



Child Development Dayhomes December 2024 Newsletter

Information for Dayhome Educators and Families in Edmonton and Area

Congratulations!

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

Urszula Hadyna	28 years	Doris Lagarit	6 years
Ragini Seemrith	17 years	Maria Fegarido	4 years
Bing Ling Feng	13 years	Cherrie Moreno-Ferrer	3 years
Mohaddisa Mukhtar	12 years	Nanuka Pokharel Tiwari	2 years
Komal Ahmed	11 years	Ariana Hirsch	2 years
Shazia Amjad	9 years	Xiaolin (Lin) Xu	1 year
Zakia Alam	7 years		



January Workshops

▶ Educator Income Tax Workshop

Date: January 15, 2025

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Online via Zoom ([Link](#))

Please RSVP to your consultant.



▶ Educator Holiday Dinner

Date: January 25, 2025

More details to follow...



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Corrine Gates for completing her Early Learning and Childcare Diploma!



Welcome Back!

Please welcome back our Dayhome Educator, Ligaya!



Attendance Records Due:

Thursday, December 12 by 6:00pm

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

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

(Dayhomes and office are closed)

Christmas Day: December 25, 2024

Boxing Day: December 26, 2024

New Years Day: January 1, 2025



Community Events

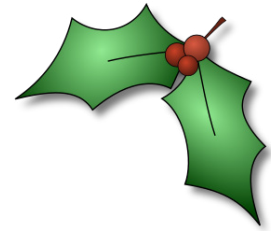
▶ Nostalgic Noel Moments (in Stony Plain)

Date: Saturday, December 21, 2024

Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Location: Red Brick Common (5411 51 St, Stony Plain)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=550020834306334>



▶ Candy Cane Lane and Sleigh Rides

Date: December 13, 2024 - January 3, 2025

Time: 5:00pm to 11:00pm

Open Street Nights: Dec. 14, 23, and 28

Location: Located along 148th Street from 92 Avenue to 99 Avenue

Walk, bike, sled or ski - Candy Cane Lane will be closed to cars on these nights. The event is dog-friendly. Please keep your pet on a leash, pick up after them, and be sure that your dog is comfortable with large crowds, horses, and other dogs.



Sleigh Ride Information

Dates: December 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29. Sleigh rides are approximately 45-60 minutes.

Location: Sleighs leave from—and return to—Isabelle Connelly Park at 148th street and 99 Avenue.

Pricing: Each passenger is \$25 plus service charge, except for infants under 24 months sitting on a lap that are free.

Ticket Sales: <https://www.crestwoodcommunityleague.ca/candycanelane>

▶ Best Edmonton Toboggan Hills for Little Kids

Broadmoor Lake: Festival Way, Sherwood Park

Whitemud Park North: 13909 Fox Dr. NW, Edmonton

Rundle Park: 2909 113 Ave, Edmonton

McGahn Park: 751 Meadowview Drive, Sherwood Park

Sugar Bowl Hill: 9003 153 Ave, Edmonton

Map of Toboggan Hills [here](#).





Recipe Ideas

▶ Gingerbread Pancakes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup self-raising flour, sifted
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 3/4 milk
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- half a nutmeg, freshly grated
- 50g butter, melted for frying
- Whipped cream, for serving
- Gingernut biscuits crushed for serving

Directions:

- 1) In a bowl, whisk flour, sugar, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg.
- 2) In a jug, beat the egg and add the milk. Add to the flour a little at a time until batter is smooth and lump-free.
- 3) In a hot pan or flat grill over medium heat, brush butter over cooking surface and pour 1/4 cup measures for each pancake.
- 4) When large bubbles form on the surface, flip the pancake over and cook until lightly golden on the other side.
- 5) Serve with whipped cream or ice cream and crushed Gingernut biscuits.



Source: kidspot.com.au

▶ Almond Joy Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 14 oz bag sweetened coconut flakes
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2/3 cup chopped lightly salted almonds
- 1 14 oz can sweetened condensed milk regular or fat-free works

Directions:

- 1) Preheat the oven to 325F.
- 2) Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
- 3) In a large bowl combine coconut, chocolate chips, almonds, and sweetened condensed milk.
- 4) Stir until combined.
- 5) Scoop out dough with a cookie scoop onto prepared baking sheet.
- 6) Moisten the tips of your fingers with water and shape into discs. Pat the tops flat.
- 7) Bake cookies for 12 to 14 minutes or until tips of coconut are just starting to turn golden brown.
- 8) Let cool on baking sheet.
- 9) Store cookies in an airtight container.



Source: momontimeout.com

Activity Ideas

▶ Celebrate the Season Bingo (free printable)

Link: <https://www.familyfuncanada.com/edmonton/play-celebrate-the-season-bingo-free-printable/>

▶ Outdoor Activities for Kids

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Tree bark rubbings | 6) Creating snow faces |
| 2) Snowflake observation | 7) Sun catcher |
| 3) Animal tracking | 8) Colour matching |
| 4) Snow painting | 9) Pine needle tea |
| 5) Drey spotting | 10) Nature bingo |

Link: <https://www.evergreen.ca/stories/10-fun-and-easy-outdoor-winter-activities-for-kids/>



▶ Snow is Great for Creative Play

Outdoor play looks much different in the winter. As playground equipment is either frozen or covered with snow, children will need to use their imaginations to find different ways to play outside.

