



Summer Mental Health and Well-Being Guide 2023



As we end the school year and enter the summer months, **we pause to acknowledge moments of hope, courage, joy and resilience.** We also acknowledge the many realities that impact our mental health and well-being. The summer months may look different for each household. However you and your family spend the summer months, we hope this guide can provide helpful tips for maintaining positive mental health and well-being.

Included in this Guide:

1. [Tips for Supporting Positive Mental Health and Well-Being Over the Summer](#)
2. [Monday to Friday Daily Themes](#)
3. [Telephone & Chat Mental Health Supports](#)
4. [Virtual Supports & Walk-ins in York Region](#)
5. [Mental Health Hubs and Resources/ Helpful Apps](#)
6. [Resources For Students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism](#)
7. [Health and Physical Education Resources](#)
8. [Summer Camps, Groups and More](#)
9. [Explore and Learn: Mental Health Information/Resources](#)
10. [York Region District School Board Community Partners](#)



The resources offered in this guide are operated by organizations/service providers outside of the York Region District School Board (YRDSB). Supports and services may change without notice. We encourage you to contact the service provider directly to learn more about the service(s) being offered. YRDSB is not responsible for the operation and information found on external sites. Any inquiries regarding the linked websites should be directed to the organization operating the website.

Tips for Supporting Positive Mental Health and Well-Being Over the Summer

1) Create realistic routines.

The goal of establishing realistic routines is to add structure and a sense of predictability to your child(ren)'s day; it is not to re-create school or academic routines. **Be sure to include your child(ren) in shaping routines and plans where appropriate.** This inclusion gives children and youth a sense of mattering and ownership over their day and control within their environment.

2) Routines should be manageable.

All children and youth benefit from structure and routine; some children, including but not limited to children with special needs, may find added benefit from the predictability they provide. Consider routines that are easy, manageable and decrease stress, anxiety and oppositional behaviour. **Creating routines, structure, and predictability does not require recreating a school or community routine.**



3) Consider what works for your family.

The needs of your family and child(ren) should be centered when planning the summer months. **Consider what brings joy, a sense of calm and meaning to each day.** Build a routine inclusive of these considerations.

4) Healthy habits/practices

Incorporate movement/exercise, healthy eating and getting outdoors/in nature. Spend time playing and learning together. Learning is not always textbook or academic. Learning about culture, traditions, dancing, cooking and life skills is just as important. **Healthy practices include activities, traditions or norms that are meaningful to your family and promote positive mental health and well-being.** Be sure to include self, family and community care.

Action for Healthy Kids offers some tips on how to [Create a Family Self-Care Plan](#)

Visit [Living Well in York Region](#) for nutrition and health information on various topics



Monday to Friday Daily Themes

Themed days can be a fun way for children and youth to get creative and shape their day. Make each day of the week a Mindful Monday, Thoughtful Tuesday, Wellness Wednesday and beyond. Visit the [Within Between & Around Us Children's Mental Health Awareness Week Calendar](#) for more themed activities.

[Plan Ahead With a Refrigerator Calendar](#)

Mindful Mondays - Mindful Mondays invite us to slow things down by pausing, reflecting and being present in the moment. Start the week with Mindful affirmations. Try these or create your own.

I am enough/ you are enough/ we are enough

I am capable/ you are capable/we are capable

I am worthy/ you are worthy/ we are worthy



Thoughtful Tuesdays - Thoughtful Tuesdays invite us to focus on our thoughts and their connections to our feelings and actions. Expressions of gratitude can be a great way to be thoughtful! Consider, what am I/you grateful for? Small things matter, just like the big things in life. Try a [Gratitude Exercise](#).

Wellness Wednesdays - Consider what helps you and your family feel and do well? A [sound bath](#) is a great way to pause, decompress and manage stress and anxiety. Create your own sound bath or soothing music playlist. Think about the sounds/ songs that bring your child/family a sense of calm, joy, peace or a sense of “okayness.”

Take Care Thursdays - Take Care Thursdays invites us to consider how we care for ourselves and those around us. How do you and your family show care? Try this! Take time to plant, plant a seed and watch it grow. [You can use seeds from your very own kitchen](#). An outdoor garden or planter pots are not needed. Use what you have, such as old containers, detergent bottles and other items to plant.

Focus Friday - Focus Friday invites us to pause, reflect and consider situations in an intentional way. Moments of pause and reflection can be a great way to slow things down, focus and invite feelings of calm. Try [Mindful colouring](#), building, creating, journaling and other calming activities.

