

December 2025 Newsletter

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

December 1, 2025

Nominate an Educator Today!

2026 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education is now open for nominations. Nominations must be submitted to the Prime Minister's Awards office by **January 14, 2026**

Nominate early childhood educators for their leadership, exemplary early childhood education practices and commitment to helping build the foundation children need to make the best possible start in life.

Who can nominate?

Any person or group with direct knowledge of the nominee's contribution, such as parents of the children receiving education and care, colleagues, centre's director or supervisor, and community leaders.

Click the Link Below for More Information ->

<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/ised/en/programs-and-initiatives/prime-ministers-awards/how-nominate/early-childhood-educator>

Let's Celebrate! Community Holiday Events

Innisfail

Hometown Christmas
(December 6th) Christmas Market, photos with Santa, wagon rides, etc. Visit Innisfail Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page for more details!

CP Holiday Train
(December 9th at 12:55 PM at the Fas Gas crossing). Live entertainment & more! *Food Bank donations appreciated.*

Springbrook

Christmas Parade
(December 6th starting at 5:00 PM). BBQ to follow at the Skating Rink. Visit Springbrook Community Association Facebook Page for more details!

Olds

CP Holiday Train
(December 9th at 2:30 PM at the 50 Street Railway Crossing). Live

entertainment & more!
Food Bank donations appreciated.

Penhold

Christmas Light Tour, Bingo & Coloring Contest
(November 24th to December 15th). Tour the town for a chance to win! Click here for more details!

<https://townofpenhold.ca/p/community-christmas>

The Magic of Puppets & Storytelling

Beginning in November and December, our programs will have an opportunity to experience puppets and storytelling with Lindsay.

More than just fun, using puppets and crafting stories with young children is a rich, holistic experience that significantly supports development across many domains. It is a beautiful way to see our children flourish as "mighty learners and citizens," perfectly aligning with FLIGHT: Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework.

Puppets offer children a safe and engaging platform to explore complex ideas and emotions.

Emotional & Social Growth:
Puppets can act out feelings (sadness, anger, joy) in a low-stakes way, helping children develop emotional literacy and empathy. When a puppet faces a problem—like having to wait for a turn—children are encouraged to brainstorm solutions, fostering social skills, problem-solving, and communication.

Language & Literacy:
Through dialogue and narrative, children expand their vocabulary, practice active listening, and develop an understanding of story structure. For shy children, speaking through a puppet can build confidence and expressive language skills.

Creativity & Imagination:
Creating and performing a puppet show encourages imaginative play, as children invent characters, settings, and plots, exercising their innate curiosity and creative thinking.





INNISFAIL & AREA FAMILY DAY HOME SOCIETY

— Established in 1983 —



Alberta
Approved
Family
Day Homes

Society News

Reminders:

The Office is
Closed
December 24–26
for Christmas

Office Holiday Hours

December 29–31
8:30am–noon

From the Staff and
Advisory Board
We Wish
Everyone a Safe
and Festive
Holiday Season!



Welcome to:

Jesica Johnson
Rural Penhold

Happy Work Anniversary to:

Rebecca Allen
7 years

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

Multiculturalism and the Holidays — Sparking Curiosity in Programs

It's important to create an environment where all of the children feel welcome and represented. While teaching a multicultural curriculum may not be too challenging most of the year, December brings the holidays, when one or two holidays are usually much more visible than the others.

If done well, an inclusive holiday celebration can help children learn about diversity. Each child and their family will celebrate the holidays differently. Although not everyone who celebrates Christmas associates the holiday with its religious origins, it's important to keep in mind that by

choosing to celebrate only certain holidays, you could be excluding some of the families. In other words, if you'll be celebrating Christmas, make sure to carve out equal time during the year to devote to all holidays of major importance. It's also important to keep in mind that some religions do not celebrate any holidays, such as Jehovah's and Seventh Day Adventists.

When you're exposing children to cultural traditions they may not be familiar with (*and which you may not be either*), it's important to avoid clichés and harmful stereotypes.

Just like no two families who celebrate Christmas are exactly alike, the same goes for those who celebrate non-Christian holidays. So do your research and talk with the families about what and how they celebrate the holiday season.

Holidays that may be Celebrated
between December—January

- ✓ Bodhi Day
- ✓ Las Posadas
- ✓ Kwanzaa
- ✓ Yule / Winter Solstice
- ✓ Dōngzhì Festival
- ✓ Hanukkah
- ✓ Ramadan
- ✓ Hogmanay
- ✓ New Years Eve and Day
- ✓ Isra' and Mi'raj




December 2025



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Educator Games Night & Dinner	6
7	8 Bodhi Day	9	10	11	12 Kanji-no-Hi Day	13
14 Hanukkah	15	16 Las Posadas	17	18	19 Month End 8:30am Paperwork Due if you are Closed Dec 22-31	20
21 Winter Solstice Dongzhi Festival	22 Month End 8:30am Paperwork Due	23	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve	25 Office Closed Christmas Day	26 Office Closed Kwanza Boxing Day	27
28	29 Office Closed at 12pm	30 Office Closed at 12pm	31 Office Closed at 12pm New Years Eve		<div> Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shaw.ca </div> 	

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shaw.ca 				1 Office Closed New Years Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Month End 8:30am Paperwork Due	28	29	30	31