Playing with snow is a great way to have your child exercise their creativity. There are endless ways to play with snow. Build snow people, snow forts, snow castles, have a snowball fight, make snow angels...the list goes on!

This type of open-ended play can be challenging and fun for your children. It will teach your child to solve problems and use their imagination. This will be beneficial to their healthy development.

Winter transforms our natural environment. Your child's favourite park will be completely changed by a layer of snow and frozen lakes and rivers.

Let your child explore this newfound winter wonderland. Encourage them to watch for wildlife among the bare trees, and look for tracks in the snow from different critters.

Inviting kids to discover the wonders of winter at a young age encourages them to enjoy the season as they grow up. As they spend time outside in the cold, they will develop resilience and foster a fascination with the changing seasons.

[Source](#)



Parental Experiences Survey

Statistics Canada is conducting the [Parental Experiences Survey \(PES\)](#) until January 31, 2025. Results from the survey will help inform national recommendations for maternal and newborn care as well as improve the mental health and well-being of parents and families across Canada. The data are expected to be released in Spring 2026. If you have questions or would like to speak to an analyst, please contact infostats@statcan.gc.ca.

Nominate an Early Childhood Educator

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education

These awards honour outstanding and innovative early childhood educators for their leadership, exemplary early childhood education practices, and their commitment to help build the foundation children need to make the best possible start in life. The deadline is January 15, 2025. More info: <https://pmaece-ppmepe.ised-isde.canada.ca/site/pm-awards-excellence-ece/en/nominate-early-childhood-educator>



Learning Story

► Christmas Trees

By Danielle Strickland, Dayhome Educator

Last week, we started a festive art project by painting paper Christmas trees using marble paint. The children were excited to try this new technique and see the magical patterns they could create.

We began by setting up our materials: paint, shaving cream, and cut-out Christmas trees. I demonstrated how to coat their trees in the paint-shaving cream mixture. They each took turns creating their marble trees. After they were finished, Isla, Declan, and Owen explored the tray of shaving cream and paint with their hands. I moved a bowl over for Bennett and Adley to explore as well. Bennett scooped up as much shaving cream as he could and shook his hands to get it all off. He scooped again one more time before shaking his hands again and looking to me to tell me he did not enjoy it.

Holding up messy hands, Owen looked to me and said, "Messy Dani, I need to wipe." I asked if they were all finished with their exploration, and they all said no, so I brought some canvases from the cupboard for them to wipe their hands on. The three of them painted the canvas with their hands. The finished canvases were a beautiful green.

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We talked about what to do with the canvas next and decided to make a big tree together.

Over the rest of the week, we added to one of the canvases. We started by taping a big triangle after talking about what shape a Christmas tree resembles. Next, we added more green and ornaments, each day exploring a new medium (markers, crayons, stamps, and paint sticks).

“It needs lights!” Isla told me. “What should we use for the lights?” I asked. “Dotters?” She responded, so I pulled out our bingo dotters, and she finished our tree with lights.

After we finished, we hung our artwork on the wall in our playroom.

To build on their interest in art, I will add more seasonal materials to our art cabinet for them to explore. I will continue to provide sensory experiences like the shaving cream to extend tactile exploration.

I will ask if they would like to look up different painting techniques on the computer and decide if we should try some out.

Well-being and Belonging:

- **Physical Well-being:** The children engaged in sensory play by exploring the paint and shaving cream mixture, enhancing their fine motor skills and tactile sensory experiences.
- **Emotional Well-being:** The collaborative nature of the project fostered a sense of community and belonging as they worked together to create the Christmas tree. The children’s excitement and pride in their artwork contributed to their emotional well-being.

Play and Playfulness:

- **Imagination and Creativity:** The children used their creativity to design unique marblepainted trees and collaboratively decided how to further decorate the canvas tree. This imaginative play was evident as they explored different mediums and discussed their ideas.
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- Joy and Fun: The activity was joyful and engaging, providing a fun and festive experience that captivated their interest and enthusiasm.

Communication and Literacies:

- Language Development: Through conversations about the shapes, colors, and decorations, the children practiced expressive language.
- Multimodal Literacies: By using various art materials (paint, markers, crayons, stamps, paint sticks, and bingo dotters), the children explored different modes of expression, enhancing their understanding of visual arts.

Identities, Social Responsibility, and Diversity:

- Identity Formation: The children had the opportunity to express their individual artistic preferences while also contributing to a collective project, helping them navigate between individual expression and collaboration.
- Social Responsibility: Working together on the canvas tree encouraged cooperation, turntaking, and shared decision-making, promoting problem-solving

