, our government is providing real support to parents, and preparing the children of Rodney for lifelong success.”

The EarlyON Child and Family Centre will offer families programs and services that promote early learning and development and provide referrals to specialized services. Children will have access to play- and inquiry-based learning opportunities.

“I am very pleased that families in West Elgin finally have access to additional licensed childcare options in their home community,” said Jeff Yurek, MPP. “The addition of these spaces represents a host of new opportunities for both parents and children at a time when access to childcare has never been more important.”

The child care centre, operated by Dutton Co-Operative Child Care Centre, while the EarlyON Child and Family Centre will be operated by Tiny Tots Co-Operative Nursery School.

Thames Valley is grateful for the continued support of the Ministry of Education and collaboration with the City of St. Thomas and County of Elgin.

“As the CMSM, we are thrilled to be moving ahead with this long-awaited project,” said Teresa Sulowski, of St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Services. “We look forward to working in partnership with TVDSB on this much anticipated Early Years project and would like to acknowledge all the hard work the TVDSB team has invested in this project, and we eagerly await the next steps.”