

Child Development Dayhomes

Parent Handbook



Peace of Mind

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Child Development Dayhomes of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that our office and dayhomes in the Fort McMurray area are located on Treaty 8 territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Dene and Dane-zaa (Beaver), and Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

We acknowledge the traditional lands upon which we live, work and play. We recognize that all Albertans are Treaty People and have a responsibility to understand our history so that we can honour the past, be aware of the present and create a just and caring future. CDDH celebrates and values the resiliency, successes, and teachings that Alberta's Indigenous people have shown us since time immemorial. There is much work to do to honour the TRC calls to action and CDDH remains committed to this work until Truth and Reconciliation is realized for all Indigenous peoples, families and especially children.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to offer “peace of mind” to parents while they are away from their children.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

We believe children are capable leaders in their own learning. Our practice is guided by the Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework “Flight”. Alongside children, adults are co-learners and support a co-inquiry program based on observations of children and Dayhome Program Educator invitations to play (provocations). Children learn best when actively engaged and participating in play-based activities that are responsive to their interests. Our curriculum emerges over time and is guided by children’s interests and everyday experiences. Dayhome Program Educators are encouraged to create play spaces that are appealing, inviting and comfortable for you and the children. Dayhome Program Educators create routines that are flexible to children’s changing needs and interests. It is through the intentional design of space, time, and materials that we support positive behaviors. Through a strong practice of relationships, we develop and maintain positive, respectful, and responsive relations with children, families, Dayhome Program Educators, and colleagues. It is through those relationships that we support, collaborate, and inspire each other. Through documentation we provide windows for families into their child’s day that are respectful of the child’s well-being. To support children to participate fully in the program we engage with community partners to enhance children’s participation and learning.

Approval Process

Screening of a potential Dayhome Program Educator is done over 3-4 in home interviews. The following is a list of requirements to be completed prior to dayhome approval:

- Criminal Record Check for everyone in the home 18 years old and over which includes a vulnerable sector search.
- Child Intervention Record Checks for everyone in the home 18 years old and over
- Valid first aid certificate in childcare
- Safety checks twice a year cover over 70 items.
- At least 3 references
- Childcare professionals assess the suitability of the Dayhome Program Educator and the environment to ensure high quality childcare.
- Review and signing of the Child Guidance Policy by all adults in the home.
- Review and signing of a contract with the agency, agreeing to meet all government and agency policies, standards, and expectations.
- Signing of the Oath of Confidentiality and Code of Ethics
- Completed evacuation and emergency procedure plan.
- Nutritious snacks and meals provided by the Dayhome Program Educator in accordance with the Canada Food Guide
- Responsive Learning Environment creation to support children's physical, social, emotional, creative, and intellectual development.

The agency offers ongoing support, training, motivation, and encouragement to all Dayhome Program Educators in the following ways:

- Providing regular unannounced monitoring visits for support monthly
- Supporting Dayhome Program Educators who care for children with special needs in their Dayhomes.
- Ongoing phone support
- Dayhome Program Educator networking opportunities
- Dayhome Program Educator financial incentives
- Access to the Family Childcare Training Home Study Program
- Ongoing training opportunities for professional development (conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.) *Parents are welcome to attend as well.*
- Monthly online newsletters for Dayhome Program Educators and for families
- Individual training plans and goal setting
- In home quality enhancement workshops
- Quality Enhancement group workshops
- Access to our resource and literacy libraries
- Appreciation events
- Starter kit of supplies for new Dayhome Program Educators including open ended loose parts and resource books.

- \$2,000,000 liability insurance coverage for each child placed in the Dayhome.
- Financial aspects handled.
- Dayhome Program Educator phone list for emergencies or back-up care
- 24-hour emergency phone line for Dayhome Program Educators and Parents
- Recognized licensed agency.

Communication between parent, Dayhome Program Educator, and agency staff is of the utmost importance. Please feel free to contact your Childcare Consultant about any childcare questions, comments, or concerns that you may have.

As a Family Dayhome Agency we are funded and contracted through the Region 9 Child and Family Services. For more information you may call 780-743-7449 or visit <https://www.alberta.ca/children-and-family-services>.

Child Development Dayhomes is a licensed agency ensuring the highest quality care. As an agency we are monitored by Children's Services. We set standards of excellence with the purpose of achieving a high standard of practice. By choosing Child Development Dayhomes you are ensuring optimum childcare. We believe children learn and grow best in programs that provide quality care and activities.

