

August 2026 Newsletter

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

August 1, 2026

By intentionally designing experiences around the children's organic, popular interests, we align directly with **SPARK: Culturally Responsive Early Learning** in several key ways:

Relational & Emotional Safety with Chuckie: Our beloved Ankylosaurus puppet, Chuckie, served as the soccer game host, providing a soft, playful bridge into a high-energy environment. For many young children, competition or large group gatherings can feel overwhelming; Chuckie's presence offered an immediate layer of emotional safety, encouraging comfort, connection, and social-emotional regulation as they navigated new challenges.

Fostering Identity, Representation, & Belonging: Creating personal wooden peg-doll replicas allowed each child to explore self-expression and identity. This hands-on art project ensured that every child felt visible, valued, and uniquely represented in our shared play space, anchoring their sense of personal belonging.

Honoring Diverse Capabilities: These spaces of inclusion were intentionally designed to celebrate all children wherever they were at developmentally. From Coach Carson's skill-building zone to a variety of alternative gross motor materials, every child could participate, find success, and challenge themselves at their own pace.

Exploring Global Perspectives: By drawing inspiration from the FIFA World Cup, the children didn't just play soccer—they opened a window to the world. Learning about different teams and countries allowed us to weave global awareness and cultural diversity into their play, expanding their worldview through a shared global passion.

SPARK in the Park and the Chuckie Cup

Our summer of community and play is in full swing! For any of our day home programs that haven't had the chance to join a Puppet Picnic in June, the fun continued throughout July and will go into August! We can't wait to gather in our local greenspaces for more outdoor exploration, storytelling, and laughter.

Alongside our picnics, we recently hosted a spectacular special event: "The Chuckie Cup: Crafts & Kick-Off"! This gathering brought our programs together to celebrate a massive, shared passion among the children—soccer while also connecting aspects of our [SPARK](#) journey.

The morning was beautiful blend of self-expression, gross motor development, and pure joy. The children kicked off the event with a deeply meaningful identity art project, crafting custom wooden peg-doll replicas of themselves. This hands-on experience allowed each child to explore their unique identity and see themselves represented in our shared play space.



Then, it was time for action! The children dove into soccer skill development led by the

fantastic Coach Carson (a U-5 Penhold Piranhas coach). Thanks to a wonderful community partnership, the Penhold Minor Soccer Association generously loaned us soccer balls, nets, and pylons, allowing us to truly enrich this sport interest.

After practicing their skills and exploring various other gross motor materials, the children put their love for the game to the test in a FIFA World Cup-inspired "Chuckie Cup" soccer game, hosted by our beloved Ankylosaurus puppet, Chuckie. The energy was electric, and every young athlete walked away proudly wearing a "gold" medal!

2026 Innisfail Lantern and Light Festival

We're proud to once again be a sponsor for the 5th Annual Innisfail Lantern and Light Festival! The festival features a variety of FREE community events leading up to a magical celebration to light up the night. This year, the main events will take place on August 21st- 22nd at Centennial Park.

This year's activities include a local market, a FREE community BBQ, lantern decorating stations, live entertainment and a grand finale celebration.

Want to get involved early? Visit "Innisfail Lantern Festival" on Facebook to find FREE lantern-making

workshops, or check out their website at innisfaillanternfestival.ca for full details.





INNISFAIL & AREA FAMILY DAY HOME SOCIETY

— Established in 1983 —



Alberta
Approved
Family
Day Homes

Society News

Reminders:

Office Summer Hours:
The agency will be open
on Fridays
8:30am—noon.
Closed at noon.

The Office is Closed
August 3rd



School Age Care

If your child(ren) will be attending Pre-school, Kindergarten, or Grade One in the fall, you need to be thinking about your child care plans. Please speak with your educator about your care needs to determine if you can stay at your current placement or if you will require alternate arrangements.

Happy Work Anniversary to:

Tracy Stang
12 years

Nav Jandu
8 years

Rosemarie McCutcheon
4 years

Charina Pangilinan
1 year



School Age, After School Safety Plan

As we prepare for the new school year, it is important to have conversations with your Kindergarten and School age children, to support them in that successful transition to the classroom.

For some children school also means a change in their afternoon routine, either getting picked up at school by their day home educator or getting on the bus and picked up at the bus stop.

Clear communication with your educator and child about who is going to pick up your child afterschool, is vitally important. This will prevent confusion for all and support safe transitions.

It is also important to teach your child what to do if their regular pick up person is late.

We recommend teaching children that they should immediately go to the school office or report to a staff member. This way the school staff can assist in reaching out to parents/guardians to determine the correct course of action.

If the educator does not arrive at the bus stop for pick up, we recommend teaching children that they should immediately return to the bus and report to the driver that their pick up person is not there, so they can assist in reaching out to parents/guardians.

We want to ensure all children have a safe and successful transition to school this fall, and an after school safety plan is just one small step in ensuring everyone is comfortable and confident in the routine!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS FOR FAMILIES



WALKING AND BIKING SAFETY

- Use designated crosswalks and sidewalks
- Wear visible clothing
- Avoid distractions



DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP ETIQUETTE

- Follow school traffic patterns
- Stay in your vehicle unless instructed otherwise
- Never double-park or block crosswalks



BUS SAFETY BASICS

- Arrive early at the bus stop
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop
- Stay seated and follow bus rules



SCHOOL ZONE AWARENESS

- Slow down
- Avoid phone use while driving
- Watch for crossing guards and student patrols



SAFETY STARTS AT HOME

- Review emergency contacts and procedures
- Talk about bullying and peer pressure
- Check backpacks for weight and fit

August 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 www.ifdhs.com 						1
2	3 Civic Holiday Office Closed	4	5	6	7 Summer Hours Office Open 8:30am—noon Closed at noon	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Summer Hours Office Open 8:30am—noon Closed at noon	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Summer Hours Office Open 8:30am—noon Closed at noon	22 Innisfail Lantern Festival 3-11pm Centennial Park
23	24	25 Penhold Discovery Night 5-7pm Penhold Multiplex	26 Month End Paperwork Due	27	28 Summer Hours Office Open 8:30am—noon Closed at noon	29
30	31					



September 2026

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