



North Edmonton Family Day Home Agency

Parent E-News September 2021



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2021 Statutory Holidays

Monday Sept 6 Labour Day Thursday Sept 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
Monday Oct 11 Thanksgiving Thursday Nov 11 Remembrance Day December 27 In lieu of Christmas Day



Orange Shirt Day in Canada is an annual awareness

campaign held on **September 30**.

The main goal of Orange shirt day is to educate people about Residential Schools in Canada and to honour and

remember the experiences and loss of the First Nation, Inuit and Metis

children who were taken from their families and placed in the Indian Residential school system.

“Every Child Matters” The children of the Residential Schools mattered. Their lives mattered. A lot of children never made it home. WE need to honour their lives and keep the conversation going to prevent this type of cultural genocide from ever happening again. We’re still seeing the negative impact and the longstanding effect of the school.

Wear Orange on September 30th

New Statutory Holiday, September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

*The Federal Government, **for the first time**, will observe September 30th, as a statutory holiday to commemorate the horrific legacy of residential schools in Canada.*

The Office and Educators will be observing this statutory holiday and will re-open on October 1, 2021.

*The new stat holiday, **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, is meant to be a day for Canadians to spread awareness of and reflect on the tragedies experienced by Indigenous people as a result of the country's former residential school system.*



DAILY SCREENING

Day homes continue to ask all who enter their home to verify they have completed the Alberta Health Services Daily Health Checklist for COVID and that they are symptom free. The checklist is updated by regularly by AHS. Your Educator should have either emailed or provide a copy for you. Please complete the checklists at home, prior to coming into care. There is one checklist for adults and one for children.

I have attached the link below of the most current Daily Screening Checklist.

- ✓ Complete the Health Screening before leaving home.
- ✓ Wearing a mask is strongly suggested.
- ✓ Maintain two meters or 6 feet from others.

Thank You For Your Support.

Christmas Day ~ Statutory Holiday

Christmas Day a statutory holiday falls on a Saturday this year. Educators are entitled to a day in lieu if the statutory holiday falls on the weekend. The stat will be observed on December 27, in lieu of December 25th. The office will be closed on Dec 27 and Dec 28th 2021.

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You Are Invited to Attend
Building Blocks to Literacy

This workshop will look at the stages children go through before they become readers and writers. Parents and caregivers will be able to identify the stage their child is in and participate in fun hands-on activities with their child.

This workshop is for Educators and Parents

Date: **Saturday October 23**

Time: **10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Location: **Location to be announced**

Presenter: **Kristin Dmytriw with the Centre for Family Literacy**

To Register call the Agency at 780-478-3376

Time Sheet - Signing Changes

Educators and Agencies are required to meet Standards that are found in the *Day Home Standards Manual for Alberta*. In the Standards Manual, *Standard 2*, talks about the Children's information records, it is stated "Daily attendance details including arrival and departure times (parents should initial the child's arrival and departure times as a security measure for the transfer of responsibility between the parent and educator);

When signing the time sheet;

- Parents **sign** the time sheet on the very first day of the month.
- Parents **initial daily** – when child is in care
- Parents sign the time sheet weekly



Many of our Educators participated in a Summer Reading Challenge, making it a huge success!

Children who participated in the challenge will receive a small participation gift.

Educator's First Aid Training



First Aid Re-Certification. On a regular basis the Agency offers Educators the opportunity for educators to recertify if their first aid is going to expire. We are very fortunate that one of our staff members, Tammy Deal, who is a certified First Aid Instructor. Our next recertifying class will be on September 12.



Granparents Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in September, which is September 12th this year.

Honouring grandparents is a way to show the younger generation the strength,

wisdom, knowledge and guidance older people have to offer.

Ideas for Grandparents Day?

Talk with children about why grandparents should be appreciated.

Get together if possible.

Give them a call, or set up a video/face-time meeting.

Send a love note or card. Tell them what you appreciate about them.

Make and take (mail) them a picture or artwork their grandchild created.

Bake them a treat.

Make them dinner / you may need to take it to them if they can't come to you.

If there are no grandparents, celebrate another senior in the child's life.

Cardboard Box Challenge



We saw some wonderful cardboard box creations in August as many homes participated in the Cardboard Box Challenge.

Boxes, when given for play is called a loose part. Materials used for loose parts do not have one way or a specific way to play with them. Using loose parts the child is the creator.

Some benefits of loose part play are it is child led, it helps strengthen a child's independence and sense of self. It helps children to observe, enquire, investigate, construct, deconstruct and engage with others.



