

January 2021 Newsletter



January 1, 2021

Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society

Encouraging Creativity

Encouraging creativity in young children is a process where adults must be open to allowing, accepting, and turning over some control to the children. James D. Moran III, Dean of the College of Human Ecology, suggests:

1. Emphasize process rather than product—free art vs crafts.
 2. Provide an environment that allows children to explore and play without undue restraints—set up for more ‘yes’s’ than ‘no’s’.
 3. Adapt to children's ideas rather than trying to structure the children's ideas to fit the adult's—emergent curriculum.
 4. Use creative problem solving in all parts of the curriculum. Use the problems that naturally occur in everyday life—let the children come up with ideas and try them.
 5. Allow time for children to explore all possibilities, moving from popular to more original ideas—
- encourage all the children to contribute to the process.
- Adults who respect children's ideas help them learn to think and solve problems for themselves. Children who feel free to make mistakes and to explore will also feel free to invent, create, and find new ways to do things. The side benefit is that fostering creativity makes teaching more rewarding and fun and gives children a zest for imagining and learning that last a lifetime.

Acknowledging Children's Efforts

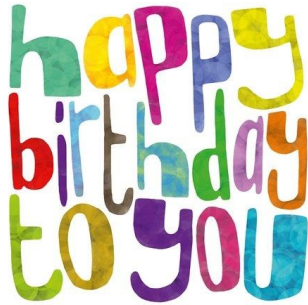
When reflecting on the Image of the Child as a Mighty Learner and Citizen, it is up to us as educators to recognize and acknowledge children's efforts, their importance, and what they mean to the child.

In **recognizing** the variety of **efforts** children put forth, educators should consider the following:

1. What are they doing (look closely at details actions)?
 2. How much time have they spent on the action?
 3. What skills, resources, and steps have they used?
 4. What do they seem to know or want to know?
- In **acknowledging** children's **efforts**, educators should consider the following:
1. Your body language and eye contact – show you are paying attention and are interested.
 2. Listen – listen and reflect on what is being said so responses can be meaningful.
 3. Ask open-ended questions –
- prompt thoughts instead of one response answers.
4. Reflect the effort and actions – provide a playback for the child (*“You’ve been working hard building that tower! You’ve used all the magnet tiles, what are you going to do next?”*)
 5. Document the effort – take notes, photographs, write learning stories, or save samples of the effort.
 6. Time – provide time, materials, and experiences to support child's interests.

Society News

Happy Birthday!



Ryan P Echo W
Benjamin L Gabriel N
Jasmine S Theodore G
Max G Jensen O
Braxton O Shinoka B
Donna B

Happy Birthday to you ... 🎵
Happy Birthday to you ... 🎵

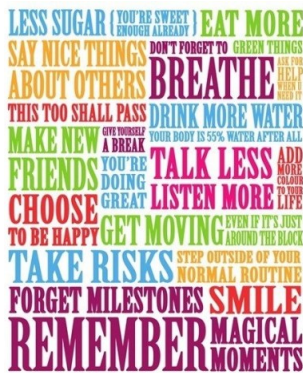
Happy Anniversary:

Emi Bruneau
1 year

*Thank you for making a
difference in the lives of
children & families!*

Advisory Board
Meeting
January 25th, 2021
7:00pm

10 Meaningful New Year Resolutions



1. Take note of the moments that make you feel good.
2. Be grateful for the good in your life.
3. Get out of your comfort zone, try something new.
4. Be more curious.
5. Let go of what people think. Your opinion of you is what matters most.
6. Stop rushing through your day.
7. Get caught up in the spirit of real play.
8. Start a new tradition.
9. Find a deeper reason for what you are doing.
10. Make time for more family time.



Flight Curriculum



We'd like to take a moment to recognize our team as they work through the Flight Curriculum training!

We have 2 educators who have completed their training through Grant MacEwan and 2

more educators enrolled in Grant MacEwan this term.

We also have 6 educators who have completed the ARCQE 6 week Possibilities for Practice, Curriculum Learning Series.

We are proud of everyone's dedication to learning about this curriculum and appreciate the personal time it takes to complete these courses!

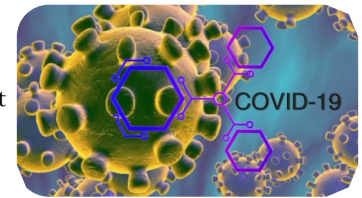
COVID-19 UPDATE

On November 30th, 2020 the agency was notified by the department of Children's Services that all in-person home visits and supports were to be suspended until such time as the department receives a new directive from the Ministry of Health.

