

May 2026 Newsletter

Making a difference in the lives of children and families since 1983!

May 1, 2026

Definition of an Early Childhood Educator

Child Care Educator n. chef, baker, janitor, sock and shoe finder, coat buttoner, bottle washer, grocery shopper, diaper changer, protector, dish washer, nose wiper, vegetable pusher, floor sweeper, waiter, story teller, playground attendant, PE teacher, activity director, driver, zoo keeper, inspector, aerobics instructor, tutor, entertainer, therapist, manager, performer, self-esteem builder, teacher, helper, well wisher, nurse, traffic controller, noise controller, life saver, problem solver, engineer, designer, counselor, safety instructor, arbitrator, creator, inventor, companion, musician, historian, dietitian, athlete, beautician, fire marshall, analyst, artist, scientist, biologist, technologist, accountant, receptionist, environmentalist, hygienist, speech therapist, reader, builder, informer, composer, supervisor, author, peacemaker, friend.

Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

This May, we are taking a moment to celebrate the heartbeat of our community: our Early Childhood Educators (ECEs). On Friday, May 15, 2026, we join the rest of Alberta in recognizing the professional expertise and heartfelt dedication of those who nurture our youngest citizens.

At the Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society, this day is a reflection of our deepest values. Our Educators are the hands and hearts that bring our

mission to life, serving as the "workforce behind the workforce" for families in Innisfail, Penhold, Springbrook, Olds, Three Hills and Red Deer County.

To our incredible team of Educators: We see your passion, your persistence and your professionalism. You are not "just" Educators; you are mentors, healers, and community builders. Because of you, our children are taking flight.

How to participate: This week, we invite families to share a "Thank You" note or a piece of child-made art with their Educator. Your words of appreciation are the best fuel for the vital work they do!



Importance of Early Childhood Educators

The benefits of high-quality ECEs creates a ripple effect that strengthens our entire province such as:

Child Development: With most brain development occurring before age five, our Educators are architects of the future. They design environments that stimulate cognitive growth, ensuring a smoother transition to

school and better long-term literacy and numeracy skills.

Economic Engines: Quality childcare is a primary driver of Alberta's economy. By providing professional, trustworthy care, ECEs enable families to participate fully in the workforce or pursue education, increasing household and provincial stability.

Beyond academics, ECEs nurture a child's natural curiosity. Research shows that children in high-quality programs develop greater independence and a lifelong passion for discovery.

Whether it's exploring greenspaces or engaging in art, our Educators use co-learning and play to foster well-being, social responsibility, and communication.

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION



PERK UP & POP UP!



PENHOLD COMMUNITY HUB



SATURDAY, MAY 23RD 9:30 AM TO 11:00 AM

JOIN US FOR WARM DRINKS & SWEETS UNDER THE GAZEBO TO CELEBRATE OUR AMAZING TEAM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS. WE WILL ALSO BE HONORING EACH OF YOU WITH A SMALL AWARDS CEREMONY.

EDUCATOR TRUNK SALE!

SINCE IT IS ALSO THE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE EVENT IN PENHOLD, WE WILL ALSO BE HOSTING AN EDUCATOR TRUNK SALE IN THE PENHOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL PARKING LOT (SOUTH END).

SELL, SWAP & BUY TOYS FROM FELLOW EDUCATORS!



PLEASE RSVP YES OR NO BY 9:00 AM ON MAY 12TH



INNISFAIL & AREA FAMILY DAY HOME SOCIETY

— Established in 1983 —



Alberta
Approved
Family
Day Homes

Society News

Reminders:

The Office is
Closed
May 18, 2026
For
Victoria Day

Olds Community
Showcase
May 7, 2026
5:00–7:00pm
Ag Event Centre

Happy Work Anniversary to:

Vanessa Ruppert
16 years

&

Donna MacPherson
5 years

*Thank you for making
a difference in the
lives of the children
and families you work
for!*

Advisory Board Meeting

June 8, 2026
at 7:00pm

&

AGM Notice
June 8, 2026
at 7:30pm

*Please RSVP for
the AGM so that
we have enough
seating.*

AECEA's 2026 Essential Pieces Conference

Join AECEA for two days where we will weave together the knowledge that lives in community, the leadership that arises from everyday practice, and the identities that shape who we are as early childhood educators. From frontline stories to research insights, from community teachings to systemic reflections, the conference offers a shared space to imagine a future where early learning and child care (ELCC) in Alberta is rooted in belonging, equity, and strong professional identity.

From thought-provoking keynotes and interactive workshops to inspiring panels and a student showcase, this virtual gathering brings together educators, leaders, and advocates to strengthen our profession.

This year's theme, ***Threads of Belonging: Weaving Identity, Leadership & Community***, invites us to reflect on how belonging is created through relationships, identity, and shared responsibility. Across Alberta and beyond, early childhood educators, leaders, researchers, and community partners are building environments where children, families, and educators feel seen, valued, and connected.

The Early Childhood Educator Workforce Supports Program has approved this conference for up to \$241.50 in Professional Development funding and up to 13.75 hours of release time funding, depending on which ticket you purchase.

aecea.ca/2026-conference

May 22–23, 2026 (online, virtual)

Conference Rates for AECEA Professional Members:

\$94.50 for one day

189.00 for two days

Conference Rates for Non-Members/ AECEA Associate Members:

\$120.75 for one day

\$241.50 for both days

All rates include GST

Become an AECEA professional member before registering to save on your conference fee! Learn more about professional membership [here](#).

If you have any questions, reach out to AECEA at info@aecea.ca.


**Registration will close at 5:00 PM on
May 20, 2026**

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shaw.ca www.ifdhs.com</p> 					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Heday Association 50year Celebration 2pm Olds Showcase 5pm Office Closed 2:30pm	8	9
10 	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Alberta Early Childhood Educator Day</i>	16
17	18 Office Closed <i>Victoria Day</i>	19	20	21	22 AECEA Conference	23 IFDHS Educator Appreciation Event AECEA Conference
24	25	26 Month End Paperwork Due	27	28	29	30
31						



June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 IFDH Society AGM 7:30pm	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 HAPPY Father's DAY <i>Indigenous Peoples Day Summer Solstice</i>	22	23	24	25 Month End Paperwork Due	26	27
28	29	30			<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713-51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shaw.ca www.ifdhs.com</p>  </div>	