"Love is the greatest gift that one generation can leave to another." –

Richard Garnett



This month Educators will be reviewing Standard 10 C from the Family Day Home Standards Manual.
Review - 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 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 symptoms 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.

Educator Profiles

Educator Profiles are updated monthly and contain current information about the family day home:

- Numbers of persons living in the home
- Numbers and ages of children in care.
- Special menu restrictions.
- If the home is a non-smoking/non-vaping.
- Pets in the home.
- Date of the last consultant visit.
- Program history for the past 12 months that includes compliance and non-compliances of standards. Includes remedy dates.
- Noted incidents in the previous 12 months.
- Complaints reported in the previous 12 months.
- Children's Services visits in the last 12 months.

Parents/guardians may request to see their educator's profile.



Helping Ease Separation Anxiety

Here are a few tips to help ease the transition into your day home.

You may also use some of these strategies when transitioning to school.

- Come visit the day home with your child.
- Before coming into care encourage your child to be as independent as possible. For example allow a toddler to feed him. It is also suggested to start the new evening and morning routines of getting ready to come into care prior to starting care.
- For the first care day, have your child come for a few hours so they are familiar with the Educator and others in the day home. Write out your child's daily routine for your Educator.
- Prior to coming into care talk to your child about the new routine. (If age appropriate)
- At the door say good-bye to your child, do not sneak away or stay – Good-Bye and go. Developing a good-bye routine, which may include a hug or a kiss, or waving out the window helps ease the transition but it should be short, it can be a challenge for both the child and you.
- For older children tell your child when you will return, for example, after nap or after snack.
- Have your child bring a familiar cuddle toy, blanket or family photo, anything that will help them feel secure.
- It is important for Educators to be prepared with activities of interest for the child to choose from. Let them know what you child enjoys doing. The Educator will offer reassurance and acknowledge the child's feelings.
- Educators are familiar with the importance of having a consistent daily routine. Your child will soon know what expect in the day home.



More cardboard box



Play Is the Way Your Child Learns

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/play-way-child-learns-nobodys-perfect.html>

- **Children learn when they play.** When she is playing, your child is learning about the world and her place in it. She learns how to do new things. She finds out how to get along with other people. Playing helps show feelings and become more sure of herself.

- **Children need to explore.** Let your child try to do things for himself. He will learn more by doing than by hearing you explain things. Give him time to explore and discover on his own. Make sure his surroundings are safe to explore. Keep him away from danger, both indoor and outside.
- **Limit screen time.** Children learn most when they play actively with other people and with real objects. Your child does not learn as much sitting in front of a screen. This includes activities like watching TV, using a computer, playing with a cell phone and playing video games. These screen-based activities are not recommended for children under 2 years of age.
- **Give your child new experiences.** Stimulate your child's learning by adding new things to play with. Introduce your child to new people and new situations. Make time every day for play both indoors and outdoors. Take your child to parks and playgrounds.

Fun & Easy Activities

Going on a Treasure Hunt

Before taking a walk in your neighborhood, make a list of things that you might find on the way. If your child is very young, three or four things will be enough. For example, you can look for a tree leaf, a white flower, a twig and a grey rock.

If your child is older, make the list longer and more specific. Talk about what is on your list before you go out. Make sure that the things on your list are in season and can be found in your neighborhood.

Take a bag with you when you leave. When you find each object, put it in the bag and check it off your list. When you get home, put your treasures on a tray. Talk to your child about where you found them and what other things you saw on your walk. An older child will be able to tell you a story about your neighborhood treasure hunt.

Exploration Bags

You can play guessing games with your child using a bag and some objects you find around the house. For each game, tell your child to close his eyes or tie a scarf over his eyes. Now he has to use his ears, his nose or his fingers to guess what you put in the bag. Take turns guessing.

- **Listening** - Put things in the bag that you can use to make noise. For example, keys you can jingle, paper you can crumple, a pen you can click. Take each object out of the bag and make a noise. Can he guess what is making the noise?
- **Smelling** - Collect some small bottles, like pill bottles. Put something that smells strongly in each one. If it is liquid, put some on a cotton ball and put it in the bottle. Here are some ideas: peanut butter, banana, vinegar, onions and cinnamon. When your child pulls a bottle out of the bag, open it. Let him smell the bottle without looking. Can he guess what is making the smell?
- **Touching** - Put things in the bag that have different textures. For example: a pot scrubber, a sponge, and tissue paper. Name one of the items in the bag and ask your child to pull it out without looking. Give your child the name for each texture: scratchy, soft, bumpy, stiff. You could also name the texture first. Can your child find something smooth in the bag?