Telephone & Chat Mental Health Supports

The resources below are not crisis services and are not intended as a substitute for the advice of a trained professional. If you or someone you know is in a crisis situation, please call [310-COPE](tel:310-COPE) (1-855-310-COPE (2673)) or proceed to your nearest emergency room. For emergencies, contact 911.

[CMHA York Region and South Simcoe](#): **1-866-345-0183**

Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m



[YorkHills](#): **905-503-9561**

Here to Help phone line, Monday to Thursday from 2 -7 pm.



[Naseeha](#): **1-866-627-3342**, Provides anonymous, non-judgmental, confidential and toll-free peer support to Muslim and non-muslims callers.



[Hope for Wellness Helpline](#): **1-855-242-3310**, Offers immediate help to all Indigenous peoples across Canada. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



[LGBT Youthline](#): **1-800-268-9688**, Confidential and non-judgemental peer support through telephone, text and chat services. Sunday to Friday, 4:00 PM to 9:30 PM.



[Black Youth Helpline](#): **416-285-9944/1-833-294-8650**, Serves all youth and specifically responds to the need for a Black youth-specific service. Telephone, text and chat services. Sunday to Friday, 4:00 PM to 9:30 PM.



[Good2Talk](#): Confidential support services for ages 17 to 25, Toll-free: **1-866-925-5454** or text GOODTOTALKON to 686868.



[Kids Help Phone](#) **1-800-668-6868**, provides support for children and youth via [text, phone, live chat, the always there app](#), and online resources. Available 24/7



[Mental health support: Get help](#): **1-866-585-0445** or text **WELLNESS** to **686868** for youth and **741741** for adults. Free and confidential mental health and substance use support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from Wellness Together Canada.

YRDSB Mental Health

[What's Up Walk-in](#): **1-866-585-6486**, Telephone or video sessions Monday to Friday 9 AM – 7 PM, Saturday 10 AM — 4 PM (last sessions at 3 PM).

[Youthlink](#): **416-967-1773 ext 222**

Counseling hours vary. Visit the service provider website for additional information

[408-HELP LINE](#): **416-408- 4357**

Distress Centres of Greater Toronto, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

[Multilingual Distress Lines](#): **905-459-7777**

Monday to Friday - 10 am to 10 pm, Available in **English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.**

[One Stop Talk](#): **1-855-416-8255**

Accessed through web chat or by calling, Monday to Friday from 12PM to 8PM, and Saturday from 12PM to 4PM EST. Children and youth 18 years old and younger. Free counselling by registered and culturally diverse therapists who also connect to longer term local support.

[Women's Support Network](#): **1- 800- 263- 6734**

Staffed by trained volunteers and WSN staff

Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

Emotional support, information, resources, referrals, grounding techniques and more

WSN Online and Text Chat: 647 694 2818

Wednesdays - Saturdays from 3-9 PM

Visit [Mental health promotion in York Region](#) for additional Mental Health Resources in York Region



Visit [Provincial Mental Health Supports](#) for Province-wide resources and supports

Virtual Supports and Walk-ins in York Region

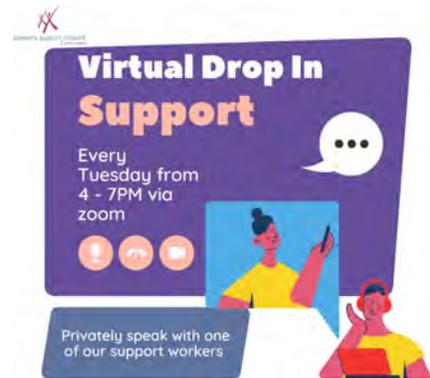
[Family Services York Region](#), Virtual Walk-In is an opportunity for you to speak to a therapist the same day or the next day. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 5 pm (excluding holidays).



[Women's Support Network](#): Inclusive, and free Virtual Drop-In Support every Tuesday from 4-7 PM via zoom Virtual drop-in support is designed to support survivors and those at risk of sexual violence and/or human trafficking who are not currently receiving ongoing support or who are on waitlists to receive ongoing support.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 852 6069 1867 Passcode: 483455

[Women's Support Network of York Region Events | Eventbrite](#)



[YSSN Single Session Counseling](#): Single Session Counseling. Visit the [YSSN](#) Calendar to register and learn more.

[360°kids "Let's Chat!" Virtual Walk-in Clinic](#): Brief Virtual Counseling Service is available to all young people, ages 13-26 years old who reside in York Region. View our [online calendar to book your virtual appointment](#) with a counselor. Alternatively, give us a call at 416-574-6372 for further information.



