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### *Educator Appreciation Day! May 7th*



*Child care educators have always been an  
“essential” part of the work force.  
This has been clearly evident this past year.*

*The Educators continue to comply with the guidance and protocols to  
keep their day home open to families and  
support the livelihood of our community.*

*While resources and activities were modified,  
educators adapted their day home and continued to  
offer quality programming to the children.*

*We are pleased the provincial and federal governments  
have recognized the exceptional childcare provided  
by approved family day home Educators.  
We look forward to an exciting future in the child care field.*

*On behalf of Northalta staff,  
We thank the educators for all their  
dedication to the childcare field and  
look forward to continuing to work with you.*

### Educator's Birthdays

\* Jenny L. \*Saima M.  
\* Nicole C.\* Pragna P. \*Biba S.



## May 2021



### Educator's Anniversaries

\* Sahina A. 2 yrs. \*Ruza A.- 3 yrs.  
\*Davorka K. -3 yrs. \*Saba T. -6 yrs.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Parent fees due	6 Late fees applied to unpaid child care	7 <b>Educator Appreciation Day</b>	8
9 <b>Mother's Day</b>	10	11	12 <b>Eid-al-Fitr</b>	13 Educator payment email sent	14	15
16	17 Educator payment email due BY 9:00a.m.	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24 <b>Victoria Day</b> Office closed Approved Educator Holiday  /31	25	26	27	28	29

### Upcoming Events and Celebrations

**May 7<sup>th</sup> – Educator Appreciation Day** is a day of recognition celebrated annually on the Friday before Mother's Day. We all understand the commitment of educators to create a safe, healthy and fun day home for the children.

Show your appreciation to your Educator by:

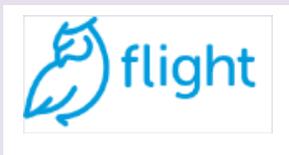
- ❖ sending flowers or a card of appreciation,
- ❖ give your educator a paid day off,
- ❖ purchase something for the day home or
- ❖ provide lunch for the group.

**May 9<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day** is a day to express gratitude towards mothers and mother figures. Mother figures may include grandmothers, step-mothers, mothers-in-law, guardians, foster parents, and family friends. It is a time to thank those women who took the time to care for us.



**May 12<sup>th</sup> - Eid-al-Fitr** is the first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal. It marks the end of Ramadan, which is a month of fasting and prayer. Many Muslims attend communal prayers, listen to a *khutba* (sermon) and give *zakat al-fitr* (charity in the form of food) during Eid al-Fitr

**May 24<sup>th</sup> - Victoria Day** - The Monday before May 25 is Victoria Day, and is a statutory holiday. It is the official birthday of Queen Victoria.



## Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework Learning Stories

"A Learning Story is one approach to documenting children's **dispositions to learn** within daily experiences of care, play, learning, and development. These stories should be shared with:

- ✓ **Children** - These stories should be shared with children, offering them opportunity to revisit their experiences and talk about their own accomplishments in play and learning.
- ✓ **Families** - Learning stories can provide families with documentation of their child's learning for building continuity across early childhood communities, such as when making the transition from child care to formal school."

"In addition, documentation of children's care, play, learning, and development can help us educators to reflect on their curriculum decisions for the design of the playroom environment as well as their interactions with children." (Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette, & Thomas, 2014, p. 62).

### Learning stories ask the Educator to reflect on:

- ✓ **What is the child doing?**
- ✓ **What does the child's actions mean in regard to their interests, disposition and so on?**
- ✓ **What can I, (the educator) offer to further enhance or adapt the activity to support the child interests, disposition and development.**

Stand aside for a while and leave room for learning, observe carefully what children do, and then, if you have understood well, perhaps teaching will be different from before.

Loris Malaguzzi

meetville.com

A story that focuses on their child's words and actions is powerful and meaningful to families. It gives them insight as to what their child is learning, the child's disposition and what they are experiencing on many different developmental levels. It does not need to be a lengthy story however it be a meaningful sharing of the child's experience and the possible next steps for the child's learning to continue.

