



# Child Development Dayhomes May 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 May

Gul Jana	7 years		Amna Ali	3 years
Sara Zemecha	6 years		Angel Morales	2 years
Vandana Patel	4 years		Portia Bianca Berdon	2 years
Charris Quijano	3 years			

## Upcoming Statutory Holidays

(Dayhomes and office are closed)

**Victoria Day:** May 19, 2025

**Canada Day:** July 1, 2025

**Civic Holiday:** Aug. 4, 2025



## May is Educator Appreciation Month

"As an educator, you are always evolving your practice within multiple relationships. You may sometimes think of yourself as a gardener or an artist, sometimes a plumber or handy fixer of small toys, and sometimes a builder and designer of spaces. Caring for children and their families, you take on many roles while keeping in mind an image of the child: a strong, capable, and resourceful learner and citizen." Pg. 52-53 *Flight Framework*

## Educator Event

May Educator Appreciation  
Garden Party will be on May 2nd.

## Happy Birthday to the following Educators!

Geetanjali, Quirina, Uzma, Bhashini, Faiza S,  
Noreen, Faiza N, Maria B, Samira, and Virgie

## Upcoming Workshop

### ▶ Examining Barriers

**Date:** Saturday, May 31, 2025

**Location:** Unifor Building (10019 MacDonald Ave)

Hosted by Aynsley Graham, Behaviour Consultant

Coffee and snacks will be available for each session.  
Limited availability per session. Registration opens soon.  
Check your emails for registration information.

## Parent Feedback Survey

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



## Attendance Records Due:

**Wednesday, May 21 by 6:00pm**

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



## Community Events

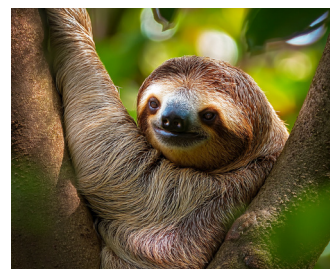
### ► Wildlife Festival 2025

**Date:** May 16 at 1:00pm to May 18 at 5:00pm

**Location:** MacDonald Island Park

**Buy Tickets** [here](#).

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/2014975885676502/>



### ► Mother's Day Celebration Brunch

**Date:** May 11, 2025

**Time:** 11:00am - 3:00pm

**Location:** Smitty's Restaurant

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1415508143169598>



### ► YMM Women's Trade Show

**Date:** May 25, 2025

**Time:** 1:00pm - 5:00pm

**Location:** Miskanaw Ballroom, Shell Place

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1675709853019774>



### ► Autism and Neurodiversity Awareness Training

**Date:** May 15, 2025

**Time:** 12:00pm - 8:00pm

**Location:** 10019 MacDonald Ave - Unifor Building

**Website/register:** <https://autismsocietyofthermwb.wildapricot.org/event-6088207>



### ► Red Dress Solidarity Walk & Memorial Round Dance

**Date:** May 5, 2025 **Time:** 8:00am

**Event by:** Athabasca Tribal Council, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Wood Buffalo Pride

**Facebook page:** [https://www.facebook.com/events/1388619022331590?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/1388619022331590?active_tab=about)





## Recipe Ideas

### ▶ Slowcooker Burrito Bowls

Source: [Food Guide Canada](#)

Have a recipe you want to share in the next newsletter?  
Email [jennifer@childdev.com](mailto:jennifer@childdev.com)

#### Ingredients:

2 boneless skinless chicken breast  
1 ½ cups canned (no salt added) diced tomatoes  
1 ¼ cups lower sodium chicken broth  
2 tsp chili powder  
1 tsp ground cumin  
1 tsp garlic powder  
1 can black beans, drained and rinsed  
1 cup uncooked brown rice  
1 cup frozen or canned (no salt added) corn  
Optional toppings: lower fat shredded mozzarella, lower fat plain yogurt, lower sodium salsa, diced fresh avocado.



#### Directions:

- 1) Lightly spray inside of large slow cooker with cooking spray.
- 2) In a large slow cooker, combine the chicken, diced tomatoes (with juice), chicken broth, chili powder, cumin, and garlic powder. Make sure the chicken broth covers the chicken, adding more if needed. Cover and cook for 3 to 4 hours on the low setting.
- 3) Uncover and stir in the beans, brown rice, and corn. Cover and cook for another 3 to 4 hours on the low setting.
- 4) In the last hour of cooking, check the brown rice occasionally, stirring once or twice to make sure it cooks evenly and adding more chicken broth if the mixture seems dry. Cooking is done when the brown rice is tender.
- 5) Remove the chicken and place in a large bowl or cutting board. Use 2 forks to shred the chicken into bite-sized pieces. Transfer the chicken back to the slow cooker and mix. Serve in individual bowls alongside optional toppings of choice.
- 6) Serve in individual bowls alongside optional toppings of choice.



