



**Southgate Medallion  
Family Day Homes**

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*for the Parents*

**Surveying the Agency**



Thanks for the ratings and the comments you gave us on the Parent Survey that was distributed in February this year. Seventy surveys were completed and sent back. The responses were varied but overall positive. On the item "I have a positive working relationship with my provider," 94% of those surveyed said Always. On the other hand only 50% noted that the daily menu is posted or available to parents. