

Child Development Dayhomes NEWS

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTING INFORMATION FOR DAYHOME EDUCATORS AND PARENTS



April 2024

2024 AECEA Early Childhood Educator Award of Recognition

Deadline for nominations: April 5
More [info](#).

AECEA
Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta

Follow us on Social Media



Educator Facebook Group

Did you know that CDDH has a dedicated Facebook group for our educators? CDDH Educators can join [here](#).



Childcare Subsidy

Families earning less than \$180,000/yr are eligible for childcare subsidy. Click [here](#) for more info.

Attendance Records Due:

Thursday, April 18 by 6:00pm

Dayhome Educators, please ensure all the times for the month have been entered on TimeSavr.

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

Easter Monday: April 1, 2024

Victoria Day: May 20, 2024

Canada Day: July 1, 2024

Civic Holiday: August 5, 2024

Labour Day: September 2, 2024

National Truth and Reconciliation Day:
September 30, 2024

Thanksgiving Day: October 14, 2024

Remembrance Day: November 11, 2024

Christmas Day: December 25, 2024

Boxing Day: December 26, 2024



Parent Feedback Survey on CDDH Website

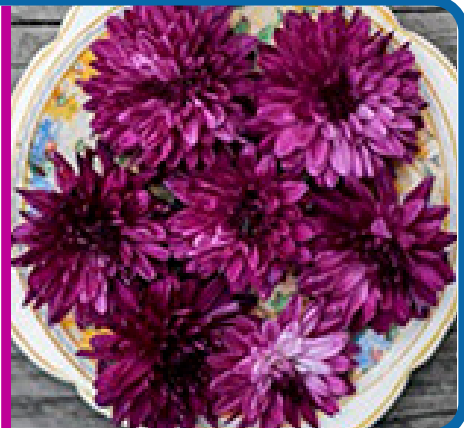
Let us know how we are doing. Take the Parent Feedback Survey [here](#).



Congratulations!

To the following dayhome educators celebrating their anniversaries with Child Development Dayhomes in the month of April

Soheli Hossain	31 years	Karen Dano Ibale	5 years
Shahida Nasreen	12 years	Alim Ivy An	4 years
Maria Sheikh	9 years	Jinny Graveline	3 years
Tahira Khan	9 years	Tatiana Cazacu	2 years
Parveen Parveen	7 years	Dildeep Kaur	2 years
Gangadevi Kabilan	5 years	Chamini Bulumulla	2 years



Recipe Ideas

▶ Yogurt and Fruit Parfaits

Ingredients:

- 3 cups vanilla nonfat yogurt
- 1 cup fresh or defrosted frozen strawberries in juice
- 1 pint fresh blackberries, raspberries or blueberries
- 1 cup good quality granola

Directions: Layer 1/3 cup vanilla yogurt into the bottom each of 4 tall glasses. Combine defrosted strawberries and juice with fresh berries. Alternate layers of fruit and granola with yogurt until glasses are filled to the top. Serve parfaits immediately to keep granola crunchy.



Source: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/rachael-ray/yogurt-and-fruit-parfaits-recipe-1940127>

▶ Pizza on a Stick

Ingredients:

- 8oz italian turkey sausage links
- 2 cups whole fresh mushrooms
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes
- 1 medium onion, cut into 1in pieces
- 1 large green pepper, cut into 1 in pieces
- 30 slices turkey pepperoni (2oz)
- 1 tube (13.8oz) refrigerated pizza crust
- 1 1/2 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1 1/4 cups pizza sauce, warmed



Directions: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/pizza-on-a-stick/>

Community Events

▶ **Tours for Tots**

Date: Every Wednesday at 10:00am

Location: Art Gallery of Alberta

Website: <https://www.youraga.ca/education/families-and-kids/tours-tots>

Tours for Tots is a weekly in-person art exploration for children ages 3-5 and their parents, consisting of playful activities, whimsical storytelling and hands-on art-making. Our aim is to create a dynamic program which fosters meaningful relationships, community awareness, well-being, visual literacy and creative expression.



▶ **Places that kids eat free**

Anything that bills itself as family-friendly is good to us, and the family-friendliest of all is “Kids Eat Free”.

All of these promotions stipulate that the free child’s meal offer is with the purchase of an adult’s meal. Please call ahead to ensure the promotion is still going in order to avoid disappointment!

Website: <https://www.familyfunCanada.com/edmonton/kids-eat-free-in-edmonton/>



▶ **Egg Hunts from Home**

Create family memories with a fun and creative morning Easter Egg hunting at home! Check out these ideas for 5 Alternative Easter Egg Hunts that go beyond the basics.

Easter Egg ‘Silly Tasks’ Hunt

Fill your eggs with slips of paper that get your kids to perform silly tasks. You can include things like ‘hop like a bunny’, ‘sing your favourite rhyme’ or ‘name three things that start with the first letter of your name’. Once they complete the task, they can earn an Easter treat or they can earn tickets to accumulate to trade for a bigger prize. If you have older kids, you can include more difficult tasks like ‘name 3 countries that start with the letter C’ and award a different amount of points for each task. Once they have a certain amount of points, they get a prize.

