



North Edmonton Family Day Home Agency

Parent E-News December 2024



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2024 Statutory Holidays

Wednesday Dec 25, Christmas Day Thursday Dec 26, Boxing Day
Wednesday January 1, 2025 New Years Day

The agency will be closed on Wednesday Dec. 4 for staff professional development training. The Office will close on Dec 24 & Dec 31 at 12 PM.



As the year comes to a close, we want to extend our warmest wishes to you and your families for a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.



Illness can be a challenge to Parents and Educators. The Government has established policies that take into consideration the wellbeing of all children in care. See your parent handbook for more information. **Educators are not able to care for ill children. If your child is ill they need to be excluded from care. You MAY**

NOT take your ill child to another Educator for back up care. It is at the Educator's discretion when a child is too ill to be in care. If you are called to pick your child up due to illness they need to be picked up immediately. If you cannot pick up your child you will need to make alternate arrangements to have them picked up.

Colleen Wettlaufer
NEFDHA's Day Home Specialist

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The Cold Weather is HERE

Children need to bring appropriate clothing, and foot wear for daily outdoor play. Please discuss with your Educator what she suggests children need to bring to the day home everyday. This may include extra indoor clothing.

*Daily outdoor play is an **essential** part of your educator's program. It is important to note that cold weather does not cause children to become ill. Research shows children who go outside tend to get sick **less often** than those who stay inside.*

The Agency does not have a firm temperature for our cold weather policy. Educators need to consider the age of the children and ensure they are aware of the wind chill. An Educator needs to have a plan for outside with lots of active play so children are not standing around getting cold. Walking often is not active enough to keep warm especially if a child is sitting in a stroller or sled.



Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.

– Vesta M. Kelly

Family Day Home Standards Manual.
Every month we highlight a Standard from the Manual.

Review – Standard 7: Child care program



The family day home program educator plans and implements a daily program of activities that is consistent with the agency's philosophy and is developmentally appropriate for the ages of the children. The program must also be in accordance with the Principles and Matters to be considered by providers of child care found in Sections 1.1 and 1.2 in the *Early Learning and Child Care Act and at the beginning of this Standards Manual.*

The daily program, which includes both indoor and outdoor activities, must be made available to parent(s) and home visitor/consultants who ask to see it.

Children with special needs may require activities and experiences adapted to their needs and abilities. The daily program ensures children's developmental needs are met, including:

- emotional;
- physical;
- intellectual; and
- creative and social.

Family day home program educators may wish to bring the children in their care to the home of another educator so there can be new play experiences for both sets of children. These visits are allowable under the following conditions:

- Visits must be occasional. Visits cannot appear to, or function as, a larger child care program.
- The licensed agency should assess and monitor the situation for any potential risks, and document their assessment process.

A family day home educator may have long-term visitors from out of province or out of the country. Visitors cannot be left unsupervised with family day home children at any time. A criminal record check, including vulnerable sector search, should be completed if it is at all feasible to do so. Parents and the licensed agency should be notified of long-term visitors.

You can view the Current Family Day Home Standards Manual for Alberta at the link below.
<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ae5d6de9-3a2b-4fb5-abd1-7ad4582a709d/resource/fd7124fe-a3bd-4e08-ac4d-05c1147ec386/download/cs-family-day-home-standards-manual-for-alberta-2022-10.pdf>

Indoor Foot Wear

Please provide your child with indoor foot wear, slippers or runners are good choices for inside the day home. Foot wear should be worn in case an emergency evacuation is required. Educators would not be able to stop to put on children's boots on and we want to ensure children's feet are protected if they need to go out in the winter.

Meet Your

Dental Hygienist

Shenna Onas is an Independent Registered Dental Hygienist. She graduated with honors of distinction in 2020. She strongly believes that oral health care should be available to everyone which has led her to offer Onsite Hygiene Care from a fully equipped Dental Van. She is dedicated to delivering exceptional patient care to allow you achieve your oral health goals.

Shenna loves to travel and in her spare time she enjoys playing volleyball and video games. She also has two busy beagles that love to play fetch and run at the park. Shenna and her partner Lester, are soon to be married in September.

Shenna has a huge heart and hopes to support Dental Missions in the future to areas where dental care is hard or impossible to access.



Shenna Gene Onas

587-837-4202
Onsitehygienecare@gmail.com



Having a Dental Hygienist come to you just might be what your family is looking for. Check them out.



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We come to you!

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Serving Edmonton & Surrounding Area



What Children Can't Do . . . Yet ~ By Dan Hodgins

When working with children keep in mind what they are ready for and what they are not; what they can do and what they are unable to do... yet.

I can't share - Children use possession of objects as a device to understand autonomy. Just as babbling comes before talking, so owning comes before sharing. To share fully, a child must first fully possess.

I can't say "I'm sorry," and mean it. - Saying "I'm sorry" has little meaning to the young child. To say "I'm sorry" and understand what you are saying, you must be able to understand how the other person feels.

I can't remember what you told me. - Most children remember only what is important to them. A child may not remember that you just told them to walk, and not run, while indoors. Adults often forget that children have trouble remembering.

I can't focus on more than one task at a time. - "Pick up your toys, put on your shoes, and wash your face; we are going out to play." This command has three more tasks than a young child is able to focus on. Most young children will remember the last task or the task most important to them. With the above command, all the child may focus on is that he or she is going out to play.

I can't understand negative commands. - If a child reaches to put his or her finger in an electric wall outlet and you say "don't", the child is confused because he or she doesn't know how to reverse their action. Saying, "Pull your hand back, that's dangerous" gives the child a positive action to take.

I can't measure. - When you want a child to pour a glass of milk or juice and you hand him or her a full pitcher, expect the child to pour all the milk into the glass, even if it pours all over the floor or table. Young children do not understand that all of the milk will not fit into the glass and so keep pouring until it's too late.

I can't tell you the truth when you set me up. - If you see a child do something inappropriate, and you ask if he or she has done it, the child will probably deny it. Don't ask the child if you know what happened. That only sets him/her up for failure.

I can't sit still for a very long time. - Young children are often told to sit still, while their bodies are telling them to move. When the large muscles in a pre-schooler's arms and legs are growing rapidly, they cry out for exercise. As a result, pre-schoolers feel a need to move about.

I can't play with other children until I'm ready. - Children go through different stages of social interaction. If allowed to grow at their own pace, they will begin to interact with other children when they are ready.

I can't tell the difference between reality and fantasy. - When a child has a bad dream, it is very real to him or her. Telling a child not to be a "baby" does not help. Playing fantasy is real for the child and very important for control and development.

I can't express myself in words very well. - Children resort to physical means of communication because they often don't have the verbal skills to express frustration and other feelings. You can help by giving the child words to use.

I can't wait. - Try not to put children in situations where they have to wait for long periods of time. Waiting often makes taking turns difficult.

I don't understand right and wrong. - Because young children don't understand cause and effect relationships, they can't fully understand right and wrong. A young child does not understand intentional versus unintentional actions, can only see issues from his or her own perspective, and views issues as black and white.

I can't be ready until I'm ready. - Children all grow and develop at different rates. Don't compare children or force them to do things before they are ready.

Breath of Fresh Air Conference – Held in September at the River Cree.



The Caring that Counts Conference was attended by 350 educators of which 78 were from NEFDHA. The conference was held on Truth And Reconciliation weekend. A Big thank you to Director Debi Pagee for chairing the conference again this year. It was an amazing experience.



In October NEFDHA welcomed Lana LaBoucane a Cree Métis Woman who presented an Indigenous Sharing Circle for 14 Educators. Each Educator received a smudge kit. Lana's Sharing Circle is truly insightful & inspirational. We have invited Lana to come back in the February and present another small group session for our Educators. Educators received a smudge kit to take home.



In October NEFDHA sponsored a workshop for Educators presented by PlaySpiration. Educator looked at their current spaces in their home for children and looked at how to optimize the play area and materials within the space.



To celebrate National Child Day on November 20th each day home was asked to create a poster to recognize the day. The theme this year was "This is Me". The agency provided the poster paper and figurines. Educators sent in their creations. I hope you have had the opportunity to see the posters in your day home.



Wishing You a Very Happy New Year!