

# January 2024 Newsletter

January 1, 2024

Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society

## Family Literacy Day 2024: Let's Have A Family Party!

**What is Family Literacy Day?** Family Literacy Day in Canada occurs annually on January 27th to bring awareness to the importance of reading & engaging in other literacy related activities as a family. Since its inception in 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations & other community groups across the country have participated in this initiative. Taking time each day to simply read with a child is not only beneficial to their development, it can dramatically improve their own literacy skills. This year's Family Literacy Day theme is "Let's Have A Family Party!" to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Check out the image below for ideas how you & your family can celebrate Family Literacy Day!



**Why is literacy important for children?** Books are so much more than a silly story. They're a rich opportunity to develop & enrich early literacy, expand language & imagination! As early as from birth, infants begin to read signals & listen to the voices all around them. By hearing these sounds, they can learn sound patterns & language. Reading to your child no matter their age can have significant benefits such as, strengthening language skills & concentration, supports cognitive development, expands imagination & creativity, creates a special bond & a lifelong love for reading.

**What is Multimodal Literacies?** In early learning environments, Educators often support children by utilizing various modes of communication to reveal & interpret meaning. Multimodal literacies (also referred to as modes) consists of signs, images, sounds, actions, movements, speech & gestures. These modes are represented in the creation of responsive environments & Educators pedagogical documentation.

### Ideas to Celebrate Family Literacy Day 2024: Let's Have A Family Party!

Check out the below link for additional ideas, an activity guide & resources!

[abclifliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/](http://abclifliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/)



**25 Years**  
Family Literacy Day

**Family Literacy Day Honorary Chair, Barbara Reid invites families to Have a family party!**

Barbara Reid is a picture book illustrator and author whose award-winning artwork is created using modelling clay.

**1 Create your own invitations**  
Make invitations to your party. They can all be the same or different. Send them to family and friends a few weeks before the big day.

**2 Decorate your party room**  
Draw pictures of your family's favourite stories, books, and characters. After you colour them, use them as decorations for your party.

**3 Make yummy party food**  
Create a menu filled with fun party foods. Look in cookbooks, online, and talk with family about traditional recipes. Ask family members to help, and make your party foods together.

**4 Sing and dance**  
Make up a song or dance. Make a video while you perform for your party guests and watch it together afterwards.

**5 Dress-up for your party**  
Have fun planning what you'll wear for the party. Will you dress as your favourite story characters or with a certain theme? Have fun and show off your individual styles!

**6 Take pictures in your own photo booth**  
Create a fun photo area. Gather fun and silly accessories to wear. Make party signs for people to hold. Set up your area with a colourful backdrop created by you!

**7 Make a toast**  
Write a toast to celebrate 25 years of Family Literacy Day and taking time to learn as a family. Your toast can talk about what you love most about learning or about the people at your party.

**8 Play fun games**  
Plan fun party games like BINGO, Go Fish, I Spy, Pictionary, or Memory. You could even make up a new game and teach it to everyone.

**9 Eat cake to celebrate**  
Lots of parties have cake. Bake something yummy as a family. Use a favourite family recipe or find a new one in a cookbook or online.

**10 Thank your guests**  
Everyone loves getting fun mail! Write and send a kind thank you note to each of your guests after the party. Share what you liked best, and make plans for the next get-together.

Photo by: Ian Crysler Photographer

Find fun ideas to celebrate at:  
[FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://FamilyLiteracyDay.ca)

#FamilyLiteracyDay  
f i n l i n

ABC  
Life Literacy Canada

## Society News



**Anniversary:**

Jessica Ras  
2 years

Kaileigh Krusi  
1 year

*Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children & families you care for!*

**Advisory Board Meeting  
January 22, 2024  
At the IFDHS Office**

**Up Coming Professional Development Series**

- \* **January 16, 2024**  
Surviving Difficult Conversations with Positive Outcomes
- \* **February 8, 2024**  
Managing Stress
- \* **March 13, 2024**  
Inclusive Practices in the Early Years

## Notice: 2024 Affordability Grant Changes

The Government of Alberta has announced that effective January 1, 2024, the Affordability Grant funding rates for daycare and family day home spaces are capped at maximum amounts and will be reduced where necessary to maintain a minimum parent fee.

A minimum parent fee is the lowest fee an operator/agency can charge parents accessing their program before subsidy is applied. A minimum parent fee of **\$217.50** per month for full-time child care (100+hours) before subsidy and **\$100.00** per month for part-time child care (50-99 hours) before subsidy is applied.

The Affordability Grant is intended to reduce parent fees across the province to an average of \$15/day in 2024/25. The rates were determined using average program fees across the province, per space, per month, based on the type of child care and the age group. Grant rates are based on the age of the child as of the first day of each calendar month and the number of hours the child is registered to attend.

