



CALGARY & REGION FAMILY DAY HOME AGENCY Inc.

March Newsletter 2014

Dates to Remember:

Invoice due date: Friday, March 21st, 2014

In-service Date: There is no provider in-service in March due to the Saturday, March 8th, 2014 Provider Conference! Our next Agency In-Service will be at the Chestermere Parent Link Center (105 Marina Rd, Chestermere) on **Wednesday, April 2** at 7:00pm. The topic will be documentation and will be presented by Bow Valley College.

Provider Workshop: We are going to be hosting another workshop this month. It will be in a similar fashion to the Inclusion Workshop that we hosted in February in that providers can come together and work on items for their day homes! This month's topic is going to be on Creating a Bulletin Board. It is going to be hosted at the office again on Saturday, March 22nd from 9:30-11:00am. **Please make sure to bring your parent board with you!**

Please note: Effective **March 31st, 2014** all day home providers are required to have a working fax machine in their home to ensure that the transfer of children's information is kept confidential.



First day of Spring: Thursday, March 20, 2014

With Spring on its way, here are some ways that you can get the children involved in looking for some 'Signs of Spring!'

Take the children on a walk and see what kind of signs that you can find that Spring is coming. Spring is the time when worms begin to emerge from the earth, ladybugs can be flying around green buds appear, birds chirp, and flowers begin to bloom. The spring equinox signals the beginning of nature's renewal in the Northern Hemisphere.

Bring a camera and notepad to document the children's experience for their communication books and your activity planner.

From the desk of Susan: Director

The March Provider conference is just around the corner and we have had a great turnout of registrations this year; I am looking forward to a great conference!

Accreditation has revised their Standards as of January 2014. The biggest change for Day Home Providers is that Accreditation will now be, potentially, visiting without notice to ensure Accreditation is being met at all times. This should not mean a change for anyone as we should be meeting both Government and Accreditation Standards at all times. If you are looking for new ideas to increase the children's experience in your home please ask your Consultant on their visit.



We have also started a few Saturday workshops where Providers are invited to come together with a chosen theme and share their ideas to take back to their dayhomes. This is a great opportunity for new Providers and can also be great for those of you who have been with us for several years and have ideas to share or are ready to incorporate new ideas. The next workshop will be on Parent Boards. If you are interested in attending please bring your Parent Board with you. There will be extra forms here and a network of other Providers to help with ideas for how to display items on your board and how to use your board as a display piece for your home and the work that you do.

Please let me know if you have any In-Service or Workshop Ideas and I would be happy to try and find an appropriate presenter.



From the desk of Louise: Parent Accounts Manager

All parents should have received their 2013 tax letters. Any questions concerning your tax receipt please call.

Every March we have a draw for free childcare for the parent whose account is always up to date. This year's lucky winner is...**Edward Walton!! Congrats!**

I am looking forward to spring...I am so tired of winter!

Please Note: Effective February 2014 Jessica MacKay will be taking over the provider invoicing and time sheets as Alanna will be leaving on Maternity Leave in March 2014. For all questions about invoices, time sheets and provider support funding please contact Jessica MacKay. (jessicam@calgaryfamilydayhomes.com)

Art Ideas: JAPAN

Karesansui Mini-Garden



Young artists create a miniature Karesansui garden in a large, shallow pan with rocks for mountains and sand for water.

Materials needed:

- Large, shallow baking pan or cookie sheet with edges
- Moist Sand
- Pebbles or Small Rocks
- Scissors
- Cardboard Rectangles about the size of combs
- Misting Water Bottle (Optional)



Process:

1. Fill a large, shallow pan or cookie sheet with clean sand. Be sure the cookie sheer or pan has edges
2. The sand should be moist. (water can be sprinkled or misted over the sand to moisten, if necessary.) Pat the sand into the pan
3. Arrange several pebbles in the sand to symbolize a few mountains surrounded by water.
4. Cut some spaces in the edge of the cardboard rectangle to look like a comb with widely spaced teeth
5. Comb the sand to make designs that look like ripples in the water. Experiment and Explore with the sand designs. Pat down the designs to try new ones. The sand should look like flowing, moving what when it is done.
6. Place the Zen Karesansui garden on a table or window ledge and contemplate its landscape (Contemplate means to look at, study and think about what it might mean)
7. The garden can be changed at any time to arrange new mountains and water or simply to tidy up the landscape with a fresh raking of sand.

Training Sessions / Workshops in the Community

March 4th, 2014. Alberta Children’s Hospital

‘Anxiety and Autism Spectrum Disorders’

March 6th, 2014. East Calgary Health Centre

‘Creating Safer Spaces: Addressing Homophobic Bullying’

March 17th, 2014. Shaganappi Public Library

‘Parenting Sad and Depressed Children and Youth’

March 19th, 2014. Genesis Centre of Community Wellness

‘Parenting a Child with Disruptive Behaviours (Preschool Aged)’

March 20th, 2014. Alberta Children’s Hospital

‘Play Therapy: You Don’t have to Talk to Be Heard’

March 20th, 2014. Bert Church High School

‘Healthy Kids Come in All Sizes: What Every Parents Needs to Know about Children’s Body Image’

March 22nd, 2014. Fish Creek Library

‘Introduction to Infant Sign Language’