A NEW BEGINNING: TRANSITIONING INTO A DAYHOME

Transitions can be defined as the movement between one activity, relationship, or place and another new or familiar activity, relationship, or place. Children experience many transitions within a day and throughout the early years. Transitions are embedded in daily living and mark important milestones for each child's learning and development. As Dayhome Program Educators support and respect each child's relationship with his or her family, they help each child to build new and trusting relationships.

Be patient with the transitions that come with daily drop-off routines; some children (and adults!) take longer than others to adjust to their new surroundings and routine. Bringing familiar items from home may help your child transition, for example, a favorite toy or a family photo album. It is also important to talk to your child about where you are going and that you will be back to pick them up. Having a consistent schedule aid in children being able to transition into new routines. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Childcare Consultant.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

You must advise the agency whenever changes occur in:

- Home address or telephone number
- Place of employment/school or business/school number(s)

- Emergency contact person(s) or telephone number(s)
- Who can and cannot pick up your child?
- Working hours
- Contract changes, i.e., part-time care to full-time care.

ATTENDANCE RECORDS

Your child's attendance is recorded daily on an Internet-based program called KinderLogix. When your child is dropped off, your Dayhome Program Educator will log your child in. At pick-up time, your child will be logged out. Your Dayhome Program Educator may print out a weekly or monthly report, asking you to sign your child's attendance record on a weekly or monthly basis. KinderLogix is used to calculate your Dayhome Program Educator's payment, to calculate possible credits to parents (or debits for extra days) and to complete the Fort McMurray and Area Child and Family Services-Region 9 reports.

HOURS OF CARE

Care for your child at the Family Dayhome includes your regular working hours plus travel time.

At the commencement of services, you are asked to state the hours of care needed. These are your agreed contracted hours. Should you need to change these times, you must discuss your new needs with your Dayhome Program Educator and fill out a Change of Services form. **Daily care should not exceed 9 1/2 hours.**

RELEASE OF CHILD

In an emergency, if you cannot pick up your child, you must notify the Dayhome Program Educator and arrange for one of your emergency contacts to pick up your child. Your Dayhome Program Educator will ask for photo identification before releasing your child. To protect you and your child, unless otherwise specified, the Dayhome Program Educator will only release your child to you or the person(s) you have designated as emergency contacts.

Anyone who is not identified on the child's registration forms for emergency pickup can pick up the child with the parent or guardian's permission in writing (i.e.: text message to educator). This individual must bring photo ID when picking up the child. People picking up children must be **18 years or older** and bring valid photo identification. Children who are transported to or from school must either be taken to/from the school or bus stop by the educator, approved backup provider (i.e., spouse or adult child), or a

designated person **18 years or older**. Please note that not all dayhome educators will be able to accommodate school-age drop-offs and pickups, and these arrangements must be discussed prior to registration or starting school.

NUTRITION

According to the Canada Food Guide, each home will provide:
(Portions according to Canada food guide, all 4 food groups to be served daily)

Snack = 2 Food Groups

Meal = 3 Food Groups

Length of time in care	Meal or snack required
2 to 4 hours	1 snack
4 to 6 hours	1 meal and 1 snack
6 to 8 hours	1 meal and 2 snacks
More than 8 hours	2 meals and 2 snacks

Please ensure that your child has an adequate breakfast prior to arriving each morning, as this meal is **not always provided**. No candy, gum or special snacks are to be sent to your child unless prior arrangements have been made with your Dayhome Program Educator.

It is the parent's responsibility to provide baby food for their child until the child can eat regular table food. **Bottles of milk are supplied by the parent.**

Please note: Any child who requires a special diet must have this supplied by the parent.

Food and drink provided by families must follow recommendations of the Canada Food Guide. Your Dayhome Program Educator must supplement food and drink provided by families in the event they do not meet the recommended Canada Food Guide.

CLOTHING

An extra set of clothing should be left at the Family Dayhome. Please supply clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. This includes snow pants, mitts, hats and scarves in cold weather and a sun hat and sunscreen during warm weather.

If the child is in diapers, you are responsible for an adequate supply for necessary changes. For convenience, please take a bag of diapers to the Family Dayhome. Each Dayhome Program Educator has preferences, so please discuss this issue fully with them.

Please change diapers and wash children in the morning before taking them to the Family Dayhome.