Child care type: Family Day Home	Infant (under 19 months)	Toddler (19 months to under 3 years)	Preschool age (3 years to kindergarten)
<b>Full time 100+ hours per month</b>	Fees reduced by up to \$487 before subsidy	Fees reduced by up to \$452 before subsidy	Fees reduced by up to \$417 before subsidy
<b>Part time 50-99 hours per month</b>	Fees reduced by up to \$175 before subsidy	Fees reduced by up to \$162.50 before subsidy	Fees reduced by up to \$150 before subsidy

Rates are paid to programs based on the age of the child and a minimum parent fee of **\$217.50** per month for children registered to attend 100+ hours per month and **\$100** per month for children registered to attend 50-99 hours per month, before subsidy is applied.

## Literacy Day Event

We are excited to once again join the Innisfail Library and all of the amazing community volunteers for the Annual Family Literacy Day Festival on January 27th!

There will be guest readers, a community art project, karaoke, a photo booth, and virtual reality!



**Join us on  
January 27th**

**Time: 11:00am-3:00pm**

**Theme:** Let's Have a Family Party!

**Where:** Innisfail Library Learning Centre

Come celebrate 25 years of Family Literacy Day and learning together as a family by having a party with us!



Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless – and it's fun when you do it together.



Find fun ideas to celebrate at:

[FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://FamilyLiteracyDay.ca)

#FamilyLiteracyDay



## Communication & Literacies — Excerpt from the Flight Curriculum

The holistic play-based goals of Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework have been adopted from the New Brunswick Curriculum Framework for Early Learning and Child Care.

We use the terms “holistic” and “play-based” to describe the Alberta goals. The word holistic means that we always consider the whole child in our work—intricately entwined in relationships, in play, in learning, and the environment.

Children experience intellectually, socially, and culturally engaging environments where their communicative practices, languages, literacies, and literate identities are valued and supported.

Communication and Literacies expand into three facets:

**Communicative practices, Multimodal literacies, and Literate identities with/in communities.**

This goal helps educators to see the many diverse communication processes that children use to express their ideas, including spoken languages and nonverbal gestures. Multimodal literacies describe the many ways possible to express and represent ideas, thoughts, and feelings and include language, art, music, math, movement, and dance. As well, communication and literacies are deeply embedded in social and

cultural practices, stories, popular culture, media, and digital technology.

### For Reflection Consider

the different spaces needed to communicate with infants, toddlers, and young children at their physical level. Think about soft spaces with blankets where adults and infants can interact with materials and each other using all their senses. Are adults engaged in playful conversations with children during routines such as eating or cleanup times? Think about the use of humour, tone, and tact in everyday conversations, and the ways in which children learn, through modelling and imitation of these aspects of non-verbal

language. Think about extending children's understandings of conventions through modelling rather than correcting. Think about the range of vocabulary you model for children through conversations, books, songs, poems, and chants. Think about the range of languages valued and spoken by your families—how are these valued and made verbal and visible? Recognize that bilingual and multilingual children switch languages and express ideas differently in different languages.

[www.flightframework.ca](http://www.flightframework.ca)



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



# INNISFAIL & AREA FAMILY DAY HOME SOCIETY

— Established in 1983 —



Alberta  
Approved  
Family  
Day Homes

## Keep Me Home If...



**When Your Child is Sick:** 1. Have plans for back up child care.  
2. Tell your caregiver what is wrong with your child, even if your child stays home.

Refer to our Parent Manual if you are unsure or have questions about our illness policy: [fdhs.com/government-information](http://fdhs.com/government-information)

## Celebrating Good Cheer

Our team enjoyed a much deserved evening out together at the Innisfail Dinner Theater this past December!

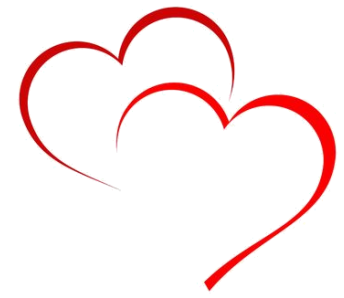


# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>New Years Day</i> <b>Office Closed</b>	2	3 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	11	12	13
14	15	16 <i>Virtual Session with Inspired Minds 6:30pm</i>	17 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	25	26 <b>Month End Paperwork Due by 8:30 am</b>	27
28	29	30	31 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	<div data-bbox="1465 1336 1948 1507" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p><b>Innisfail &amp; Area Family Day Home Society</b>            5713—51 Avenue            Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4            403-227-2767            innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca            www.ifdhs.com</p>  </div>		



# February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 HAPPY Groundhog DAY 	3
4	5	6	7 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	8 <i>Virtual Session with Inspired Minds 6:30pm</i>	9	10
11	12	13	14  <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	15	16	17
18	19 <i>Family Day Office Closed</i>	20	21 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	22	23	24
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