

Child Development Dayhomes NEWS

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTING INFORMATION FOR DAYHOME EDUCATORS AND PARENTS



March 2024

Educator Workshop

▶ Outdoor Play Workshop

Date: March 17, 2024

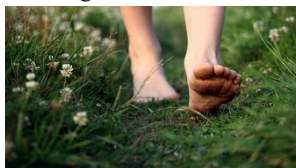
Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Whitemud Park, 13204 Fox Dr. NW

Presenter: Christina Pickles

RSVP: jennifer@childdev.com by March 15th

Educators, parents, and children are welcome to attend. Please dress to play outside. There is an indoor building and washrooms if needed.



2024 AECEA Early Childhood Educator Award of Recognition

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

AECEA
Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta

Welcome New Educators!

Anshika Kapoor

Dharitri Hota

Alelie Api

Sharanya Mariyan Kandy

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

Good Friday: March 29, 2024

Easter Monday: April 1, 2024

Victoria Day: May 20, 2024



Follow us on Social Media



Attendance Records Due:

Monday, March 18 by 6:00pm

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

Parent Feedback Survey on CDDH Website



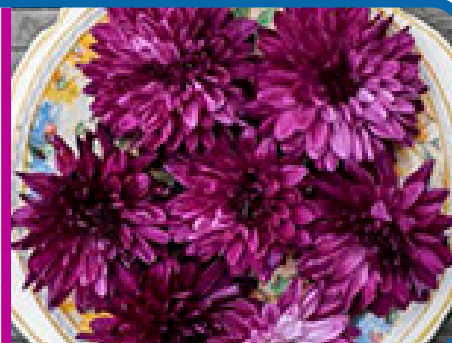
Let us know how we are doing.
Take the Parent Feedback Survey [here](#).



Congratulations!

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

Samra Sohail	12 years	Saba Maqbool	8 years
Cecilia Sibayan	9 years	Silvia Orozco Espino	7 years
Edwina Sinuto	8 years	Nosheen Azhar	5 years



Recipe Ideas

► 5 Ingredient Gnocchi, Broccoli and White Bean Bake

Ingredients:

- 4-5 cups broccoli florets
- 1 (16oz) package gnocchi
- 1 (15oz) can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (24oz) jar tomato sauce
- 1 cup grated cheese, divided (your favorite kind)
- Salt and black pepper, to taste

Instructions: <https://www.shelikesfood.com/5-ingredient-gnocchi-broccoli-and-white-bean-bake/>



► Cloud Eggs

Ingredients:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 4 large eggs
- Kosher salt
- 4 slices buttered brioche toast, for serving

Ingredients: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/cloud-eggs-3744344>



Community Events

► The Ridge Winter Festival

Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024

Time: 1:00-4:00pm

Address: Haddow Park (2111 Haddow Drive NW)

Come out for a fun day filled with horse-drawn sleigh rides, outdoor games, milk-jug curling, snowshoeing, tobogganing, skating, and food trucks.



► Free Recreational Swim with Inflatable Fun

Date: March 16, 2024

Time: 4:00 - 8:00pm

Location: Emerald Hills Leisure Centre

Address: 3555 Emerald Drive, Sherwood Park

Website: www.strathcona.ca

Grab your swimsuits and towels and head down to Emerald Hills Leisure Centre for a FREE recreational swim with the family on select Saturday's each month! There will even be a fun inflatable obstacle course set-up in the pool for some added aquatic fun! Visit the Strathcona County website to check attendance counts before heading out.



► Edmonton Valley Zoo and Muttart Conservatory

Date: Now until April 1, 2024

Location: Edmonton Valley Zoo & Muttart Conservatory

Website: www.edmonton.ca

The Edmonton Valley Zoo and Muttart Conservatory have teamed up to help you save money with a great 2-for-1 admission offer running February 17 to April 1, 2024. Simply purchase admission and enjoy your time at your choice of either facility, then bring your receipt and valid Alberta identification to gain FREE entry into the other attraction before April 1, 2024.



Activity Idea

Leprechaun Hunt!

By Kailee Lachance, Mount Royal University

If your kiddos are showing interest in leprechauns this St. Patrick's Day then a leprechaun rock scavenger hunt (with a little bit of science) might be just right for you!

You will need:

1 cup baking soda
¼ cup of water
Green food colouring
Gold coins (or anything else that you'd like to hide inside!)

After mixing the ingredients together you should be able to form them into round 'rocks'. If not, you may need to add more baking soda. Place whatever surprise you chose inside the rock for the children to discover later (this is where your gold coin will go should you choose this item!)

Place your leprechaun rocks on a baking tray and let them dry overnight. The following morning, they will have hardened, and you can hide them in your environment for your children to discover!

To incorporate a 'bubbly' science element you will need:

A large bowl
Measuring cups
Vinegar

Fill a bowl with part vinegar and water and place the rocks inside! They will bubble up and reveal the surprises hidden within!

This activity provides:

Opportunity to experiment with science and numeracy concepts such as: colours, mixing, dissolving, sinking versus floating, heavy versus light, states of matter (solid to liquid), temperature, testing, inquiry, number recognition, measurement, and hypothesizing
Gross motor play/outdoor play
Engage your children's sense of wonder
Collaboration and imagination



Activity inspired by <https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/magic-leprechaun-rocks-st-patricks-activity/>

Learning Story: Open-Ended Play with Loose Parts

By Maria Fegarido, Dayhome Educator

With this kind of play provocation there's no right or wrong, no specific instructions on what children have to make. Children have the freedom to create and explore on their own. Children as mighty learners explore and create their masterpieces.

