



CALGARY & REGION FAMILY DAY HOME AGENCY Inc.

May Newsletter 2014

Dates to Remember:

Invoice due date: Thursday, May 22nd, 2014

In-service: Monday, May 26th, 2014. This in-service will be at the office from 7:00-9:00pm. The topic is 'Beautiful Stuff' and is being presented by Janet Steeves from Bow Valley College. This in-service is going to be held in a bit of a different fashion, and we are requesting that you bring some items with you! Please see some information below:

- "I look. I search. I hope to see something that appeals to me. Something unique or maybe not. Buttons, milk caps, straws-the lot. A blue-green shape just caught my eye. I don't think I can pass it by. Whatever it is, it makes me glad. And so I'll put it in my bag." Rita Harris, teacher
- For example: keys, jewellery, beads, buttons, lids, feathers, pebbles, shells, ribbon, yarn, screws, plastic bits and bobs, marker lids, film canisters, tiny wood scraps, pinecones, fabric swatches, interesting paper scraps, wire, corks... be creative but think scavenger and recycler vs. dollar store or consumer
- Bring a clear container of any kind with labels removed (pickle jar, strawberry container, veggie tray)
- Bring a hand mirror or compact mirror, paper and a Sharpie.

Please note: We do not have the appropriate space for children under five years old to attend monthly in-services.

Provider Workshop: There will be no Provider Workshop this month

Please note: The office will be closing at 12:00pm on Thursday May 15th, 2014.



Cinco de Mayo

Monday, May 5th, 2014



What does Cinco de Mayo mean? Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for Fifth of May.

Cinco de Mayo celebrates May 5th, 1862 when Mexico was victorious over the French army forces. Many places celebrate Cinco de Mayo with mariachi music, piñatas, and dancing.

This is a great way to incorporate different cultures in your day home. You can have a variety of musical toys from Mexico, serve food that is traditional to Mexico, or have some piñatas set up in your day home!

From the desk of Susan: Director

In an effort to reduce our environmental footprint and keep costs from increasing we will **no longer be using Canada Post** to provide information. We will be sending all information through email (tax letters are scanned into our system and will be sent to parents through email) and fax. Please ensure that we have your current email information if it has changed since your initial registration.

This month we would like to welcome a few new staff to our team. Wendy Ogden started in April and is helping out in the office as well as training to start Consulting; you may see her out in your home along with your regular Consultant. We would also like to welcome Brianna Naud and Sarah Brophy from MRU who will be joining us through the summer. Brianna will be out in dayhomes helping support Providers with their set-up, routines and documentation. Sarah's focus will be to help Providers with their advertising, interviewing and recruitment of new children.

Our May in-service will be our last in-service before the summer break and then our next in-service will be our annual Provider Appreciation in September. This year is extra special as the agency also celebrates its 30 year anniversary!



From the desk of Louise: Parent Accounts Manager

I think winter is finally over!! Hurray!! I am ready for warm weather and sunshine!

With warm weather, thoughts of summer start to enter our minds. Providers: Will your school age children be coming full time in the summer? Are you changing your fees to cover full time hours? If so, please have all changes signed to me **no later than June 15th**. If you have any questions give me a call.

Also Providers, please check your invoice **EVERY** month in case of discrepancies. Jessica is doing a great job and it is difficult to go back 3-4 months to do corrections. If it involves the government, I cannot guarantee payment on infant incentive and provider support funding.

Have a wonderful May and enjoy the sunshine!

Outdoor Play

It's getting warmer (finally)! Here are some great ideas to get outside and do some gross motor play activities with the children in your day home.



Create an Obstacle Course

This can be as easy, or as complicated as you would like to make it (keeping in mind the developmental stage of the children in your care). You can use many different items that you would have in your home for children to climb on or under such as: tunnels, hula hoops and ropes.

Parachute Games

There are so many great games that you can play with a parachute! Find a great list here: <http://www.playparachutes.com/pagaac.html>



“Hula Hoop Hop”

This is so simple! Have the hula hoops available and let the children create what they want with them! They can jump from each one, or use their imagination for so many other ideas!

Bean Bag Toss

You can use anything you have in the home: paper, baskets, anything to throw the bean bags onto. If you have different colored bean bags, you can even have the same colored baskets and the children can throw the bean bag to the matching basket!



