



# Child Development Dayhomes January 2025 Newsletter

Information for Dayhome Educators and Families in High Level

## 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>

## Follow us on Social Media



## Upcoming Statutory Holidays

(Dayhomes and office are closed)

**New Years Day:** January 1, 2025

**Family Day:** February 17, 2025

**Good Friday:** April 18, 2025

**Easter Monday:** April 21, 2025



## Upcoming Educator Workshops

See page 3 of the newsletter for workshop info.

*Happy Birthday*

Everett - 6 years old

## **Parent Feedback Survey on CDDH Website**



Let us know how we are doing. Take the Parent Feedback Survey **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.

## Community Events

### ▶ Kids Winter Day Camp

**Date:** January 2-3, 2025

**Time:** 8:00am - 5:00pm

**Location:** Tohl Program Room

**Cost:** \$60 both days

**Register:** [here](#)



### ▶ Free Beginner Level Cree Classes

**Date:** January 6 and 7, 2025

**Time:** 6:00pm - 9:00pm

**Register:** [here](#)

### ▶ Free Public Skating

**Date:** January 2, 2025

**Time:** 3:00pm - 6:45pm

**Location:** High Level Sports Complex

**Cost:** Free skating and free coffee and hot chocolate!

**Sponsored by:** Tim Hortons



### ▶ R.E. Walter Memorial Aquatic Centre

**Swim Lessons Winter 2025:**

<https://www.highlevel.ca/DocumentCenter/View/4887/2025---Winter-Lessons-Jan-Mar>

[View/4887/2025---Winter-Lessons-Jan-Mar](https://www.highlevel.ca/DocumentCenter/View/4887/2025---Winter-Lessons-Jan-Mar)

**Swim Schedule (Dec. 10, 2024 - Jan. 4, 2025):** [Link](#)



### ▶ Rocky Lane Cross Country Ski Trails

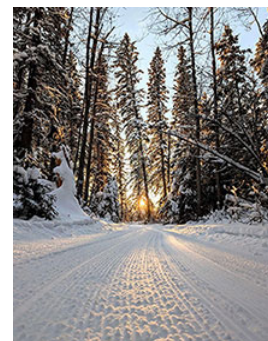
**Date:** Saturdays and Sundays

**Time:** 11:00am - 4:00pm

**Location:** Fort Vermilion, AB

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082151840044>

[php?id=100082151840044](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082151840044)





## Educator Workshops

### ▶ 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](mailto: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](http://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).

## Learning Story

### ▶ Sensory Bottle Exploration

**Story By Zohra, Dayhome Educator in Fort McMurray**

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.

**Continued on next page...**



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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.



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. 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.