Using wooden cookies and corks, the children were able to create a cake, a tower, parking buildings and more. They also tried to stack the corks up into piles and kept trying even after falling. This shows the child's perseverance to make it work. Then you'll see another child wanting to help his friend when he sees he's struggling. Caring and sharing disposition.



Parents: Do you have a 3 to 5 year old child? Research Participants Wanted

Undergraduate student Nour Abdul-Rahim (Department of Psychology) under the supervision of Dr. Sandra Wiebe (Professor, Department of Psychology) at the Alberta Brain and Cognitive Development (ABCD) Lab, is studying the relationship between parenting and children's development!

First of all, let me tell you a bit about our research. We are interested in learning more about how parenting and home life relate to a child's development. We are looking for parents and their children (between 3 and 5 years old) to participate together! For eligibility, the parent-child pair must speak English, have access to a camera-equipped computer, and the child should be typically developing, and be born full-term and normal birthweight (up to 3 weeks before the due date, >2500 g birthweight).

If you are eligible and choose to participate, the study consists of two components:

1. The parent will be asked to fill in a series of questionnaires that will require approximately 30 minutes in total, on their own time.
2. You and your child will then meet with one of our researchers via Zoom for approximately 30 minutes to complete 2 game-like tasks. During this, the parent will be able to stay with their child the whole time.

You will be compensated for your time with a \$15 gift card.

To determine the eligibility of your child, we need to complete a brief screening survey with you. It takes about 5 - 10 minutes to complete. If you are interested, please click on this link (<https://forms.gle/6Y2gbsdWXd9QFfDNA>) to fill out our online application, and one of the research assistants will call you to go through the screening.



Educator Survey Results

In December we sent a survey to our Dayhome Educators. Here is a summary and Agency responses at the end.

Educator feedback about their Consultant;

- Support and encouragement to attend ongoing professional development
- Shares professional development opportunities
- Positive communication regarding family and childcare situations
- Ideas shared for programming
- Help with finding backup care for families
- Provides guidance and support to meet licensing and agency standards
- Support with environment such as information about materials
- Shows appreciation
- Easy to contact and answers any questions

Educator feedback about their Admin Team;

- Organized
- Ready to solve problems and answer questions
- Help to collect fees
- Support with Professional Development Funding
- Professional
- Child care referrals and backup care
- Support with financial reports and being paid on time
- Good communication



Educator feedback about the Agency;

- Useful information in the newsletter
- In-person learning opportunities
- Knowledge in early childhood
- Resources and ideas
- Offers First Aid

We asked our educators how they make the children's culture, traditions and home life visible in the dayhome;

- Children's books
- Festivals and celebrations
- Recipes shared from home
- Music
- Dance
- Materials

- Paintings and Art
- Inviting children's families to participate in the dayhome
- Read about different cultures and discuss with families to get more information about their family's traditions
- Family photos on the wall
- Celebrating children's birthdays
- Using words from the child's first language
- Family events such as potlucks

Suggestions from Educators

- Paid Holidays and Sick Days for Educators

Agency Response: As part of the cost control framework, Children and Family Services is exploring options for improving wages and benefits for Early Childhood Educators. Announcements and updates should be available here: <https://www.alberta.ca/cost-control-framework-and-for-profit-expansion-plan>

- Orange Shirt Day and Remembrance Day not being a paid stat day

Agency Response: Child Development Dayhomes will be closed for National Truth and Reconciliation day on September 30, 2024 and Remembrance Day on November 11, 2024. These days will be paid dayhome closures.

- Suggestion for group visits to be more accessible in all areas of the city and to offer more educator connections

Agency Response: We appreciate your interest to participate! Stay tuned to the newsletter and emails from your consultant for more of these opportunities

- Finding backup care is hard

Agency Response: On the survey, we asked our educators "In order for families to choose family dayhomes as a viable childcare choice, they need to access back-up care when their dayhome is closed. Do you provide backup care? Why or why not?"

Educator Responses:

"Why? because I want to help those families in need of back up care. Why not? Child is new to the dayhome and not adjusted to the environment and children in care sometimes get confused."

"Support families and my colleagues. And I might need my colleagues to support the families in my caseload if I need a day off."

"I believe all educators under this agency should help each other whenever needed"

"As of now , I am not providing it due to a family member health conditions! I need to have same families just to make sure that we're staying in good health for now , in the future -yes I would be able to provide back up care!"

Educators would like more information on;

- Cost Control Framework

Agency Response: Please visit for more information <https://www.alberta.ca/cost-control-framework-and-for-profit-expansion-plan>

- Government grants and funding

Agency Response: Please visit for more information <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-child-care-grant-funding-program>

- More information on the rules and regulations from the government

Agency Response: Our Licensing Officers for our Fort McMurray and Edmonton agencies hosted a workshop for our Dayhome Educators on February 5th highlighting the role of Child Care Licensing, what Educators can expect during a home inspection and answered questions. Our licensing officers have put together a list of answers to questions Educators asked. We will forward these to our Educators.

- Activities to do with children with special needs

Agency Response: Did you know we have an Inclusive Child Care team within our Agency to support consultants, Dayhome Educators and children and their families? If you have any questions please contact Veronica@childdev.com or Pauline@childdev.com.

- Updated illness policy being sent to parents directly

Agency Response: Consultants send the Parent Handbook to families and review it during the registration. Educators have a copy posted in their bulletin boards. The most recent version of our Illness Policy is always available on our website here on page 7: <https://childdev.com/edmonton/parent-handbook/>

- Benefits for educators

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