[Hong Fook Mental Health Association](#): Free single-session counseling service for young people ages 12 to 25 and their families. **Counseling can be offered in Cantonese, English, Korean, Mandarin, and Tagalog.** For more information please call 647-534-8493 or email counselling@hongfook.ca to schedule your phone or video counseling session.



[MOBYSS](#): (Mobile York South Simcoe) Offers a safe space to talk to a medical or mental health professional in a warm, welcoming, friendly environment. They offer sexual health services among other services.



[YorkHills](#): Walk-in Counseling Clinic: Mondays and Tuesdays. 2 pm to 8 pm with the last appointment accepted at 6:30. Located at 10350 Yonge Street 4th Floor in Richmond Hill. Teens aged 12 and up may access this service independently. Contact 905.503.9560 for more information.



Mental Health Hubs and Resources/Helpful Apps

[School Mental Health Ontario](#): Practical resources for students, families and beyond



[Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Hub](#): First Mental Health and Addictions Crisis Hub in York Region

[Jack.org Resource Hub](#): Easy to access tools, tips and resources for children and youth

[SickKids](#): Resources to help support your child's mental health and general well-being.

[Youth Wellness Centre](#): The Youth Wellness Centre is a welcoming and inclusive space offering a range of services.



[Black Health Alliance Resource/knowledge Hub](#): The Black Health Alliance is a community-led registered charity working to improve the health and well-being of Black communities in Canada.
[Pathways to Care](#)

[BounceBack®](#): A free cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) program that offers mental health self-help support for those 15 and older. Toll-free: 1-866-345-0224.

[Kidsgrief.ca](#): Resource to support grieving children and their caregivers.

[YOUTHLINK](#): Multi-service agency offering youth and family counseling, parenting support, youth shelter and housing, education programs and community-based programs for youth aged 12 to 24 and their families.

[Connex Ontario](#): Free and confidential health services information for people experiencing problems with alcohol and drugs, mental illness and/or gambling.



[PAH!](#): Specialized mental health services for the Deaf and hard of hearing children, youth and their families, and children of Deaf adults.

[Parents of Black Children Mental Health Fund](#): POC Mental Health Fund partners with mental health clinicians to make sure that families can get the support they need.

Helpful Apps



[MindShift](#): Mobile app from Anxiety Canada is designed to help teens and young adults cope with anxiety.

[Managing your stress and anxiety during COVID-19 mobile app](#)

The Managing Your Stress and Anxiety app provides tips and coping strategies to help manage your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Available on both iOS and Android.

[Foundry](#) is a BC-based resource for teens and young adults that provides tip sheets, videos and quizzes on mental health.

[Visit CAMH Apps for Mental Health to review additional Apps](#)

Resources For Students with Developmental Disabilities and Autism

- [Autism Ontario: Kids Camp \(Camp AOK\) & Adult Summer Program](#)
- [Kinark Autism Services](#), [Kinark Autism Event Calendar](#)
- [Kinark Creates](#)
- [Kerry's Place](#)
- [York Support Services Network](#)
- [Urgent response services](#)
- [Autism Support Groups and Organizations - York Region](#)



Health and Physical Education Resources



Looking for quick, easy, and fun activities to help children and youth stay happy and healthy throughout the summer months? PHE Canada offers FREE activities that engage children and youth in physical activity, healthy eating, and emotional well-being

[Resources to Support Parents and Caregivers with Health and Physical Education at Home:](#)

[Enjoy a Healthy and Active Summer: PHE Home Learning Centre can Help!](#)

- [Summer Activities for K-3](#)
- [Summer Activities for 4-6](#)
- [Summer Activities for 7-12](#)

[Things to do in York Region](#)

- [Nature's Classroom](#)
- [Trails in York Region](#)
- [Outdoor Education](#)
- [Physical Activity](#)
- [Experience Trail Marker Project](#)

[Ontario Parks](#)

[Recreation Subsidies | York Region](#)

Summer Camps, Groups and More

Doane House Hospice: Free Children's Grief Art Therapy Camp: Imprints on our Hearts

Wednesday July 12: Feeding Flowers: 9:00- 11:30 (Ages 6-9), 1:30- 4:00 (Ages 10- 12)

Thursday July 13: Superheros: 9:00- 11:30 (Ages 6-9), 1:30- 4:00 (Ages 10- 12)

Friday July 14: Wish Kite: 9:00- 11:30 (Ages 6-9), 1:30- 4:00 (Ages 10- 12)

Please Register by calling Doane House Hospice at 905-967-0259 ext. 151 or email:

kvalkanas@myhospice.ca

Yellow Brick House: Free: Let's Talk Program: Summer Camp Edition:

- July 24- July 28
- Ages 5- 12
- Psychoeducational Group for kids
- Interactive games & activities provided
- Topics include exploring emotions, safety planning and learning healthy coping skills
- Group Session for mothers afterwards
- Email: screening@yellowbrickhouse.org for more details

LET'S TALK PROGRAM
SUMMER CAMP

A 5 DAY PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL GROUP FOR KIDS

IN-PERSON | MON-FRI | AGES 5-12
(& FREE!)