DIAPER CREAM, SUNSCREEN AND BUG SPRAY

Parents/guardians are responsible for providing diaper cream, sunscreen and bug spray for their child. Educators may only apply products supplied by the parent/guardian and labeled with the child's name. Written authorization is required for the use of diaper cream.

ILLNESS

Children's Illness Policy:

If your child has this symptom, do not bring the child to the dayhome	Please stay home until...
Fever/Chills *According to the Canadian Pediatric Society, normal temperatures for children are below. Anything higher is considered a fever. • Rectal: 36.6-38.0°C (97.9-100.4°F) • Mouth: 35.5-37.5°C (95.9-99.5°F) • Underarm: 36.5-37.5°C (97.7-99.5°) • • Ear (not recommended in infants): 35.8-38.0°C (96.4-100.4°F)	The child has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
Cough/Shortness of Breath Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea Congestion/Sore throat/Painful Swallowing Unexplained Loss of Appetite/Lethargy/Unable to participate. Muscle/Joint Aches/Headache	If the symptom is improving after 24 hours, they may return to the dayhome if well enough to do so and it has been at least 24 hours since the symptom started.
Pink Eye – Bacterial	24 hours after treatment has started or the eye no longer has discharge.
Pink Eye - Viral	When symptoms have cleared.
New/unexplained rash	After seeing a doctor and/or calling 811 for advice to ensure it is not contagious to others. A physician's note may be required.

Head Lice	When first treatment is completed, bugs and nits are picked from the child's hair, so hair is clear. Complete head checks of all members of the household. Please complete the second treatment 7-10 days after first treatment.
Runny Nose Please make your best judgement when deciding to send your child to the dayhome.	Your dayhome educator may ask you not to bring the child or to pick up the child if the runny nose is consistent throughout the day and needs to be consistently wiped and/or it interferes with daily routines and caring for other children.

The child cannot return to the dayhome premises until the dayhome program educator is satisfied that the child no longer poses a health risk to others in the program (**e.g., the parents provide a physician's note**, or the parents declare that the child is symptom-free).

There are no reductions in fees when your child is absent from the dayhome due to illness. You must arrange for your child to be picked up immediately if notified by the dayhome educator that your child has fallen ill or is showing symptoms at the dayhome.

Educators' Illness Policy:

Educators cannot operate the dayhome if they or anyone in their household has symptoms. **For educator's children or children who live in the dayhome have symptoms, please see the CDDH illness policy for children.**

If an educator or member of their household 18 years and older has any of the following **symptoms**, the dayhome cannot operate. If the symptom is improving after 24 hours, they may re-open the dayhome if well enough to do so and it has been at least 24 hours since the symptom started.

- ❖ New onset of cough or worsening chronic cough
- ❖ Fever
- ❖ New or worsening shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- ❖ Sore throat/painful swallowing
- ❖ Chills
- ❖ Feeling unwell, fatigue, or severe exhaustion
- ❖ Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

- ❖ Conjunctivitis (pink eye) – dayhome can re-open 24 hours after treatment has started.
- ❖ New unexplained rash

INJURY OR SEVERE ILLNESS

If medical attention is required, the Dayhome Program Educator will contact you (or your emergency contact) and the Agency immediately and arrange to take your child to the nearest hospital or emergency medical clinic. Should it be necessary to transport your child by an emergency vehicle, you will be required to bear the cost of any emergency transportation.

MEDICATION

Since our priority is children's health and safety, we facilitate medication policies that are informed by Alberta Health Standards. If your child has a current prescription of specialized/emergency/ongoing medication, we require that this medication is on-site at the dayhome in case of any emergency while the child is in care and that the specialized medication form/anaphylaxis emergency plan form has been appropriately filled out. It is the primary responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the medication is current and not expired, as the educator cannot accept expired medication. The educator cannot take the child until the proper medication has been provided, and there will be no reduction in pay for absence due to expired medication.

You are responsible for ensuring that the Dayhome Program Educator fully understands how and when to give any medication. A Medication Record Form must be completed and signed by you before medication can be administered by the Dayhome Program Educator. Your Family Dayhome Program Educator is **NOT ALLOWED** to give medication without written authorization. This signed Medication Record protects both your child and the Dayhome Program Educator. **You must provide information in writing to your Dayhome Program Educator about when medications and herbal remedies were given to the child prior to arriving at the dayhome.**

Prescription medication must be in the original container, clearly labeled with the date, child's name, amount, and time of dosage and any other instructions ordered by the doctor.

