



Child Development Dayhomes January 2025 Newsletter

Information for Dayhome Educators and Families in Fort McMurray

Congratulations!

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



Noreen Sajjad 11 years
Ruthchel Solatorio 3 years



Upcoming Statutory Holidays

(Dayhomes and office are closed)

New Years Day: Jan. 1, 2025

Family Day: Feb. 17, 2025

Upcoming Educator Workshops

See page 3 of the newsletter for workshop info.

Car Seat Info Sessions

Upcoming Date: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 7

More [info](#).



Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Ashley Honeysett (Administration) on the birth of daughter, Arya May Laferriere, born at 3:32am on December 12 (on Ashley's Birthday!)



Welcome New Educators!



Kariana, Abaa,
and Bola



Métis Dayhome Program

This program aims to support Métis Albertans in opening licensed day homes, made possible in partnership with Apeetogosan Métis Development Inc. Successful applicants will receive a one-time \$20,000 grant. For more information and how to apply, click [here](#).

Attendance Records Due:

Monday, January 20 by 6:00pm

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

Happy Birthday to the following Educators!

Gul Jana, Reyna, Najma, and Amna



Community Events

▶ The Hub

The HUB has a variety of daytime and evening programs for children and adults. Link: <https://thehubfrc.ca/programs>



▶ Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour

Date: Friday, January 10, 2025

Time: 7:30pm–10:00pm

Location: Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre

Get tickets: [Link](#)



▶ Wood Buffalo Regional Library

The English Language Learners (ELL) Conversation Group is for TFWs and other non-permanent residents (18+) who want the opportunity to practice and improve their English. On going meet ups.

Link: <https://www.wbri.ca>



▶ Malanka 2025

Date: January 18, 2025

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Shell Place at MacDonald Island

Organizer: Fort McMurray Aurora Ukrainian Dance Club

Link: <https://maccalendar.ca/events/malanka-2025/>

Tickets: Age 0-2 - \$5

Age 3-11 - \$40

Age 12+ - \$85



Includes dance performance, delicious dinner, dance and Kolomenka to follow.



Educator Workshops

▶ Nutritional Workshop

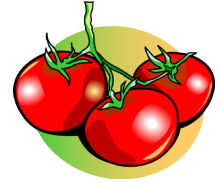
Date: January 9, 2025

Time: 6:30pm-830pm

Location: Online

Presenter: Alyssa Flatt, RD -Public Health Dietitian from Northern Lights Regional Health Centre

Please RSVP to your consultant.



We will be discussing a variety of topics to help Educators navigate through meals and snacks, including menu planning with an emphasis on choice, including the children in meal planning, family-style dining, cost saving tips, grocery shopping tips, etc. We will share ideas, network and troubleshoot.

▶ Income Tax Workshop

Date: January 15, 2025

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

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

Please RSVP to your consultant.



▶ Understanding the Anti-Biased Approach to Celebrations in Early Learning Environments (PD Funding available)

Date: January 7, 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Register: [Link](#)

Understanding the Anti-Biased Approach to Celebrations in Early Learning Environments Celebrations! Holidays! Traditions! Celebrations in the early learning years are full of excitement, joy, and play. However, they can also be overwhelming, exclusive, and difficult for children if we don't consider the meaning and relevance of these holidays.

▶ Culturally Diverse Practices in Child Care (PD Funding available)

Date: January 21, 2025

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Register: [Link](#)

The world is full of adventure, possibilities and play! Our children and families come to us with different play experiences, backgrounds, traditions, cultures and values. Learning and understanding how children see culture is an important part of being a citizen in our communities.

Recipe Ideas

We're collecting recipes from our families and educators! Have a favorite recipe you'd like to share? **Email it to Jennifer at jennifer@childdev.com**, and we will feature it in our newsletter!

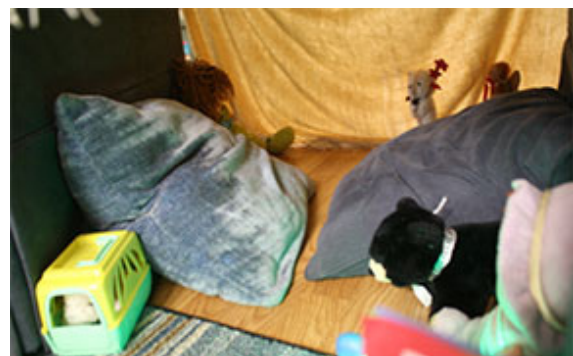


Activity Idea

▶ Building Forts

Besides being just plain, old, simple fun, fort-building can provide a long list of benefits for your children.