EXPLORING
EMOTIONS
SAFETY
PLANNING
COPING SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT

EMAIL
SCREENING@YELLOWBRICKHOUSE.ORG
FOR MORE DETAILS

PROGRAM DATES: JULY 24-28
APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 17

yellowbrickhouse
Rebuilding Lives

YRDSB Mental Health

Virtual 4-H Camp: The youth development organization has put together a [virtual 4-H camp](#) offering various activities for children in grades pre-K through 12.

RECREATION SUBSIDIES: York Region offers subsidies for recreation programs, day camps and youth overnight camps.

Newcomers' Health and Well-Being: Provides mental health and primary care services to newcomers 12 years of age or older in York Region and South Simcoe who have physical and mental health concerns.

Youth Wellness: Supportive counselling services for youth in the areas of York Region and South Simcoe. This service is provided in person or virtually. Individuals may self-refer through the Central Intake department 1-866-345-0183 ext. 3321)

Youth & Family: Youth & Family program is for young people between the ages of 12 and 24, and their families and parents, who want to make changes connected with drug or alcohol use.



York Region Libraries and Resource Centres: Libraries and Resource Centres house a wide variety of programs and health information resources.

Moksha Canada Foundation: [Free Youth Connections Café](#), Mental health and wellness supports and resources to all youth, especially newcomers and racialized youth (16-24 years) in the York Region and all GTA.

Fuerza Latina Service Youth Mentoring Program: Youth Leadership Program aims to expand our participants' capacity to perform in leadership roles by improving their skills, abilities and confidence.

York Region Event listings calendar: Things to do in York Region and the surrounding area this summer

Explore and Learn: Mental Health Information and Resources



- Students
 - [No Problem Too Big Or Too Small](#): A help-seeking resource for students.
 - [“12 Instant Stress Busters” with Kids Help Phone](#):
 - [Kids Help Phone](#)
 - [Free Mental Health Counseling](#)
- Parents
 - [York Hills Parenting Workshops & Webinars](#)
 - [School Mental Health Ontario](#)
 - [Helping Other Parents Everywhere](#)
- Families
 - [Program Calendar - Hope House - King Aurora Richmond Hill](#)
 - [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health \(CAMH\)](#)
 - [Children's Mental Health](#)
 - [Soch Mental Health](#) (South Asian Mental Health)
 - [Black Health Alliance](#)
 - [Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health](#)
 - [Punjabi Community Health Services](#)
 - [Yoga/meditation videos in Punjabi](#)
 - [eMental Health](#)
 - [I Feel Good! A Guide to Support the Mental Health and Well-Being of Children and Youth who are Deaf/deaf and Hard of Hearing in Ontario's Schools](#)
 - [NEDIC](#) (National Eating Disorder Information Centre)
 - [Mind Your Mind](#)
- Education
 - [Teen Mental Health](#)
 - [Foundry BC](#)
 - [Anxiety Canada](#)

York Region District School Board Community Partners

The YRDSB is proud to partner with [community agencies](#) that provide mental health services. These agencies add to the services delivered by school-based social work and psychology staff. Our community partners help us to meet the diverse needs of our students. This includes linguistic, culturally responsive and identity-affirming services. Each community partner provides a range of services outside of the instructional school day. To learn more about the services provided by each community Partner please contact the service provider directly.

- [360 Kids](#)
- [Addiction Services of Central Ontario](#)
- [BridgeNorth Women's Mentorship & Advocacy Services](#)
- [CMHA \(Canadian Mental Health Association\) York Region and South Simcoe](#)
- [COSTI](#)
- [Doane House Hospice](#)
- [Evergreen Hospice](#)
- [Family Services of York Region](#)
- [Hong Fook](#)
- [Hope House Community Hospice](#)
- [Hospice Georgina](#)
- [Hospice Vaughan](#)
- [Jewish Family and Child Service \(JF&CS\)](#)
- [John Howard Society](#)
- [Kinark](#)
- [Markham Family Health Team](#)
- [Noojimoo](#)
- [TAIBU Community Health Centre](#)
- [Women's Support Network of York Region](#)
- [Yellow Brick House](#)
- [York Hills](#)

