Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society

# November 2026 Newsletter

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

November 1, 2026

### National Child Day 2026 Theme

*Every young person deserves a safe place to belong*

Every young person deserves to feel safe, accepted and respected at home, at school and throughout their community. Belonging grows when young people can be themselves, have a say in decisions that affect them and rely on trusted people for support.

This National Child Day, families, schools and organizations across Alberta are invited to ask and reflect upon the question: ***How does our space help children and young people feel safe and that they belong?***

As partners in the Access, Support and Participation (ASaP) program, we are committed to creating high-quality, inclusive environments where all children feel a sense of belonging .




## November 20th is National Child Day

As November approaches, families and communities have a wonderful opportunity to pause and celebrate National Child Day, observed annually on November 20th.

This special day commemorates the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child (1959) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). It serves as a powerful reminder that every child deserves to be heard, valued, protected, and given the best possible start in life.

National Child Day is more than just a date on the calendar—it is a celebration of children as active participants in our families, communities, and society. It reminds us to champion children's rights to health, education, safety, and expression. By celebrating this day, we honor each child's unique potential and reaffirm our collective commitment to supporting their physical, emotional, and social well-being.

A child's right to development and education comes to life most vividly within quality early learning environments. High-quality child care are not just places of supervision; they are vibrant communities designed to foster a child's innate curiosity, confidence, and resilience.

You don't need a grand celebration to honor National Child Day at home. Simple, meaningful actions can make a lasting impact:

**Listen and Learn:** Take time to ask your child about their thoughts, dreams, and feelings—and truly listen to what they have to say.

**Play Together:** Dedicate uninterrupted time to follow your child's lead in play, showing them that their interests matter.

## 2026 Readers Choice Awards

We are beyond thrilled to announce that we have been voted GOLD again for Best Daycare/Dayhome in the 2026 Readers' Choice Awards! (Innisfail/ Bowden Zone).

This is an incredible recognition & we want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone in our wonderful community who took the time to vote for us!

Our success would not be possible without the heart & soul of our agency- our dedicated Day Home Educators. Thank you for opening your homes, hearts & minds to the children in our communities.
We look forward to continuing to provide top-quality care & early learning for years to come!



INNISFAIL & AREA
FAMILY
DAY HOME
SOCIETY
— Established in 1983 —

Alberta Approved Family Day Homes

# Society News

## Reminders:

The Office is Closed November 11th for Remembrance Day

## Save the Date

Educator Holiday Celebration
"Merry Mash-Up"
December 4th
at 7pm

**Happy Work Anniversary to:**

Amanda McColl
*4yrs*

*Crystal Heck*
*9yrs*

*Marilou Manangan*
*4yrs*

*Amanda Di Castri*
*11yrs*

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

**Educator Professional Development Sessions**

**Topic:** Creating Spaces Where Everyone Belongs

gritprogram-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/bs4GGPE-Rhao8erlTm9MGQ

**Date:** Nov 19, 2026
**Time:** 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Join us to discuss and reflect on the importance of creating Behaviour Expectations that support children's participation and intentional strategies to support the inclusion of all children.

**Agency COP to follow on** November 26, 2026

# Celebrating One Year With Chuckie & the Puppets!

What an incredible year it has been! Over the past 12 months , the children have developed a deep love for Chuckie, our cherished dinosaur puppet. Chuckie has become far more than a puppet- he has become a gentle mentor, a joyful playmate, and a powerful catalyst for learning, growth, and connection across all of our day home programs.

Looking back on Chuckie's 1st year, he has offered not only puppet picnics and the "Chuckie Cup", he has also nurtured and modelled developmental experiences including:

**Social-Emotional Learning:** Chuckie has helped our children navigate big feelings by modeling daily positive affirmations and teaching essential self-regulation strategies. Together, the children learned deep-breathing techniques alongside Chuckie. His interactive story times- like reading *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*—reminded us all to keep walking along and singing our song, no matter what bumps come our way!

**Fine Motor Development:** got a prehistoric upgrade when Chuckie's friend, Dill the T-Rex, joined the fun! Dill introduced a hands-on, interactive activity where children used a variety of pinching instruments (tongs and tweezers) to rescue and collect "dinosaur eggs." This playful challenge gave everyone's small hand muscles and coordination a fantastic workout.

**Music and Movement:** Chuckie brought out everyone's inner rockstar when he put on a special puppet concert! Through interactive music and movement, Chuckie demonstrated the immense joy and developmental benefits of singing songs together featuring songs from Denise Gagne.

**Exploring Spatial Concepts and Prepositions:** Learning positional language became a delightful game as Chuckie introduced prepositions of direction through the classic book *Inside, Outside, Upside Down*. Whether looking under, over, around, or inside, the children loved practicing location words right alongside their puppet friends.

**Co-Created Children's Storybooks:** One of the sweetest highlights of the year was authoring custom storybooks built entirely on the wonderful imaginations of the children in our program. Together, we wove their ideas, giggles, and creative twists into interactive tales, including the absolute fan-favorite: *"Chuckie & the Case of the Missing Cookies!"*

Chuckie has brought so much magic, laughter, and meaningful learning into our early learning environments. Thank you to all of our educators, families, and children for embracing Chuckie with open hearts. We can't wait to see what adventures, stories, and growth Year 2 will bring!






# November 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11<br><br>**Office Closed**<br><br>**Remembrance Day** | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19<br><br>Educator Training Night<br>*"Creating Spaces Where Everyone Belongs"*<br>6:30 – 7:30 pm Online | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25<br><br>**Month End Paperwork Due** | 26<br><br>Educator Community of Practice with ASaP<br>7 – 8:30 pm Online | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

**Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society**
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**403-227-2767**
**innisfaifdh@shaw.ca**
**www.ifdhs.com**



# December 2026



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4<br><br>Educator Games Night & Desserts | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8<br><br>Bodhi Day | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14<br><br>**Office Closed 1-3pm**<br><br>**CPKC Holiday Train** | 15 | 16<br><br>Las Posadas | 17 | 18<br><br>**Month End 8:30am Paperwork Due if you are Closed Dec 21-31** | 19 |
| 20 | 21<br><br>Winter Solstice | 22 | 23<br><br>**Month End 8:30am Paperwork Due** | 24<br><br>**Office Closed**<br><br>Christmas Eve | 25<br><br>**Office Closed**<br><br>Christmas Day | 26<br><br>Kwanza<br>Boxing Day |
| 27 | 28<br><br>**Office Closed** | 29 | 30 | 31<br><br>**Office Closed at 12pm**<br><br>New Years Eve | | |

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