Measles Outbreak in Alberta

Please find some more information, and frequently asked questions on Measles at:
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Advisories/ne-pha-faq-health-workers.pdf>.
Your day home provider is also being provided with the Alberta Health Services
Information Sheet on Measles



Training Sessions / Workshops in the Community

For information on workshops and training sessions held by Alberta Health Services please visit their website at: http://frc.albertahealthservices.ca/course_registration/public_course_list.php

If you are interested in the Reggio Emilia Approach you can request to be added to their mailing and invite list for monthly workshops at www.calgaryreggionetwork.org



Things to do in Calgary

Now that it is getting warmer out, here are some places you can go for field trips!

Calgary Corn Maze: The Calgary Corn Maze & Fun Farm is southern Alberta's #1 destination for farm fun. Open seasonally from July 25 to October 19, we provide the largest array of fun and educational farm filled adventures for families, friends and groups of all ages.

The Calgary Zoo: Spend a day at the zoo! It's a fun and educational experience for the whole family at any time of year.

TELUS Spark: Located beside the zoo. TELUS Spark is a place for people of all ages and abilities to let go and embrace the desire to explore and discover science, technology and art in a way that their normal day-to-day life doesn't allow for.

Butterfield Acres: At Butterfield Acres there is so much to do! Visit with lots of different farm animals....many right in their pens or look through the fence for the bigger ones! Hunt for freshly laid eggs! Can you get the turkeys to gobble back to you? And so much more!

Always ensure field trip forms are completed and signed prior to your field trip

Accreditation Reminder of the Month

Standard 2: Program planning and practices support every child's optimal development in an inclusive early learning and care environment that incorporates the value and importance of play.

Are you completing the interest, needs and abilities sheets for the children in your care? When you complete this sheet, you are making sure that the monthly program planning is being based on the children's interests.

When you complete the monthly web program planning, this includes all areas of development for the children. Only one web program planning needs to be completed each month (all children's interests should be included in one planning).

If you ever have any questions about program planning, or are needing any more planning sheets please contact your consultant!



What Parents are Saying

About: Anna S.

Anna has always been a very caring and loving provider to our little ones. A and V were always enthusiastic to attend Anna's day home.

What Parents are Saying

About: Tasneem K.

Tasneem is a wonderful day home leader. All of the kids in the day home are well behaved, respectful and have tons of fun while learning so many new skills. She teaches them many things throughout the day. They work on numbers, letters, counting and spelling. We completely lucked out when our daughter started in her day home last year. I can't imagine her being in any other home. Her knowledge has excelled at an unbelievable rate and she has developed amazing social skills while having fun! She is wonderful and is loved by all.

What Parents are Saying

About: Seema H.

J has enjoyed his time at your day home and the friends he has made. It has been such a relief that each day we leave him in your care we know that he will be safe and well looked after.

What Parents are Saying

About: Shafia R.

Shafia is adding a great input in my girl's development and I'm amazed how quick she is learning new words in Shafia's day home by interacting with other kids and learning from her. Shafia's day home is like a second house for my kid and sometimes I even have hard time to take her home. They clicked together since first day. This is exactly what I was looking for and Shafia is really nice.

The logo for parentLINKcentre features the word "parent" in a dark blue font, "LINK" in a red font, and "centre" in a dark blue font. The text is underlined and set against a light grey circular background.

YWCA Parent Link Corridor

Backpacks

We have backpacks available for new families. Register in Parent Link Corridor and reserve backpacks for your children. There is a limited supply, please call to reserve one for your child.

FREE Triple P Discussion Groups

Managing Fighting and Aggression: Tuesday May 6th, 2014. 10:00am - 12:00pm
Hassle-free Shopping with Children. Wednesday May 7th, 2014. 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Dealing with Disobedience: Wednesday May 13th, 2014. 10:00am - 12:00pm
Developing Good Bedtime Routines. Wednesday May 14th, 2014. 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Toilet Training: Tuesday May 27th, 2014. 10:00am - 12:00pm

Infant Massage Class

Wednesday May 7th - Wednesday May 21st, 2014. 1:30pm - 2:15pm

A Spring Party

Friday May 2nd, 2014. 10:30am - 12:00pm

Kid Chef

Tuesday May 6th, 2014 and Tuesday May 13th, 2014. 1:00pm - 2:30pm
(Program is suitable for children ages 4 and up)

For more information and to register for these programs call:

(403) 262-0497

**All workshop and trainings held at the YWCA Parent Link Corridor.
320-5th Avenue SE**



Health Canada Recalls:

None this month.

Visit <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/index-eng.php> frequently for more information on recalls affecting you and your family.



Websites to Visit

<http://www.calgaryfamilydayhomes.com/providers.php> Visit our website and fill out our provider survey

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 positive discipline.

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

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