The administration of over-the-counter medications or non-prescription medication to children in Family Dayhomes is **not allowed**, as these may have adverse effects on some children.

INCLUSION POLICY

Our Mission is to provide “Peace of Mind” for Parents and Dayhome Program Educators

We strive to provide quality, inclusive childcare to families so they can have “peace of mind” while away at work or attending school. Child Development Dayhomes believes in community inclusion and in the belief that “we all belong”. All children have the right to high quality childcare. Child Development Dayhomes strives to provide a welcoming community where each member experiences the feeling and reality of belonging. It is our goal to support all children to participate in the program and to nurture each child's well-being. Children are placed in an inclusive dayhome environment that honors the child’s need for interactive play with peers along with their special requirements. We pride ourselves in providing and advocating for inclusive childcare.

CHILD GUIDANCE POLICY

Child Development Dayhomes’ Guidance policy promotes nurturing relationships, a responsive environment, and positive guidance strategies to support children with behaviour challenges. We believe that building a secure, trusting relationship between the child, family, and educator is foundational to guiding children’s behaviours. Designing an environment that fosters each child’s interests, development, and learning can help minimize behaviour challenges. Our goal is for educators to support children in developing a positive self-image, independence, and a caring nature towards others. When we acknowledge that behaviour can be a form of communication, educators and families must seek to connect with a child before correcting the child’s behaviour.

The Family Day Home Standards Manual states:

Standard 9: Child guidance

Programs must use a positive approach to child guidance. The approach is discussed with the child’s parent(s).

The child guidance methods used in the program are consistent with both the parent handbook and agency program plan, and are explicitly communicated in a written statement to the:

- parent(s); and
- children, when developmentally appropriate.

Any child guidance action taken is to be reasonable given the circumstances and must never:

- inflict or cause to be inflicted any form of physical punishment, verbal, physical degradation or emotional deprivation;
- deny or threaten to deny any basic necessity; or
- use or permit the use of any form of physical restraint, confinement or isolation.

Procedure:

Practice of Relationships

Children thrive on routine and consistency. Educators, families, and children work together to establish clear and respectful guidelines for the dayhome. Strong, respectful communication and relationships with families are essential. It is important to understand that children’s behaviour may be influenced by many factors, including:

- Poor sleep
- Skipping breakfast or lack of a nutritious meal
- Food insecurity, such as missing dinner the previous evening
- Language, communication or processing delays that result in frustration
- Household stress, such as rushed or unorganized mornings, yelling, or tension
- Undiagnosed illness

Families are encouraged to share information about their child’s likes, dislikes, hopes, fears, beliefs, culture, and traditions. This helps educators provide individualized support for each child.

“A practice of relationships supports educators to work with children, families, and others in the early childhood community to co-construct continuity in transitions for the benefit of each child and family’s well-being and learning.” -Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette & Thomas, 2014, p. 73

Positive Guidance Strategies:

Educators are responsible for modeling desired behaviors, actively listening and acknowledging children’s feelings, providing opportunities for self-expression, and encouraging children to solve problems.

- Engagement, being at the child’s level and actively engaging in conversations, serve-and-return interactions, and positive reinforcements.

- Eye contact and getting to the level of the child- whether that is lying on the floor beside a baby or sitting at a table with a school-age child. Focus on being at their eye contact level.
- When completing care routines with the child- diapering, washing, etc. explain to the child what is happening and why. Maintain eye contact as much as possible. This is a great opportunity to support language development.
- Speak with children at a level of communication they understand.
- Offer children “voice and choice.” Would you like to use the green soap or the red soap?
- Setting clear, consistent limits with children. ‘Hitting hurts’ is understood by most children, based on the age of the child, give a clear limit and redirection or support based on the child’s age and developmental stage.
- Use a visual schedule, visual cues, and signals to help children understand expectations and routines.
 - *Always make every attempt to acknowledge and encourage positive behavior; set clear guidelines. This will help the child learn which behaviors are expected and appropriate.*
 - *Educators who respond in a calm, caring, and respectful manner promote positive behavior and emotional well-being in children.*

Responsive Environment

Time:

Children require extended periods of uninterrupted time to fully engage in play. Transitions can be challenging, and educators must support children through transitions to minimize stress.

- Have the children had enough time to complete their task? Is there an option to put something on a save-it shelf to come back to? This is a good strategy, as they have to go to school and wish to come back to it later.
- Have we given them a warning time that is agreed upon by them to wrap up their play/activity?
- Do we give them enough time to play? Sometimes children won’t engage in play if they know they only have 15 minutes before the next transition. Instead of playing, they may become disruptive.