Different versions of learning stories are done in the day homes already such as:

- The program educator will send a text or email with a picture, to the parent of what has happened and what the child is learning.
- The program educator will prepare a newsletter for the families that shares an experience in the day home of a child and/or all the children.

Northalta is very proud of the program educators enrolled in the Flight, Exploring Early Childhood Curriculum course at MacEwen. We are also proud of the Educators taking the Possibilities for Practice (PFP) Learning Series offered by ARCQE. We are all excited to be a part of the Flight learning experience.

We invite you to read the learning story, *L. Paints* by Heather S. Northalta extends a special thank you to Heather S, and L.'s family for allowing us to share his special experience with Northalta educators and families.. See next page.



## Learning Story

### L. Paints

L., you have always enjoyed painting and exploring it fully with all your senses. In fact, I often remind you that paint is yucky and not to eat it! I have seen you paint with brushes and your fingers, but this day was a new experience for you. Instead of painting in our typical manner with blobs of paint and a large brush, I gave you your very own paint palette and some q-tips to paint with.



I watched as you carefully dipped the q-tip into the blue paint and spread it on your paper. You looked at it for a little bit and then dipped a finger into the orange paint in your palette and looked back and forth between your finger and the q-tip. Then you carefully dipped the q-tip back into the blue paint and began spreading it onto your paper again.

Soon, you were experimenting with the other colors in your palette. You used a q-tip in each hand. I watched as you experimented with the paint in the palette, as you dipped the q-tip from blue paint into the orange. You tried dabbing your q-tips on the paper, the table, and even onto your own arms. You took the time to carefully play and explore the materials that you were given. You seemed amazed at what you were doing!



#### What This Tells Us About L.

L. is a great seeker, he explores his world with all his senses. His wonder and enthusiasm is contagious. His playful exploration of the materials he is presented with shows his playfulness, imagination and creativity.

#### Opportunities & Possibilities

I will ensure that L. isn't rushed to complete his art projects, that he is given the time to fully explore the materials. I will give L. the space he needs to work, without interference from other children's pieces coming into his area. I will offer L. more art materials that he can freely explore, especially smaller materials that he can use to work on his fine motor skills. I will allow L. to observe the other children. He seemed to carefully watch what the other children had done before attempting this paint project and he approached it differently than he typically would have.

## Enjoy Your Yard!

We know the outdoors provides a place for imaginative play, exercise, discovery and much more. When we move indoor activities like a kitchen and reading area outside, we provide the children a completely different learning experience.

### Helpful tips for an outdoor play space:

- ≈ Any size yard can be updated
- ≈ Have an organized space - children know where to find and put away items
- ≈ Encourage messy play – give children the opportunity to create, and discover materials
- ≈ Encourage risky play – teach children to be aware and manage risks. Children take risks from the time they start rolling over, walking and riding a bike.
- ≈ Consider and remove barriers that prevent outdoor experiences.
- ≈ Have extra weather appropriate clothes for the children.

Check out the Northalta Pinterest page for outdoor play ideas and settings.

<https://www.pinterest.at/northalta/boards/>



### **Covid update – Covid-19 Vaccinations:**

We are proud to say, eligible Northalta staff and many program educators have received their 1<sup>st</sup> Covid-19 vaccine. Educators – Please notify the Northalta office when you have received your first vaccine .

Northalta consultants look forward to resuming in home visits soon. We continue to complete our day home visits virtually via Zoom. It is awesome to see the children and educator busy enjoying a variety of activities!

Thank you for your continued attention to the Northalta Covid-19 updates and information.

We know there is a lot of information for everyone to sift through and process.

Please note:

- ✓ Updated - ***GUIDANCE FOR APPROVED FAMILY DAY HOME/GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS (April, 2021)***
- ✓ Unchanged - The Alberta Health Daily Checklist (for children under 18; and adults 18 and older) (February 2021). This is the same document we are currently following.
- ✓ Updated - Northalta Covid -19 Update- self isolation, payment and backup care - April 2021. We have updated the document to include an isolating sibling.

**Thank you again for continuing to advise Northalta of any Covid-19 situation affecting the day home.**