

April 2026 Newsletter

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

April 1, 2026

SPARK

Part Three Highlights:

We opened with a reflection on bias and stereotypes, and how they are integrated into daily life without us always noticing.

Discussions were had on how to support family routines as part of culture.

We reviewed how physical space and materials impact and influence play.

Below are the videos and resources shared with our educator team as part of their reflective journey:

Understanding Reflective Practice: <https://youtu.be/iBmtHoQxoYU?si=LzZsQzQCiaX9nIPo>

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The Danger of a Single Story | TED: <https://youtu.be/D9lhs241zeg?si=7nGqBj1UCWC9cpjS>

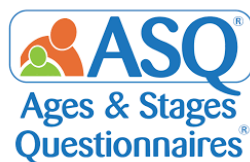
Albert Marshall: Two-Eyed Seeing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fwg2MEsr9WI&t=2455>

Discussing Differences With Children: <https://youtu.be/ppZq1mU5Hs?si=JEOmiv1M6VjulAZW>

Using Children's Books to Help Build Inclusive Classrooms: <https://youtu.be/6Cd5jXf2Lsc?si=eKbJvZpD6dOf9aB>

Celebrating Milestones: ASQ'S Questionnaires

From mid-March through May, we are excited to invite both Educators and families to participate in the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). This opportunity is available for all children registered in our programs who are between the ages of 1 month and 5.5 years old. The ASQ is a wonderful tool designed to help tune into your child's unique development. Rather than just a checklist, we view the ASQ through a strength-based lens, focusing on what makes each child extraordinary.



Why Complete an ASQ?

◆ Highlighting Natural Talents:

It allows us to identify and celebrate the specific skills and "spark" your child is currently showing in their play and daily routines.

◆ Empowering Partnerships:

By sharing observations between home and care, we create a holistic picture of your child's growth, ensuring we are all working together to support their journey.

◆ Early Insights:

It provides a clear, evidence-based way to monitor milestones, ensuring

every child receives the right environment and encouragement to thrive at their own pace.

◆ Tailored Learning:

Information from the ASQ helps educators design experiences that lean into a child's existing interests and strengths, making learning feel natural and FUN!

To request an ASQ, please reach out to your child's Educator or click here to access the ASQ request form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHu3Qlb5HRREpI5_WOEeoGxi5EdjWDRESGyVmVme76yjINEw/

The Week of the Young Child (WOYC)

This year from April 11th to 17th, 2026, is the Week of the Young Child® (WOYC). This year is extra special as it marks the 55th anniversary of this joyful week and falls during NAEYC's 100th-anniversary celebration. It is a time for us to shine a spotlight on the importance

of early learning and the incredible educators, families, and community members who support our youngest learners. The Week of the Young Child is more than just fun activities. It is a commitment to strength-based learning, where we focus on the

unique talents and abilities of every child. By providing high-quality early experiences, we build a foundation that lasts a lifetime.

Learn more at: <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc>



INNISFAIL & AREA FAMILY DAY HOME SOCIETY

— Established in 1983 —



Alberta
Approved
Family
Day Homes

Society News

Our office will be closed
April 3rd and 6th for
Easter

Happy Easter and a Joyful April Fool's Day!!

Did you know Earth Day
is on April 22nd?

Consider joining the
1000 Hours Outside
Challenge:
www.1000hoursoutside.com

In Person Educator Training Series:

April
RDP Changemakers in
ECE

May
Educator Appreciation
Event
&
Trunk Sale

June
Speech and Language
Pathologist

Notice:

New Educator
Agreements have been
prepared and will go out
on the home visits for
signatures.

Congratulations!

Four homes were visited
by licensing this spring,
along with the agency
and staff review. We are
pleased to report that
we have received **NO** non
compliances.

www.humanservices.alberta.ca/oldfusion/childcarelookup.cfm

Changes to Educator Professional Development Funding

The Government of Alberta released information about upcoming changes to professional development (PD) and release time funding for early childhood educators under a new program called the Early Childhood Educator Workforce Supports Program, which will take effect on April 1, 2026. Educators received this information on March 13, 2026.

The updated program focuses professional development and release time funding on training that strengthens pedagogical practice aligned with Flight: Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework, supports educators in advancing certification levels, and builds leadership capacity across the sector.

The government has indicated that the overall funding available per

educator remains the same, with up to \$4,387.50 per educator per fiscal year available across professional development and release time funding.

Several changes have been introduced to eligibility, approval criteria, and how funding requests are submitted, including:

- a new requirement that educators must have 720 hours of eligible work in licensed child care in Alberta within the past two years to access funding release time funding for employers is being discontinued
- workshops and conferences needing to appear on an approved list to be eligible for funding
- new timelines requiring funding requests to be submitted after

training is completed, with proof of payment and completion.

The approved list of workshops and conferences released on Friday will apply from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, and no additional offerings will be added during that period. Only workshops and conferences included on this list will be eligible for professional development and release time funding during the 2026/27 fiscal year.

A **DRAFT** list can be found here:

https://aecea.ca/sites/default/files/Approved%20List%20of%20Workshops%20and%20Conferences_draft.pdf

Early Childhood Educator Event

CHANGEMAKERS IN ECE: Building leadership and advocacy for our future



**Keynote address by
Don Giesbrecht of the
Canadian Child Care Federation
(CCCF)**
& a panel discussion featuring
representatives from a variety of
early learning sectors including
**AECEA, AFCCA, SACDA, CAFDHA
and Alberta Leader's Caucus**

SATURDAY APRIL 18TH 1:00-4:00



Use QR Code to Register or
email: education@rdpolytech.ca

**Bring your questions
and join us
in conversation!**




**Red Deer
Polytechnic**

School of Arts
and Education

April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Office Closed Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday	6 Office Closed Easter Monday	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 RDP Changemakers in ECE: Building Leadership & Advocacy for our Future 1-4pm
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27 Month End Paperwork Due by 8:30 am	28	29	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shaw.ca</p>  </div>	

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	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					<i>Alberta Early Childhood Educator Day</i>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Office Closed <i>Victoria Day</i>					Educator Appreciation Event
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Month End Paperwork Due				
31						