- How much time is spent outdoors?

Space:

Educators are responsible for providing a responsive and developmentally appropriate space based on the ages and number of children in care.

The environment should reflect each child's individuality and offer:

- Opportunities for children to play independently or participate in group play
- Spaces to create, build, and explore
- Calm areas to self-regulate
- Outdoor space is an extension of the indoor environment

Children have the right to make choices and decisions within the environment.

Consider the following:

- Is there enough space for children to play without frequent disruptions?
- Are older children able to access spaces away from younger children (e.g., building with Lego at a table rather than on the floor)?
- Is there a designated calm space for self-regulation?
- Does every child see themselves in the space?
- What play opportunities are offered in the outdoor environment?

Materials:

The quality and quantity of materials in the play space can either help or hinder a child's play, learning, and development.

Reflect on the following:

- Are materials open-ended and usable by children of varying abilities?
- Are materials accessible and designed to spark curiosity and exploration?
- Are all materials safe and used according to manufacturer guidelines?
- Are there enough materials for all children?

Participation:

Educators build strong relationships by participating alongside children in play and care routines. Shared activities support cooperation and problem-solving skills.

Reflect on the following:

- How do you engage and participate with children during play?
- Do you support children in entering play gently and respectfully?
- Do you model social interactions while playing alongside children?

Note: If you are struggling with a child's behaviour, please contact your consultant for support, to discuss the situation and find a solution.

Note: Only educators are permitted to implement child guidance with Dayhome children.

OUTDOOR WEATHER POLICY

Our program will provide the children with a minimum of 30 minutes of outside activity per day. Every day, children should come to the dayhome with adequate outdoor clothing for all weather. In winter this includes:

- Winter jacket
- Waterproof mittens
- Ski pants or snowsuit
- Warm hat or toque
- Winter boots

Children will stay inside in extreme weather conditions, which are:

- 1) Tornado watch/warning-spotting of green sky and funnel clouds
- 2) An outside temperature of -23 degrees Celsius and/or temperature with a wind chill to make it -23 degrees Celsius. In summer, an outside temperature of +28 degrees Celsius
- 3) Heavy rain, hail, or snowfall
- 4) High and or wind gusting over 29km per hour
- 5) Poor air quality due to smoke from forest fires as per Air Quality Health Index (see below).

Air Quality Health Index for children:

Low Risk 1-3: Enjoy your usual outdoor activities

Moderate Risk: 4-6: Reduce outdoor play time, reschedule strenuous outdoor activities (long walks, biking, etc.) If you have children with asthma or other breathing-related sensitivity, please do not take the children outside.

High/Very Risk: 7-10+: Reschedule outdoor activities/plans. Children should not go outside.

Extreme Temperatures:

In extreme heat, be sure to schedule outdoor activities to the cooler hours of the day, limit duration of outdoor play to one hour or less in shaded areas and take the proper precautions to prevent heat stroke and heat exhaustion (adequate water, hats, sunscreen).

*If walking children to school or a bus stop is part of your daily routine and the temperature is colder than -25° Celsius, including the wind chill factor, please discuss options with the parents.

The Benefits of Daily Outdoor Play

By Dr. Jane Hewes, Chair, Early Learning & Child Care Program, MacEwan University

Ever wonder why we bundle children up to go outdoors twice a day - even in the winter? Wouldn't it be easier just to keep the children inside? Easier – perhaps, but better? No! There is good evidence that daily outdoor play in natural environments is crucial to children's mental and physical health.

Children love to play outdoors. The outdoors is where children get to be children. They have a kind of freedom outdoors that we cannot give them inside. They can run, jump, and shout. The outdoors absorbs the noise and mess of children's normal active play. Adults do not have to control children's natural boisterousness outdoors. Children can be in control and interestingly, the experience of being in control is what helps children to develop self-control. Self-control is one of the most important and least understood aspects of school readiness.

What are the benefits of active outdoor play in natural environments?

- Outdoor play reduces stress. Contact with nature improves the stress response systems in the brain. It frees the mind, the body, and the spirit, all at once.
- Being outdoors is calming and soothing for children. This feeling of peacefulness

strengthens emotional resilience, which in turn contributes to greater emotional self-control.

