



Providing a foundation for lifelong growth

October 2021 Parent Newsletter



Happy Fall! It's been such a beautiful season so far, with warm temperatures and all the changing colours! We have had some exciting news in our area of licensed child care! Family day home educators now qualify for professional development funding and release time funding! This is huge for us, and we are excited to say that many of the educators with New Dimensions are considering what courses or workshops they would like to further their own education in! Please encourage your educator in this area – it's a big commitment, but also such a great opportunity!

The number of allowable days in October is 20.

Child Care fees are due by Oct. 4th to avoid late payment fees.

Please remember, the main office is closed to the public, and staff are working from home most days, until the Alberta government lifts the "Work from Home" order.

Our office hours are:

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Closed at noon on Oct. 8, for the Thanksgiving Long Weekend

The office is closed on:

Monday, Oct. 11, 2021, in observance of Thanksgiving

Do you know someone that would make a great licensed family day home Educator? We appreciate any and all referrals to our team! Please encourage that person you know to visit us at www.newdimensionsfamilydayhome.com, and complete an online application!

Congratulations Rachel, for being our WOW award winner this month!



Please remember you are free to nominate your educator for a WOW Award each month!

COVID-19 Update

Please remember that COVID-19 is still a threat to the health of our community! It is important to remember that if you or a person that lives in your home tests positive for COVID infection, unvaccinated people in the home, including children, should quarantine for 14 days. Please see below for the guidance we are required to follow, and for the health checklist we ask you as the parent to review each morning before bringing your child to day home.

Guidance document: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/3fcd93d6-3060-4db4-850d-e0263b0e5ff6/resource/9e25da9e-9992-4a17-9017-f705d28848b7/download/covid-19-guidance-family-day-homes-2021-09.pdf>

Daily Health Checklist: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/56c020ed-1782-4c6c-bfdd-5af36754471f/resource/58957831-a4ab-45ff-9a8e-3c6af7c1622e/download/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist-2021-09.pdf>

Policy Review

The following statement is from our current Family Day Home Standards for Alberta. It identifies areas that are taken into consideration for your child in your licensed agency's educator's daily planning!

Quality in child care

Family day home educators operating under a licensed agency are required to implement and follow a program plan that adheres to the Principles and Matters to be Considered as stated in the Early Learning and Child Care Act. These provisions emphasize the importance of quality in child care, and highlight key factors of safety, well-being, inclusion, and child development.

Principles

Licensed family day home agencies and individual family day home programs operate under the Early Learning and Child Care Act, and are to act in accordance with the following principles:

- a) the safety, security, well-being and development of the child is to be supported and preserved;
- b) flexibility in child care supports choice and accessibility for families;
- c) engagement of parents, guardians and community members in the provision of child care supports the child's optimal development.

Matters to be considered by providers of child care programs

All child care programs, including licensed family day home agencies and individual family day home programs, shall take into consideration the following matters as well as any other matter they consider relevant:

- a) Children should be encouraged in having care and play experiences that support their development and learning;
- b) The child is to be protected from all forms of physical punishment, physical and verbal abuse and emotional deprivation;
- c) Diversity in:
 - (i) The background and circumstances of children in the program and their families, including those who may be experiencing social or economic vulnerability, and
 - (ii) The abilities of the children in the program is to be respected and valued;
- d) The child's familial and Indigenous or other cultural, social, linguistic and spiritual heritage are central to the child's safety, well-being and development;
- e) Care of the child must be appropriate to the child's mental, emotional, spiritual and physical needs and stage of development;
- f) Involvement and engagement of parents supports accountability of child care program, monitoring of child care programs and maintenance of good quality child care programs.



Did you Know?

There are many interesting Fall activities and events happening around Central Alberta! Check these out:

Stone Growth Art Exhibition: <https://reddeerevents.ca/Events/Details/12417>

Ukrainian Dance Lessons, starting at 3 years!: <https://reddeerevents.ca/Events/Details/12376>

Heritage Ranch has various family activities: <https://www.heritageranch.ca/>

The Jungle Farm has lots of fun Fall activities: <https://thejunglefarm.com/>

Carstairs has lots of events for children: <https://carstairs.ca/p/upcoming-events>

Didsbury is planning the return of the Halloween Howler Family Dance!
<https://www.didsbury.ca/p/community-events>

Be sure to get out and enjoy all your communities have to offer! 😊