For more dates and information of the workshops please visit

http://frcr.albertahealthservices.ca/course_registration/public_course_list.php

March 5th, 2014. YWCA of Calgary (320 5th Ave SE)

‘Children’s Concert’ 5:30 - 7:00pm

Four Weeks - Tuesday’s from March 4th –March 25th 2014. YWCA of Calgary (320 5th Ave SE)

‘Triple P Group’ 10:00am - 12:00pm

March 7th, 2014. YWCA of Calgary (320 5th Ave SE)

‘Parent Advisory Lunch’ 11:30am - 1:00pm

March 12th, 2014. YWCA of Calgary (320 5th Ave SE)

‘Multi-Cultural Festival’ 6:00pm - 7:00pm

March 12th and 19th, 2014. 2014. YWCA of Calgary (320 5th Ave SE)

‘Baby Sensory’ 1:30pm - 2:30pm

March 20th 2014. YWCA of Calgary (320 5th Ave SE)

‘Free Book Giveaway Party’ 1:30pm - 2:30pm

March 26th 2014. YWCA of Calgary (320 5th Ave SE)

‘Healthy Eating for Babies’ 6:00pm - 8:00pm

For more information of these workshops please visit

<http://www.ywcaofcalgary.com/program/parent-link-corridor/>

What Parents are saying

About: Marzieh L.

It is a little sad to leave Marzieh 'a day home. C had a good time there and made lots of friends. We are pretty happy with Marzieh and hopefully we can bring C back in the near future. She is a lady with lots of passion and love towards children.

What Parents are saying

About: Julianah T.

Thank you for setting us up with Julianah in our time of need. She is a wonderful child care provider and I would recommend her to anyone. She takes pictures, she gives a sheet detailing what they do, eat and sleep. Our 4 year old has not taken a nap in over a year and all 3 days she was with Julianah she has, this really shows M is comfortable with her.

Inclusion Workshop: February 1st, 2014



We had our first Saturday morning Workshop February 1st. We had a great turnout of almost 20 Providers! The topic was inclusion and everyone was busy sharing ideas and making collages and posters that they could then make again with the children in the dayhomes. Your Calgary Child Magazine that is brought out to you every other month is filled with great pictures of inclusion and a variety of family structures.

One great idea that was shared at the workshop was in regards to your menu. A group of providers sat down to share their ideas on menu planning and came up with the idea to write down and share a recipe. They then noted on this recipe who gave it to them (grandma, neighbour, sister) and where in the world it originated from. This is a great idea to share with families and build your own day home family recipe book!

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share please email it to Susan at, susan@calgaryfamilydayhomes.com. Make sure to include where it came from and maybe a short paragraph about the meal and we will try to add it to the next newsletter.



What Parents are saying

About: Shalu S.

I love Shalu, she is the most trusting and caring person and I couldn't ask for a better caregiver for my son. Everyday he is coming home with new words and even new language so I know that he is not only in a safe environment but learning as well. Having her in our lives makes things much easier and I can go to work having no worries or doubt about my sons daycare. We really appreciate her services and see that she loves and cares for our son every day. That itself is priceless.

What Parents are saying

About: Claudia H

H is extremely happy at Claudia's house. She begs to go there almost every morning. Claudia does a great job playing with the kids and always has a neat craft or activity to do with them. We think we're the luckiest family to have such a great day home.

Health Canada Recalls: Graco: Car Seats (Harness Buckle Recall)

Potential Problem: As part of our continuous product testing and improvement process, Graco identified that food and dried liquids that can make some harness buckles progressively more difficult to open over time or become stuck in the latched position. Therefore, Graco has decided to conduct a voluntary recall on the harness buckles used on all toddler convertible car seats and harnessed booster seats manufactured from 2009 to July 2013. Graco would like to stress this does not in any way affect the performance of the car seat or the effectiveness of the buckle to restrain the child. And a car seat is always the safest way to transport your child.

Models Affected: Toddler Convertible Car Seats: Cozy Cline, Comfort Sport, Classic Ride 50, My Ride 65, My Ride 70, My Ride 65 with Safety Surround, Size4Me 70, My Size 70, Head Wise 70 with Safety Surround, Ready Ride, Smart Seat, and Smart Seat with Safety Surround. Harnessed Booster Seats: Nautilus 3-in-1, Nautilus Elite, Nautilus Plus, Argos 70, and Argos 70 Elite.

Please note: This recall is only affecting USA customers right now.. Canadian car seats are currently being evaluated. If you are having issues with your buckle, please fill out the request form on the Graco Canada website: <http://gracobaby.ca>



Websites to Visit

www.aelcs.ca Accreditation for Early Learning and Child Care Services

www.child.alberta.ca This site accesses programs and services in Alberta's government monitored child care industry. Find the Family Day Home Standards Booklet on the website.

www.parentsmatter.ca This site provides information relating to parent-child development through the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs.

www.zerotothree.org A great site to get developmental, researched information on children age zero to 3 years of age.

www.mentoringboys.com This Canadian site focuses on boys and their unique needs. Check out their monthly newsletter for some great information.

www.positivediscipline.com This website looks at what is positive discipline.

www.familyfuncalgary.com This Calgary website links you to current family events offered in the city.

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