- Being outdoors reduces restlessness in children, and increases concentration, focus, and attentiveness.
- Children who play outdoors regularly do not get sick as often as children who spend more time inside.
- Being outdoors builds physical resilience and stamina.
- The sensory environment outdoors feeds children's growing brains. It engages all the senses. Leaves flutter and rustle, birds sing, the snow crunches, the sun feels warm, the wind tickles. We know that young children, especially toddlers, need rich, diverse sensory environments for play. We bring natural materials indoors as much as possible, but there is nothing like being outside.
- Children are more active outdoors. Natural landscapes offer important opportunities for physical development. Walking up and down a small slope builds balance in toddlers. The uneven surfaces of the rocks and pathways invite preschoolers to develop strength and balance and coordination.
- There are incredible learning opportunities outside. The outdoors invites exploration and discovery – bugs move, the wind makes the leaves flutter, birds build nests, rain makes puddles, snow is building material for forts.

Playing outdoors every day in all kinds of weather assists children in creating the habits they need to lead a happy, healthy, active life. It is important in fostering an attitude in caring for the environment.

YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

Ages and Stages Questionnaire

Also known as the ASQ or ASQ-SE (for social-emotional development), it was originally developed for parents to use after their children were released from the NICU. Parents were able to monitor their child's development at home, rather than having to go back and forth to the hospital. The ASQ monitors 5 domains of development:

1. Communication
2. Gross Motor
3. Fine Motor
4. Problem Solving
5. Personal-Social

Why screen? The ASQ is a first-level screening tool to identify children that may require further assessment. It can also be used to identify additional supports (such as specific activities and/or supplies) to children and families before referring to other resources such as speech and language, occupational therapists, etc. It is suggested that screening

should be provided for all children, so children requiring support are not missed. Regular screening is also important as it is “preventative maintenance”; suggested ages for screening are 9 months old, 18 months old and between 24-30 months old (3 times before 3rd birthday). If you are interested in the ASQ or would like more information, please contact Lindsay at lindsay@childdev.com or 780-444-2288.

EMERGENCY LINE

Our office hours are from Monday to Friday 7am to 5pm. If you need to contact office staff outside of these hours, an emergency contact number will be listed on our voicemail.

LOCKDOWN PROCEDURE FOR DAYHOMES

The Lockdown procedure must be implemented when you suspect or have been notified from emergency personnel/police, that there is a situation that may result in harm to the persons on the dayhome premises. This may include but is not limited to a potential shooting, a hostage incident or an unauthorized or suspicious person on the premises.

Step 1. Lock all doors and windows; close all the blinds/curtains.

Step 2. Turn off all lights in the home.

Step 3. Gather all the children, move to a room/space without windows so you cannot be seen.

Step 4. Take your phone and put it on silence, bring the travel first aid kit with the children’s medical consent cards and emergency medication.

Step 5. Call 911 if required.

Step 6. Keep children as calm or quiet as possible. Have quiet activities, snacks and water stored in the secure area you plan to use in the event of a lockdown.

Step 7. Remain indoors until you receive further instruction from emergency personnel/police.

Step 8. Notify the agency as soon as lockdown procedure is over.

Step 9. Parents/guardians must be notified once lockdown procedure is over.

BACK-UP CARE AND SHORT-TERM PLACEMENTS

Should your regular Family Dayhome be unavailable please contact your Childcare Consultant if you require back up care. Your Dayhome Program Educators also has a list of agency-approved Dayhomes in their area.

Backup Care is defined as using 10 days or less in another dayhome with our agency.

A Short-Term Placement is defined as 11 days or more with another dayhome with our agency but have plans to return to your regular dayhome. If you will not be attending back-up care the following day you must contact the Dayhome Program Educator or agency by phone by 9pm the night before. Otherwise, you will still be charged for the full day.

Child Development Dayhomes has a 24-hour emergency phone number stated on the agency voicemail.

NOTE: We do our very best to provide back-up care, however we cannot guarantee alternative arrangements due to age ratios and the number of homes with available spots in your area.

Please complete prior to care and leave with the back-up Dayhome Program Educator of your choice: a completed “Parent Agreement Form - Back-Up” with all your child’s medical information on it. The Dayhome Program Educator must log your child in and out on KinderLogix every day your child is in their care.

In the event of an emergency, your Dayhome Program Educator may have an in-home emergency backup caregiver. Parents must meet emergency backup caregivers and give written permission prior to all back up caregiver situations.