With that, means that the consultants are completing their inspections and support visits via ZOOM. The day home educators are asked, in real time, to give agency staff a tour of their home, covering all 13 standards to ensure compliance.

If there is an emergency or a compliant, staff are allowed to enter the homes to provide support or to complete an investigation.

If you have any questions about this, please call us!



The New Child Care Licensing Act

The New Child Care Licensing Act, now named *The Early Learning & Child Care Act*, comes into effect February 1, 2021.

Some notable changes will be happening, that effect family day homes.

1. Family Day Home Agencies will now be

Licensed vs Approved, and the reporting process to the government will be different.

2. Day home educators own children will no longer count in their space ratios.
3. Staff and educator certification language is changing, and

qualifications can be suspended or cancelled.

4. Parents will be notified of any stop orders and safety concerns in both licensed and un-licensed programs, thus increasing transparency for families.



Keeping you Up-to-Date

As the agency staff take training over the next two months in relation to the Early Learning & Child Care Act, we will ensure that we are communicating all changes to our policies or practice once they are

approved by Children's Services and the Government of Alberta.

As these policies are approved, the agency will be providing training opportunities and discussions with all of the

day home educators, to ensure that they are knowledgeable of the changes and how they will impact their individual day home programs.





INNISFAIL & AREA FAMILY DAY HOME SOCIETY

— Established in 1983 —



Alberta
Approved
Family
Day Homes

Outdoor Play in the Winter

The temperature is dropping and snow is falling but that does not stop the day homes from going outdoors!

Children need fresh air and exercise daily. Day homes will consider the wind chill and shorten the time outside or decide to stay in if it gets colder than -20°C with the wind chill.

That means all the children, including infants, must be prepared with snow pants/suits, warm boots, warm mittens that cover their wrist, neck warmers/scarves, and a warm hat. Talk to your day home about leaving a spare pair of snow pants and mittens at their house to make going outside easier for everyone.

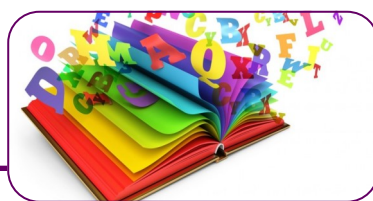


Curriculum Corner—Family Literacy Day® “Take 20”

To celebrate Family Literacy Day®, plan to take 20 minutes to make reading and learning together part of your everyday.

1. **I wonder why?** Go online as a family and learn something new. Ever wonder why the ocean and sky are blue?
2. **Read ANYTHING!** A book, blog, magazine or letter from grandma. Read together and get in your 20 minutes each day
3. **Be a Rockstar:** Sing along with the radio or do Karaoke — maybe a duet?
4. **Make something yummy:** Follow a family recipe or create a new one together.
5. **Travel the world:** Your library card is your passport to travel the world and to take a learning journey.
6. **Jot that down:** Write an e-mail, letter, blog post or text your family and friends. Which is the most fun?
7. **Scientist in the House:** Do a kitchen experiment or mix up a batch of playdough.
8. **It goes something like this:** Tell your favourite story and give it a new ending, or take turns making up a new story.
9. **Crafty Crafter:** Paper, glue, yarn, paint — so many things to create! Do a craft together.
10. **Stepper challenge:** Go for a walk and count your steps. How many steps to school, the park, your friend's house?

Family Literacy Day® is
Celebrated January 27th, 2021.
For More Ideas to celebrate —
abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/activity-ideas





January 2021



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|-----|--|---|-----|
| <i>No School Jan 1— Jan 3</i> | | | | | 1 <i>Office Close</i> <i>New Years Day</i> | 2 |
| 3 <i>School Remote Learning begins Jan 4</i> | 4 <i>Office Open til 6:30pm</i> <i>Pay Day</i> | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 <i>Back to School</i> | 12 <i>Educator Team Meeting—via zoom 7pm</i> | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 <i>Pedagogical Partners - The Cycle of Planning 7pm</i> | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 <i>Month End Paperwork Due</i> | 29 <i>Semester Change No School</i> | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca www.ifdhs.com  | |



February 2021



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
| | 1 <i>Office Open til 6:30pm</i> <i>Pay Day</i> | 2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>No School</i> | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 <i>Feb 15-19 Winter Break—No School</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i> | 15 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Family Day</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 <i>Month End Paperwork Due</i> | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | | | | | <div><div><div>Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society</div><div>5713—51 Avenue</div><div>Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4</div><div>403-227-2767</div><div>innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca</div><div>www.ifdhs.com</div></div><div></div></div> | |