Visit website for all 5 Easter Egg Hunt Ideas: <https://www.familyfunCanada.com/edmonton/alternative-easter-egg-hunts/>

Activity Idea

► Nature Walk & Art Activity

By Alison Lowes, Mount Royal University

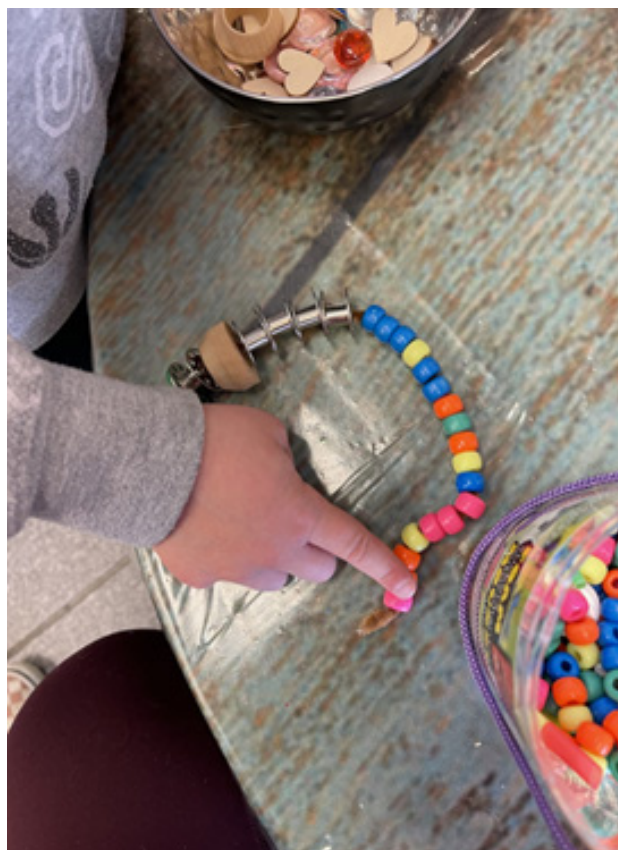
This activity encourages children to explore and examine the world around them using multimodal literacies and creativity/imagination.

1. Alongside educators, children will go on a nature walk, exploring different textures, scents and visual stimuli. Along the way they will choose an item or object to explore further, perhaps a rock, leaf or stick. This can be any item the child is interested in however, animals can be modified so that the child draws from a picture or their image of the animal.
2. After choosing their object, children will create their own art piece or symbolism for the item they chose. I've done this with many groups and the outcomes are always different; sometimes children choose to use the object as a paintbrush, other times dramatic play is inspired by the item or nature walk in general. Overall, the goal is to notice what the child is drawn to and curious about.
3. Once the children create their own representation of the natural world or object, the educator can take a photo or write a summary of the children's experiences. This documentation can be added to personal learning journals, a living wall, or the dayhome storypark for example.

Materials Needed:

- Space outside to walk/explore and weather-appropriate clothing.
- Materials to represent the objects children choose: could include art supplies like paint, canvases etc. or loose parts for storytelling and dramatic play. These are just suggestions, the children's interest can lead to many other ideas!
- Place to display the summary of children's experiences. Making learning visible is vital to engaging children and families in early learning environments.

This child chose to represent a caterpillar by making a beaded and loose parts art piece. They used a pipe cleaner, wooden and metal loose parts and pony beads to create their representation. This experience allowed the children to explore nature and interact with the world around them while synthesizing information and creating new ways to symbolize their experiences.



Learning Story

The Mt. Royal University has a partnership with Child Development Dayhomes to support students on their Practicum IV under the Bachelor of Child Studies- CHST 3206 Leadership Practicum. Students were assigned to selected dayhomes to collaborate with educators in deepening and sustaining their understanding of pedagogical documentation. This project started in the winter term (January to April). We wanted to highlight the work of the practicum student alongside our dayhome educators in this month's newsletter through the form of a learning story. Kailee is one of our 3rd year students and a pedagogical collaborator that works alongside Breezy and here is her learning story. -Juliet, Childcare Consultant

Dear Breezy,

It has been so amazing to watch your dayhome journey throughout this past month! One of your goals for this year has been to work on your learning stories and you have been very open to new ways of creating learning stories that honor the child and their experiences. In early January you asked me to review your learning stories and offer some suggestions.



I noticed lots of great group stories where you noted what the children were doing, the concepts they were exploring, and used accessible language for the families to understand. Your provocations were so fun and open ended! But I wondered about the individual learning that was happening within your space! You took the time to direct me to your individual learning stories for the children in your care. There was one from November about Mila that showed an overview of how she had been settling into your dayhome.



Learning Story (continued)



You noted how Mila was making new friends, trying new foods, and many other amazing accomplishments.

The great thing about individual learning stories is that they provide an opportunity to delight in the children you work with. Individual learning stories specifically allow educators to reflect on special learning moments with children, and to share in the joy of the learning process with families. I suggested to you to document a special moment that you noticed with one of the children in your care. To wonder and be curious about how the world looks through the eyes of a child. What are they interested in? Why? What motivates their actions, and inspires them to create? How can you share this moment in a special way that honors the child?

On February 1st, you wrote an endearing story about Mila that allowed me as a reader to notice her interests, to see her learning, and to see your own curiosity shine through. Breezy, I was so impressed by your sense of wonderment, and your ability to engage in collaborative pondering of ideas alongside Mila. Rather than doing an overview of Mila's day, in this individual learning story you were able to paint a full picture of how Mila was evolving in her learning process. You were a partner alongside her, promoting lots of exploration and curiosity!

Most importantly, I was so touched to see you and Mila bond as you carefully noticed and documented her meaningful actions. It was amazing to see how you shared Mila's competencies and capabilities with her family, but did it in a way that ultimately celebrated her learning!

Thanks Breezy, I have loved learning alongside you and I cannot wait to see what you do next!

- Kailee :)