REGISTRATION DEPOSIT POLICY

To secure your child’s space in our program, a registration deposit equal to 50% of one month’s childcare fees is required at the time of registration. The space is not considered confirmed until the deposit has been received. The deposit will be applied towards your child’s first month of care once care begins. If a family decides not to start care the deposit is paid to the educator. This policy helps to compensate the educator for holding the space and potential loss of income.

PAYMENT POLICIES

Parents agree to pay for services rendered based on amount stated on the Preauthorized Payment Plan form. It is understood that Child Development Dayhomes may change these fees with one-month written notification to you.

Please note:

- There will be no fee reduction for child illness or holidays.
- There will be no refunds when a Dayhome is closed for 10 days or less due to illness or educator holidays. This is dictated by the Government and not Child Development Dayhomes, as part of the Affordability Funding Model. If you have concerns, please call Childcare Connect at 1-844-644-5165 or email childcare@gov.ab.ca. **Families are encouraged to contact the agency to find back up care.**
- Agency fees are not pro-rated.
- A one-time, non-refundable registration fee of \$150 is required per family. Families previously registered with our agency are not required to pay this fee again.
- The deposit is non-refundable but will go towards the first month's fees.

Parents agree to **pay for services in advance** on the first of each month through the pre-authorized payment plan (EFT) and have provided a void cheque or banking information.

Should the payment be late or returned to us NSF the following policies will be in effect:

- On the **1st** working day of the month a \$20.00 late fee will be charged
- There will be a \$25.00 charge for each NSF payment.

Our Dayhome Program Educators depend upon us to collect their fees. We will make every effort to contact you regarding a payment problem. It is important to communicate openly so we can assist you if we can. If we are unable to reach a mutual solution then, as a last resort, your childcare will be suspended until payment is received.

Communication and agreement about your drop-off and pick-up times are important. These times are outlined in your Parent Agreement form. If your child(ren) is/are picked up late or after contracted hours, Dayhome Program Educators can charge a late fee of \$1/minute/child. Late fees will be added to your fees withdrawn at the beginning of the next month.

Should you leave care with an outstanding balance on your account, we will call you to make a payment arrangement. As a last resort, we will send your account to a collection agency. All costs incurred on a client/agency/solicitor basis will be your responsibility and there is a statute of limitations of 6 years on this account. If we have had to suspend your childcare due to a

balance owing, two weeks' notice will be added to your account and paid to your Dayhome Program Educator upon receipt.

Parents agree to give **two weeks' written notice of termination** unless there are extenuating circumstances. You are responsible for paying this notice. This policy is in effect immediately upon registration. Should you register your child and decide not to go through with placement you are responsible for paying for two weeks.

Please note that Dayhome Program Educators are not required to work on statutory holidays but are entitled to be paid for them. These are included in your fees.

HOLIDAYS

Please note that there is NO REDUCTION in fees for your family's holiday time.

Dayhome Program Educator's full-time fees will apply to school age children needing full time care in the summer.

If a Dayhome Program Educator is away/closed for more than 10 days, the contract between the Dayhome Program Educator and parent is terminated until parents and Dayhome Program Educator re-contract.

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

The following is a list of designated days that a Dayhome may close. It is not a requirement that operators provide alternate care on designated holidays. If you need care on a statutory holiday, please check with your Dayhome Program Educator as far in advance as possible.

New Year's Day	January 1, 2026
Family Day	February 16, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	April 6, 2026
Victoria Day	May 18, 2026
Canada Day	July 1, 2026
Civic Holiday	August 3, 2026
Labour Day	September 7, 2026
Truth and Reconciliation Day	September 30, 2026
Thanksgiving Day	October 12, 2026
Remembrance Day	November 11, 2026
Christmas Day	December 25, 2026
Boxing Day (in lieu)	December 28, 2026
New Year's Day	January 1, 2027

CONTRACT CHANGES

For contract changes including change of payment, days of care, hours of care, switching to another dayhome within the agency, and short-term contracts, parents/guardians must give **one month's notice** and complete a Change of Services form.

TERMINATION OF CARE POLICY

The Agency and the Dayhome Program Educator must be advised **at least TWO WEEKS in advance** when you plan to terminate the Family Dayhome Contract unless there are extenuating circumstances. We encourage you to use the Change of Services Form. Your Dayhome Program Educator has a supply at their Dayhome, or you can call the office, and we can email one to you. If enough notice is not given, you will be expected to pay two weeks' fees in lieu of notice. If your Dayhome Program Educator is going to cease caring for your child, they are required to give at least **one month's** written notice to you and the Agency, unless there are extenuating circumstances. During this period, if you make new childcare arrangements, you are not obligated to continue care with your Dayhome Program Educator.