- Keep them active (Physicality is involved with building, crawling in and out of it and laying down inside)
- Encourage problem-solving skills (What can I use to hold it up? How can I connect the sheets together or make it taller? How can I enter it? How can I fix it when it falls?)
- Give them something to spend time on other than screens (Although that can be fun to do in a fort, too!)
- Increase their spatial awareness
- Help them with focus and patience
- Deliver an escape to another world
- Build confidence
- Stimulate brain development
- Teach the planning process
- Promote a vivid imagination and creative play
- Improve their thinking and reasoning skills
- Demand that they find inventive uses of everyday items
- Free them to creatively decorate the space to their taste
- Allow them to develop math and science skills naturally
- Afford them the opportunity to create an independent DIY project
- Provide them with an incentive to read (since that's always more fun to do in a fort!)
- Create a positive environment for teamwork (if built with others, although it's a great activity to do alone, as well!)
- Foster autonomy and allow them to be in charge regulate and calm emotions (small spaces give them a little place of their own)



Source: pambarnhill.com

Standards

FAMILY DAYHOME STANDARDS MANUAL FOR ALBERTA

This manual contains the standards for Dayhomes and Dayhome agencies to provide child care. Every month we will review a Standard.

Standard 12: Meals and Snacks

Programs serve meals and snacks at appropriate times, in sufficient quantities and in accordance with each child's needs including allergies and special diets, ensuring that:



Family day home standards manual for Alberta 24

- meals and snacks are in accordance with food guide recognized by Health Canada or Alberta Health;
- menus are made available daily to parent(s) or home visitors/ consultants;
- programs ensure the manner in which children are fed is appropriate to age and level of development;
- children should be seated while eating and seated or standing while drinking;
- no beverages should be given to children while napping; and
- parent of infants must supply infant food (including special dietary requirements).

Follow us on Social Media



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>



Flight Focus

► Physical Health

Children experience a safe and nurturing environment where healthy eating, daily, physical activity and safety are practiced indoor and outdoor. Children learn about food and nutrition. FLIGHT-3.1.1 Holistic Play Based Goals Well Being Pg 95.

Reflective questions: How are you involving the children in understanding the relationship between food and their bodies? Are you building confidence to try no foods? Do you explore cultural eating and food sharing? Are children making decisions about food consumption, prep, serving and clean up?



Educator Professional Learning Highlights

ARCQE National Child Day Conference:

Aiel
Gemma
Hamidah
Trupti
Noreen
Sara
Maria F
Michelle A
Vandana
Bhartiben
Geeta
Cristie
Uzma
Brenda

Mastering Mixed Age Group: Trupti

eLearning ASaP Modules 1 & 2: Titilayo

Little Warriors Prevent it (live workshop): Trupti

Mealtime Tips for "Picky Eating" in Childcare: Eva





Learning Story

▶ Sensory Bottle Exploration

Story By Zohra, Dayhome Educator



During a 15-minute observation, I noticed Vera, Ari, and Ella engaging in creative and collaborative play with sensory bottles. The activity evolved as the children explored various possibilities, demonstrating their creativity, problem-solving, and social skills.

Initially, the three girls worked together to match colorful blocks to the sensory bottles, sorting the blocks by color and placing them into bottles with corresponding colors. This activity supported their cognitive development, particularly in color recognition and categorization skills.

Ella then suggested building a tower with the sensory bottles, which the group enthusiastically attempted. Despite the tower falling multiple times, the girls persisted, showcasing their resilience and determination. When they finally succeeded in constructing a stable tower, they were overjoyed, with Vera excitedly exclaiming, "We did it!" This moment highlighted the importance of teamwork and perseverance.

Inspired by their success, Vera came up with a new idea: measuring their height using the sensory bottle tower. She stood beside the tower to see how many bottles tall she was. Ari and Ella eagerly followed her lead, engaging in early math and measurement concepts.

The sensory bottles also captured their curiosity in another way. They began peering through the bottles, which contained ocean creatures and water dyed in various colors. This exploration encouraged observational skills and sensory engagement, as the children examined the textures, shapes, and movements within the bottles.

More on the next page...



Skills and Benefits:

1. Cognitive Development: Enhancing color recognition, categorization, and problem solving abilities.
2. Social and Emotional Skills: Fostering teamwork, communication, and persistence.
3. Early Math Skills: Introducing measurement concepts and spatial awareness.
4. Fine Motor Skills: Handling and stacking bottles to build the tower.
5. Sensory Exploration: Engaging visual and tactile senses through the sensory bottles.

This play session provided a rich, multi-sensory experience, promoting creativity, collaboration, and foundational learning enjoyably and engagingly.