## Activity Idea

### ▶ Nature Observation Bingo

**Website:** <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/nature-observation-bingo>

**Materials:**

[Nature Observation Bing Card](#)

Paper

Pencil, crayons, or markers

Optional: Smartphone or camera



- 1) Let's Be Curious! Talk with your child about what it means to observe something. Explain that when we look closely at things — safely using our five senses — we notice new and important information. We can see a new pattern, hear a unique sound, and smell or carefully touch something that we might have missed if we just glanced quickly. Ask your child if they have ever observed something closely. What did you learn? Would you like to observe more with me today?
- 2) Let's Make a Plan! Print out the Nature Observation Bingo Card template or draw your own bingo cards. Make sure you have enough copies for each observer to have a card.
- 3) Tell your child that you are going to observe nature by creating a bingo card to help you look for interesting things. Brainstorm together with your child a list of things that you might see, hear, smell, feel or taste while on a walk through your neighborhood or playground. Here are some ideas: a bug the size of your thumb, a singing bird, a crawling creature, a leaf with five points, a flying bird, something that feels rough, a creature that is eating, a sweet-smelling plant, an animal's home.
- 4) Help your child draw or write your observation ideas in the spaces provided on the bingo cards. Make sure to mix up the orders on each card, so the winner is a surprise!
- 5) Let's Explore! Now it's time to use your senses and make observations! Take your Nature Observation Bingo cards, a crayon, and your curiosity outside. Walk around your neighborhood or local playground and look together for your nature ideas to observe.
- 6) Invite your child to mark an X on the bingo square if they find one of the observation ideas. What do you notice? Did you discover something surprising?
- 7) If a player completes a row, it's a bingo! Once someone gets bingo, challenge each other to mark off every box.
- 8) Let's Share! Optional: As you play the nature bingo game, take pictures of your observations and share with friends and family later. Invite your child to talk about what they learned with each observation.





## Educator Professional Learning Highlights

**ELCC Diploma-** Gul Jana

**Module 1, Indigenous Learning Series** - Gemma, Portia, Zohra, Meaghan

**Module 2, Indigenous Learning Series** -Meaghan, Portia

**Goodbye Mealtime Struggles** -Cristie

**“Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Early Childhood Spaces”** -Bhashini, Trupti, Jesusa, and Meaghan

**“The Journey of Learning: Reflective Practices of an Early Childhood Professional”** -Marivic

**“The Magic of Loose Parts: Promoting Play with Loose Parts”** -Marivic

**Kick off to Coding: Coding Unplugged** -Marivic

**Theory to Practice Series** -Marivic

**Protectors of Play** - Manal

**Managing Routines, Behaviours, and Expectations for Dayhomes** -Vandana, Geeta

**Experience Math Through Nature** -Angel

**Autism and Neurodiversity Awareness** -Sheri-lynn Bugden

**Speechified-** Vandana

**Let's Play! Making and Tinkering with Loose Parts** -Cristie

**ASaP Module 1 - Nurturing, Responsive Relationships & High Quality Supportive Environments** -Ruthchel

**ASaP Module 2 - Targeted Social & Emotional Supports** -Virgie, Ruthchel

**KIDS HAVE STRESS TOO!** -Portia

**Kimochis** -Titilayo

**Anaphylaxis in Child Care** – MJ

**You Make a Difference Conference** -Aiel, Gemma

**Learning Through Music** - Brenda, Sona, Meaghan, Mary Jane



## Upcoming Webinars

- **Institute of Child Psychology** - <https://instituteofchildpsychology.com/freeweinars/>
- **AHVNA** - <https://ece.ahvna.org/all-workshops/>
- **AECEA** - <https://aecea.ca/ece-professionals/professional-learning/curriculum-and-teaching-methods>
- **Early Childhood Investigators Webinars** - <https://earlychildhoodwebinars.com/webinar>

**Wood Buffalo  
Community  
Resource List**

Click [here](#).

## Car Seat Info Session

Offering the session online! Dayhome educators can register, pay a \$25 fee, and complete the session at their own pace. At the end of the session, participants will complete a 12-question knowledge check. Upon successful completion, a certificate is automatically generated and emailed to them. Please see the [link](#).





## Learning Story

### ► Our Activities

By Portia Berdon, Dayhome Educator

Mud kitchen play can develop fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities, and social interaction as children work together to create and build.



Playing with tool toys provides numerous benefits for babies, including developing fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and problem-solving abilities. These toys also encourage exploration, creativity, and a sense of accomplishment as babies learn to use tools and achieve simple tasks.







Kicking a ball offers numerous benefits for toddler development, including improving gross motor skills, balance, coordination, and social skills. It also encourages physical activity and helps with cognitive development by learning about object manipulation and spatial awareness.



Jumping provides numerous benefits for children, including improved leg strength, balance, coordination, and motor planning. It also helps with bone growth, cardiovascular health, and sensory input. Furthermore, jumping promotes social interaction and can be a fun way to burn energy.

