



*Providing a foundation for lifelong growth*

## **January 2022 Parent Newsletter**

Thank you to those that took the time to respond to our Parent Survey in December's newsletter! If you haven't had a chance to yet, please do, as the information we gain is invaluable as we plan for the year ahead! Please remember, we love to hear what is going well, what can be improved, and welcome any suggestions you have to make your child care experience even better!

The number of allowable days in January is 21.  
Child Care fees are due by Dec. 2 to avoid late payment fees

In light of the new funding criteria, we will be changing our Parent/Agency contracts to reflect the funding you wish to access (part-time or full-time). If you wish to increase (or decrease) the time you will be using in your day home, please discuss this with your educator prior to completing the new contract, which will be emailed to you mid-month. We bill each month in advance, based on the contract you have signed. Invoices will not be changed once issued until the end of each month, and only in specific circumstances, so please contract carefully. This will become even more important as the new funding rolls out – please ensure you have contracted correctly to ensure a smooth billing process. Thank you!

You are welcome to call the office at any time if you have questions. If you need any in-person assistance, or wish to speak with office staff in person, we ask that you call ahead for an appointment. Please be advised you will be required to wear a mask while visiting our office.

Our office hours are:

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm  
Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thank you!



## **Year one of the five year plan for \$10 day Child Care begins!**

You may have noticed a change on your invoice this month! Most parents will notice that, where they have paid a full daily rate, or invoice that included only subsidy previously, there is now a line called the “Affordability Grant”, which reduces the amount you owe by \$150 to \$350 per month, based on your child’s age and the number of hours you use. Please drill down into your invoice to read the explanatory notes we have included with January billing. If you have any questions, please call us as we are happy to help you through this transition period! We have worked to promote quality, affordable care in this province for many years, and are so happy to see that families will soon reap the benefit of increased access to licensed, quality, affordable care through this program.

In addition, the government has announced that as of Jan.17, 2022, any parent using licensed family day homes and centre care, that has a household income of less than \$180,000, can apply to receive subsidy. If you are already using the subsidy program, you do not need to apply, but if not, you can access even greater savings for your child care fees.

Mid-January, please go to <https://www.alberta.ca/child-care-subsidy.aspx> for more information, or to apply for subsidy. Please note, you will need to print off your approval at the end of the application process. Please provide this to our office, and we will be able to credit your account with subsidy before billing for February.

Please note that this is only year 1 of a 5 year plan – there will be more to follow in the coming months and years, so stay tuned!

You can find more information at: <https://www.alberta.ca/federal-provincial-child-care-agreement.aspx>

We will continue to inform families of the details as they are made known to us 😊



**Congratulations to Farzana, this month’s WOW award winner!**

### **Reminder:**

Please remember that by signing your child in and out of your day home each day, you are confirming the days and hours that are used each day. Your initial daily, and signature at the end of the month indicates that you understand the number of days that your educator is

billing for. Please do not initial or sign the bottom of the time sheet ahead of time! These documents are used for subsidy and billing purposes, and are legal documents. Thank you!



### Did you know...?

It is important for you to complete the health checklist daily, prior to bringing your child to your day home.

Remember – if a child has symptoms of ANY illness, they can not be in care.

The checklist can be found at : <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>

In addition, the Alberta Family Day Home Standard regarding ANY illness is:

“Standard 10C: Illness If a program educator notices that a child exhibits any of the signs or symptoms listed below, the educator must ensure that:

- the child’s parent(s) arranges for the immediate removal of the child from the program premises; and
- the child does not return to the program premises until the educator is satisfied (emphasis ours) that the child no longer poses a health risk to others in the program (e.g., the parents provide a physician’s note, the parents declare that the child has been symptom-free for at least 24 hours).

Signs or symptoms of illness exhibited by a child include:

- a child vomiting,
- having a fever,
- diarrhea or
- a new unexplained rash or cough;
- a child requiring greater care and attention than can be provided without compromising the care of the other children in the program; or
- a child having or displaying any other illness or symptom the educator knows or believes may indicate that the child poses a health risk to persons on the program premises.

A family day home program must be temporarily closed if an educator’s own child’s symptoms fit the criteria described above.