



Child Development Dayhomes

August 2026 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 August

Elianne Farhat	18 years	Arlene Remolana	1 year
Quirina Mondata	10 years	Glenda Siso	1 year
Maria Rubia Frac	8 years	Amanda Taylor	1 year
Sona Budaghyan	8 years		



Welcome Back Educator

Bushra - Timberlea



Welcome New Consultant



We are pleased to welcome Cristie as our new Child-care Consultant. A former dayhome educator with our agency, Cristie brings valuable experience, enthusiasm, and a passion for supporting educators, families, and children in our community.

August Community Visits

Come on down this month to a location near you! Children and Educators will have an opportunity to explore and use ICC materials and equipment. Parents are also welcome to attend. **See the last page of the newsletter for dates, times, and locations. Please register for the date/location.**

Milestones and Farewells

Congratulations to **Fatima** on 2 years with our team, and thank you to **Zoe** for your contributions as our summer student. Best wishes as you finish with us on Aug. 25.

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

(Dayhomes and office are closed)

Civic Holiday: Aug. 3, 2026

Labour Day: Sep. 7, 2026

Truth and Reconciliation Day: Sep. 30, 2026



Attendance Records Due:

Thursday, August 20 by 6:00pm

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



Community Events

▶ Volunteer Fest and Empty Bowls

Date: August 23, 2026

Location: 162 Tamarack Way (Doug Barnes Cabin)

Facebook page: [Link](#)



▶ Community Registration Day

Event by Fort McMurray Dance Association

Date: August 27, 2026

Time: 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: MacDonald Island Park

Facebook page: [Link](#)



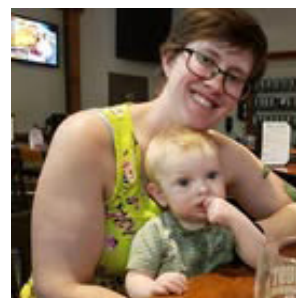
▶ La Leche League

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am

Location: SMS Equipment Stadium

Facebook page: [Link](#)



▶ Adult Chat 'N Chill - Summer Camp

Date: August 4 at 10:00am to August 7 at 3:00pm

Location: Doug Barnes Cabin

Designed for Autistic Adults (16+)

Facebook page: [Link](#)



▶ Rainbow Space Certification Training

Date: August 7, 2026

Location: The Redpoll Centre (1 C.A. Knight Way)

Facebook page: [Link](#)



▶ Wood Buffalo Splash Parks

[Link to list of Wood Buffalo Splash Parks](#)



Flight Focus

When children do not know what to expect in daily routines, the transitions between them can prompt feelings of insecurity and confusion. How do children know what is expected of them? How does your image of the child influence your interactions with children?



Educator Accomplishments

Level 2 Certificate from the GOA- Afshan

Mud Kitchens Through the Seasons: Outdoor play that connects to the curriculum
-Hamidah

Reflective Program Planning
-Bernadette, Arlyn, Cristie, and Uchenna

ASAP Modules 1 and 2
-Juvy, Chita, and Cindy

Flight Reflections - Tahira

The Nine Principles of Child Honoring
-Titilayo



ASaP Expectations and Rules

Provide clear and effective directions:

- State directions positively by telling children what to do, rather than what not to do.
- State directions calmly when in close proximity to the children

Use additional strategies when giving directions (Modelling, visuals, object cues) for children who need more support

Happy Birthday to the following Educators!

Saadia, Gemma, Marivic,
Vandana, Ruthchel P, Aishah H,
Manal, and Maria F.



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 generated and emailed to them. Please see the [link](#).



CDDH Surveys

Let us know how we are doing!

- ▶ **Family Survey**
- ▶ **Educator Survey**





Recipe Ideas

▶ Fish and Herb Vegetable Packets

Recipe [Link](#)



▶ Black Bean Sheet Pan Quesadillas

Recipe [Link](#)



Activity Ideas

▶ Setting up Invitations to Play

Website Link:

<https://theempowerededucatoronline.com/2018/05/setting-up-invitations-to-play.html/>





Learning Story

► The Great Mud Kitchen & Sandbox Expedition

Dayhome: Arlene at Wee Care

The children's exploration and learning continued today as they dove into our newly revamped mud kitchen playspace. Thanks to a fresh mix of stones and pebbles placed over the previously muddy ground, the area is no longer messy in the traditional sense, but perfectly primed for nature play. I intentionally added the pebbles to encourage sensory exploration and to serve as a versatile "ingredient" for the children's cooking. To spark their imaginations, new pretend menus and recipes were posted, fostering highly creative and engaging play.



The adjacent sandbox acted as another major hub of sensory discovery and provided the ultimate "major ingredient" for Arvin's signature mud pizza.





Watching the children navigate the dual spaces of the kitchen and the sandbox was a beautiful exercise in child-led learning. Little Andreus found immense joy in filling his buckets with a combination of sand and pebbles. Using big spoons, he scooped and transferred the materials, all while diligently enhancing his fine motor skills and **handeye coordination**.



Nearby, our older children developed elaborate, multi-step stories. Working together, they acted out different scenarios revolving around their delicious “recipes”. As I listened to their dramatic play, I overheard one child proudly declaring, “My mommy loves soup, she will like it!” Another child was spotted diligently reading a recipe card, carefully pointing to the words and counting exactly how many stones and sticks he needed to gather for his concoction.

Meanwhile, deep in the sandbox, Jaxson struck gold. While digging, he unearthed some sparkling “gems” and excitedly shouted, “I’m going to be rich!”

My Reflection & Connection!

This morning’s play beautifully highlighted how open-ended materials allow children to learn and engage at their own pace. Our upgrade to a stone-and-pebble base in the kitchen has successfully eliminated unwanted mud while maintaining all the rich sensory benefits of nature play. Furthermore, placing the mud kitchen right next to the sandpit has turned our outdoor area into an incredible hub of early childhood development.



Through scooping, pouring, counting, and narrating stories, the children are organically practicing early math, language development, and executive function skills. Providing “loose parts” like stones, pebbles, and posted recipes allows the children to take complete ownership of their dramatic play scenarios.

It’s amazing how a thoughtfully prepared outdoor mud kitchen provides a stimulating, open-ended environment that sparks children’s creativity and imagination.





child development dayhomes
peace of mind



AUGUST COMMUNITY VISITS

**COME ON DOWN THIS MONTH TO A
LOCATION NEAR YOU!**

**IN AN INDOOR SCHOOL GYM,
CHILDREN AND EDUCATORS WILL
HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPLORE AND USE ICC MATERIALS
AND EQUIPMENT.**



SCHOOL GYM LOCATIONS

OUR LADY OF THE RIVER ✓ August 18 9:00am-11:00am

ST.MARTHA'S ✓ August 19 9:00am-11:00am

ST.GABRIEL ✓ August 20 9:00am-11:00am

ST.KATERI ✓ August 21 9:00am-11:00am

REGISTER FOR THE DATE & LOCATION YOU ARE ATTENDING



SCAN HERE