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN

How do I apply for the Pre-Authorized Payment Plan?

Just complete our Pre-Authorized Payment application form, include a void cheque and email it to our office. If you have a savings account, please visit your branch and have a bank representative complete the form or fill out the application form and attach a bank statement that includes your bank number, transit number, and account number.

How will I know what deductions are being made from my account?

On the **first working day of each month**, your monthly contracted amount will be deducted. If you have a credit on your Child Development Dayhomes account, your Pre-Authorized Payment Deduction will be adjusted to reflect this. If you have incurred any additional costs your next Pre-Authorized Payment will be increased to reflect this.

**** Please note that we will do our best to get your credit to you in month following, however we cannot guarantee this due to time constraints at month end.****

What if I move, or change banks?

If for any reason you need to change your Pre-Authorized Payment Plan just phone, fax, e-mail, or visit our office **at least 5 days** prior to your next Pre-Authorized Deduction and we will make the changes immediately.

When you are no longer in care with the agency, any credits owing to you will be deposited into your bank account in the month following the termination of the childcare contract.

PARENT SUPPORT

Dayhome Program Educators are required to post weekly activities and menu plans on their bulletin boards for parents to view and provide feedback.

Parents and Dayhome Program Educators are encouraged to use communication strips or books for ongoing discussion regarding the child(ren). This communication is a great way for parents to be involved in decisions related to their child(ren).

Parents may provide feedback to the agency at any time by calling the agency or filling out the parent survey on our website. Child Development Dayhomes takes all concerns and complaints very seriously. Please submit complaints in writing to the agency. All complaints and critical incidents are documented, investigated, and reported to the Government Child and Family Services Authority. Complaints and critical incidents are documented on the Dayhome Program Educator profile and performance assessments.

Every month, the Agency posts a newsletter for parents and Dayhome Program Educators on our website. You can access the newsletter at <http://www.childdev.com/fortmcmurray/newsletter>. Be sure to watch the newsletter for important memos, childcare tips, activity and recipe ideas, community events, announcements of upcoming childcare workshops and conferences.

Child Development Dayhomes is affiliated with many community services; please contact your Childcare Consultant if you need any community connections or referrals. Dayhome Program Educators access community services and resources such as libraries and park programs during field trips and outings.

Dayhome Program Educator profiles are available for parents to see on their bulletin board.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All our Dayhome Program Educators will be supplied with the necessary paperwork and emergency information required to care for your child. These documents will always be kept confidential. Your Dayhome Program Educator has signed an Oath of Confidentiality contract.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Child Development Dayhomes Fort McMurray (CDDHFM) understands its staff and affiliated dayhome educators use social media platforms and online communities. Social media platforms allow users to post messages and upload media content such as photographs and videos on the Internet. We encourage you to use social media to connect with CDDHFM in a professional and positive manner. CDDHFM is active on the following websites and social media sites:

Child Development Dayhomes website: www.childdev.com

Facebook: facebook.com/CDDHFortMcMurray

Twitter: twitter.com/ChildDevFM

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/child-development-dayhomes

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@childdevelopmentdayhomes>

Instagram: instagram.com/childdevfm

Kijiji: www.kijiji.com

Google My Business – Child Development Dayhomes Fort McMurray

CDDHFM staff and educators agree to respect the privacy of our clients (children and parents) and must get your consent for all materials (photography and media) posted on the CDDHFM website, affiliated websites, or social media platforms; consent is also required from former clients (parents and children). CDDHFM is not liable for any content posted on any Internet site by educators or staff.

STORYPARK

Child Development Dayhomes views documentation/learning stories of children as an important and vital way to communicate to families of children in our care how and what children are learning throughout their time in our dayhomes. Documentation is an accreditation standard and with the recent implementation of the Alberta Curriculum Framework (www.childcareframework.com) we hope to make it a meaningful way to see your child grow and develop in so many ways! Storypark is not meant to replace face to face interactions between parents and Dayhome Program Educator about a child's day, but to enhance communication. If you leave the agency, you will get to keep your child's profile with Storypark forever (for free) and continue to add to it if you choose to. Storypark also has a mobile app you can download in the Google Play store called "StoryPark for Families."