

## HELLO PARENTS,

Windsor and Essex County are located in southwestern Ontario and are bounded on three sides by water – Lake Erie to the south, the Detroit River to the west and Lake St. Clair to the north - that offer scenic views, beaches and opportunities for water sports. The municipalities in the area include Windsor, Tecumseh, Lasalle, Kingsville, Lakeshore, Essex, Leamington and Pelee Island. Each has unique qualities that contribute to the vibrant flavour of the area. The region is known for its mix of urban and rural landscape, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and diverse residents. It is also home to Point Pelee National Park, a tiny sanctuary of habitats from jungle-like forest to lush wetlands to open savannah, and some of the best birding and butterfly viewing spots in the country. In this newsletter, you will find activities that will help your child learn more about Windsor and Essex County.

## ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

Windsor and Essex County are recognized as one of the most culturally diverse communities in Canada, where 27% of the population is foreign born and over 100 cultures are represented. Its strong ethno-cultural base is represented in numerous cultural festivals throughout the year.

### LULLABIES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

#### MATERIALS:

- Lullabies from different countries

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Sing or listen to lullabies in different languages at bedtime with your child. Your choices can include the African-American lullaby, "Hush Little Baby", the French lullaby "Fais Dodo, Colin Mon Petit Frere", the Spanish lullaby "Duermete Mi Niño", and many others.
- Repeating these lullabies often will enrich your child's musical experiences and allow both of you to memorize their beautiful lyrics.

[Click here](#) to listen to the lullabies from around the world.

## TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

Windsor is a major contributor to Canada's automotive industry and is known as the "Automotive Capital of Canada". Windsor's industrial and manufacturing heritage is responsible for how the city has developed through the years.

### DRIVE AND DROP

#### MATERIALS:

- Cardboard box
- Small race cars
- Black marker
- Knife

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Cut a rectangular slot on the top of the cardboard box.
- Draw some lines on the top of the box for roads.
- Place the race cars next to the box and invite your child to play with them.
- Encourage your child to drive the cars along the roads drawn on the box, drop them into the slot and retrieve them from the box.

[Click here](#) to listen to "We All Go Traveling by".

## PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

Windsor and Essex County have some of the best pizzas in Canada. Windsor pizza is kind of a perfect hybrid between fancy thin crust Italian authentic pizza – which Windsor has tons of – and doughy delivery pizza. The most popular pizza in Windsor is a Classic Super with pepperoni (shredded), green peppers, canned mushrooms and mozzarella cheese.

### CREATIVE PIZZA

#### MATERIALS:

- Naan bread
- Cheese
- Paper
- Timer
- Pizza sauce
- Veggies and other toppings of your choice
- Pen

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Explain to your child that they will create their own pizza.
- Brainstorm with your child what toppings they can use.
- Ask your child to create a unique name for their pizza.
- Help your child write the name of the pizza and the ingredients on the paper.
- Together with your child, prepare ingredients and make their special pizza. Offer help if needed.
- Help your child place the pizza in the oven and set the timer.

- When the pizza is ready, take it out of the oven and wait for it to cool.
- Invite family members to join the table and have your child introduce their brand new pizza invention.
- Cut the pizza into slices and enjoy!

[Click here](#) to read "Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party" by James Dean and Kimberly Dean.

## JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

Wildlife in the Essex region is among the rarest and most biodiverse in Canada. It is home to more than 240 federally or provincially rare species of plants or animals. The 350-hectare Ojibway Prairie Complex is the largest protected remnant of native prairie in Ontario with its trails winding through tall grasses, wetlands, forest, and savanna. It is a fantastic place to visit if you want to surround yourself by nature.

### OJIBWAY PARK WALK

#### MATERIALS:

- Internet access
- Binoculars (optional)

#### DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to access the Ojibway website.
- Explore the website with your child and talk about what animals and plants can be found.
- Go on a walk in Ojibway Park and start looking for animals and plants. If you have binoculars, bring them with you to get a closer look of what you and your child have spotted.
- Try to name the animals and plants that you have seen.
- At home, go on the website again and compare what you have seen with what is listed there.
- Later on, you can share what you have observed with your friends or family.

[Click here](#) to learn about Point Pelee National Park.

## SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

Tourism plays a big part in the economy of Windsor and Essex County. The local attractions and landmarks include: nature spots, parks, walking and biking trails, the Ambassador Bridge, sculptures, monuments, and heritage buildings.

### WINDSOR ATTRACTIONS MAP

#### MATERIALS:

- Large sheet of paper or a poster board
- Glue
- Old magazines or newspapers
- Coloured pencils
- Scissors

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Discuss with your friends or family what interesting places you would like to visit in Windsor and Essex County. Some ideas include: Point Pelee, Riverside Sculpture Park, City Hall, Adventure Bay, etc.
- Draw an outline of Windsor and Essex County's land shape. [Click here](#) to find a map for your reference.
- Make sure to draw on your map the bodies of water, too.
- Start adding your chosen attractions and landmarks on the map. Think about the distances, directions and layout of Windsor and Essex County.
- Draw pictures of the attractions on the map and colour them.
- You can also cut some pictures out of local magazines or newspapers and glue them on your map.
- Write each place's name and some details under the pictures.
- Once you have completed the map, you can share it with someone who wants to visit and learn more about Windsor and Essex County.

[Click here](#) to learn more about family fun attractions in Windsor and Essex County.

[Click here](#) to find more nature attractions and parks in the area.



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
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## DID YOU KNOW?

- Prior to the French and English settlement, the area was inhabited by indigenous communities of Ojibwe, Potawatomi, Odawa and Huron-Wendat Peoples some of whom live here to this day.
- Windsor was settled in 1749 and is one of the oldest cities in Canada.
- During 19th century, the area was home to Underground Railroad, a secret network of people who hid and guided slaves and refugees as they fled to escape enslavement in the USA. Thousands of them found freedom in the welcoming communities of Windsor and Essex County.
- 1 in 4 residents in Windsor and Essex County is an immigrant.
- The region is the warmest area in Ontario and among the warmest in Canada.
- Point Pelee National Park is located on the southernmost point of mainland Canada.
- Due to its fertile soils, Essex County has the largest and most intensive field and greenhouse growing in Canada with 1,740 farms.
- Windsor was the first city in Canada to have an electrified streetcar system built in 1886. The last Windsor electric streetcar ran on May 7, 1939, giving way to cars and buses.
- Famous country singer, Shania Twain, was born in Windsor and actor Colm Feore grew up here.