

PARENTS' E-NEWS DECEMBER 2015

NORTH EDMONTON FAMILY DAY HOME AGENCY

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This time of year offers many opportunities to celebrate with family and

friends. We wish all of you a most happy holiday season and the joy of family, the blessing of good health, and the opportunity to participate in a society that welcomes people from all around the world into our cultural mosaic. May your 2016 be filled with love and laughter, food for the table and shelter from the storm.

From the staff of North Edmonton Family Day Home Agency

Debi
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STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day
Friday, January 1, New Year's Day
Monday, February 15, Family Day

Your provider is entitled to these days off with pay. If you will be taking additional days off before or after these holidays, please inform your provider well in advance of your planned holidays as a courtesy to your provider as she will give you prior notice of her absences.

OFFICE CLOSURES

The office will be closed the following times:

Wednesday, December 16 – 9:00 – 4:30
Thursday, December 24 – noon to 4:30
Thursday, December 31 – noon to 4:30



AGENCY NEWS

In October our Consultants attended the provincial conference for Day Home Consultants, A Breath of Fresh Air, in Edmonton. They spent Friday evening and all day Saturday with consultants from all over the province. It was a time to network and to learn. The outstanding events included a key note speaker Ross Watson, the blind mountain climber who spoke about risk, key note speaker Deb DeWaal who spoke about personal safety and a session by Dr. Robin Gibb from University of Alberta Lethbridge on brain development. In the next few months we will be sharing the information on brain development with both our providers and parents through our newsletters. This information is a fascinating look at how our brains grow and adapt throughout our lives and the importance of the first 5 years of life including what happens during pregnancy. In November our providers had the opportunity to recertify their First Aid in a session at our office. Our December workshop was on Professionalism. We take pride in the many training opportunities offered to our providers both in their homes, in our office and in the Edmonton area.

Our providers regularly update their menu plans to be checked by their home consultant to be sure they are meeting your child's daily nutrition requirements. They also make notes about your child's interests and skill/developmental needs to use for programming purposes. In October they did more formal observations of each child; ask your provider about the format she used and how she is using these observations to meet your child's developmental needs and interests.

Seven of our providers opened their homes to Norquest Early Learning and Child Care Program students for field placements. Debi is on the advisory board for the program.

OUTSIDE PLAY

It is our experience that children benefit in many ways by being outside for active play every day; they sleep better, eat better and are healthier and happier. Even a child with a cold benefits from fresh air and sunshine, if your child is too ill to go outside, your child is too ill to be in care. It is the Agency policy that children are outside for a minimum of 20 minutes daily when the temperature is -20° or above. Please be sure your child has boots, snow suit or snow pants and jacket, scarf, toque and mitts daily. Some parents will purchase a second set of boots and snow pants from Value Village or Goodwill to leave at their provider's home rather than dress their child in all their outdoor gear first thing in the morning.

Our January workshop by Laura Armstrong is all about outdoor play and providers will follow up on what they have learned by taking part in a two month outdoor play challenge in January and February to help your child have a happier and healthier winter.



WORKSHOPS

All of our workshops are open to both parents and providers.
To register for these free workshops call 780-478-3376.

Outdoor Play

January 16, 2015

10 to noon

Concordia Lutheran Church – basement
5420 -19 A. Avenue
780-461-8814

Presenter – Laura Armstrong

Laura has worked with children for 15 years in a variety of childcare settings; drawing upon her experience of working with mixed age groups in a play-based accredited Waldorf Day Home she will focus on winter activities outdoors for children of all ages.

How Listening Influences Behaviour

February 27

10 to noon

St. Dominic Savio Parish - basement
14406 – 62 Street

Presenter – Lorraine Sorokin

Lorraine is a registered Speech-Language Pathologist with Alberta Health Services. She presented this workshop at the Caring That Counts Conference 2015 and it was so informative we brought her back to present it for our agency.



IT'S FLU SEASON

Did you know **KIDS UNDER 5** are at a higher risk of serious complications (like pneumonia) from the flu? To prevent getting or spreading the flu:

1. Each year get a flu vaccine for everyone over 6 months.
2. Teach kids to cough into their arms and wash their hands frequently and thoroughly.
3. Keep surfaces clean and disinfected.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

When you signed up with the agency, you provided information we need to have on file to meet the requirements of our contract with the provincial government. Over the years more information has been required. We now need the name of your employer, and your work phone number and address as well as your home address and phone number. We also need this information on parents who are separated but still share custody. You gave us information about who was allowed to pick up your child in an emergency, their name and phone number, as well as anyone else who might pick up your child. We also need information on anyone who is not allowed access to your child. If any of this information has changed since you first signed up with the agency it is important that you notify both the agency and your provider. There have been situations over the years where we need to call your emergency contact to pick up your child and the information is no longer current. If you are separating or divorcing, it is important that current access information is correct and supported by court documents if access is to be denied to a parent. Without proper documentation we cannot deny a parent access.

QUESTIONS

We have recently had questions from parents about two of our policies and practices. The first is regarding changes to their automatic withdrawal from bank accounts for child care. It is impossible for us to make changes to automatic withdrawals in the last 5 working days of the month as the bank's schedule for submitting the information, entered monthly, is that it is sent on the 5th working day from the end of the month to the bank. After that "button" is pushed, no changes can be made until the following month.

The second question is about part-time care and sick or casual days off and statutory holidays. If you use part-time care, you have a contract with your provider to pay for a minimum number of days each month whether you use all of those days of care or not. This enables your provider to know what her income for the month will be. The only time you do not pay the minimum amount is if your provider is unavailable to care for your child due to illness or vacation days or medical appointments. If you plan to take a regularly scheduled day of care off, you will pay for that day. If your child is ill and you give your provider at least 12 hours notice, you MAY be able to reschedule that day of care if your provider is available to care for your child on an alternate day. If your provider is unable to reschedule that day of care, you will still pay for your contracted days of care. If your regularly scheduled day of care falls on a statutory holiday, that is still a day you would pay for which you would pay.