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Families and Educators,

As part of our ongoing support to children and their families and to align with current practice in Alberta, Northalta will be introducing the ASQ -3 (Ages and Stages Questionnaire -3). We will be hosting a workshop in the spring to provide further information on the screening tool. **Save the date – April 23rd.**

The ASQ looks at 5 areas of child development:

1. Communication
2. Gross motor skills (large muscles)
3. Fine motor skills (small muscles)
4. Problem solving (children's thinking)
5. Personal/ social (self help skills)



The exciting part about using this tool is that specific activities and experiences can be planned to support and enhance a child's developmental in all these areas!

For more information on the ASQ please visit <https://agesandstages.com/>

We will continue to use Looksee (formerly Nipissing) Developmental Screening tool, as it is a different style of screening tool.

Northalta looks forward to working together to continue to provide the best environment for your child to grow and thrive.

2020 Approved Holidays for Day Home Closure

The following is a list of day home closures, approved by Northalta. Educators are not required to work on the following days:

New Years Day - January 1st

Family Day - February 17th

Good Friday – April 10th

Victoria Day – May 18th

Canada Day - July 1st

Heritage Day - August 3rd

Labor Day – September 7th

Thanksgiving Day – October 12th

Remembrance Day – November 11th

Christmas Day - December 25th

Boxing Day - December 26th

Day in lieu – Monday, December 28th

Note: When an approved holiday is on a Saturday or Sunday, another day in lieu of the holiday may be taken. Educators and Parents will receive notice regarding the approved Educator day in lieu in the Northalta newsletter.

Enjoy the many unique activities winter offers!
Check out the Northalta Pinterest page for ideas.

<https://www.pinterest.ca/northalta/>



Northalta welcomes Laura A. as our new consultant, to the Northalta team.



Laura is looking forward to meeting Educators, families and children. Educators may recognize Laura from her workshop for Northalta in 2019 and from the Educator Conferences. She has experience in family day homes that will be beneficial to our Educators.



Educator's Birthdays

Ela J. Marion I.
Beth B. Raman B. Belen G.

January 2020



Educator's Anniversaries

Belen G. 10 years
Rosa K. 1 year



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Educator Workshop Time: 6:45p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Location: Ascension Lutheran Church 8405-83 Street – use rear entrance Educator Attendance is required.			1 New Years Day Northalta office closed, approved Educator holiday	2 Parent fees due	3	4
5	6 Parents: Late fee applies to unpaid childcare fees	7 Orthodox Christmas (Julian calendar)	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Orthodox New Year (Julian calendar)	15 Educator payment email sent	16	17	18
19	20 Educator payment email due BY 9:00a.m.	21	22	23 Educator Workshop See below for details	24	25 Chinese New Year
26	27 Family Literacy Day	28	29	30	31	

Upcoming Community Events & Celebrations

January 1st: New Year's Day - January 1 is the first day of a New Year.

January 7th: Orthodox Christmas – Many Orthodox churches in Canada such as the Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian, and Ethiopian celebrate Christmas on January 7th (based on the Gregorian calendar).

January 14th: Orthodox New Year - Celebrations include social gatherings and dinners featuring traditional activities and dishes from counties like Russia or the Ukraine.

January 25th - Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat) – This is a vibrant and festive occasion which often includes street parades, dancing, traditional Chinese costumes, firework displays, food stalls, and arts and crafts. Many Chinese Canadian families spend time together giving gifts, particularly red envelopes with money (Hong Bao, Ang Pao, or Lai See) that are normally given to children.

January 27th: Family Literacy Day® - This initiative was created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and is held annually on January 27. The day raises awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development and improving a child's literacy skills. <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy>



****Educators and Families – Please send pictures of your special Family Literacy Day activity! office@northaltacare.com**

January 23rd: Educator Training – Accreditation and Standards 1 and 2 Checklist Review - Northalta will overview the Accreditation process. We will also review the process of completing the Accreditation Checklist 1 and 2.



ACCREDITATION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CARE SERVICES Alberta Child Care Accreditation Standards – Recognizing excellence in childcare across Alberta

Accreditation – ‘It Naturally Happens’

Northalta is proud to be an Accredited family day home agency.

Accreditation:

- ✓ Promotes excellence in childcare settings and helps families choose the best care for their children.
- ✓ Is based on current research and leading practices focusing on outcomes related to children, families, staff and community.

Northalta Educators and the Agency can demonstrate that they meet the accreditation standards of excellence.

January 23rd – Professional Development Opportunity

Let’s begin the Re-accreditation Process!

Northalta will be formally starting the re-accreditation process in the next few months.

Our re-accreditation site visit will occur a few months before March 01, 2021.

Our formal preparation starts in March 2020. We have started a few months earlier to prepare our Educators. Educators will be using the Standard 1 and 2 Checklist to track and assist them in recognizing the **indicators** they are meeting and consider the indicator to be enhanced. If a standard is not completed, this is an opportunity to create a goal and action plan. Our workshop will:

- ✓ Review the re-accreditation process.
- ✓ Assist Educators in completing the Standard 1 and 2 checklist.



We are excited to see the accomplishments and goals of educators as they reflect on their day home!

Northalta Professional Development Opportunities for 2020.

We will announce the topics as they are confirmed.

- January 23rd
- February 20th
- March 19th
- April 23rd
- May 21st
- June 25th
- July - No training, summer break
- August – No training, summer break
- September 21st (Monday)
- October 16th (Friday)
- November 23rd (Monday)
- December – No training



Sweetest Kulu by Celina Kalluk, acclaimed Inuit throat singer. Illus. by Alexandria Neonakis 32 pages

Wise and enchanting Northern animals welcome little Kulu into the world in this soothing bedtime lullaby.
Item #59R5 Paperback \$8.00



Educators are encouraged to add this book to their library. Educators and Parents can contact Arlene at 780-448-1301 or email arlene@northaltacare.com for order information.

Northalta 2019 Year End Message

Northalta would like to thank the families and Educators we've had the pleasure of working with this past year. It is wonderful to see all the amazing activities the children enjoy in our day homes. Together we've shared experiences and made memories!

We acknowledge the efforts of Educators and families to promote approved childcare. Family's kind words about the high-quality service they receive from Educators and Northalta staff continues to support Northalta's outstanding reputation in childcare.

Northalta recognizes the uniqueness of each family and will continue to work to meet the needs of the Educators, families and community. Through all our efforts, we can help ensure the success of everyone!

Thank you again for a rewarding 2019 and we look forward to the experiences and opportunities 2020 will offer.



On behalf of the Director & Northalta Staff, we wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous New Year!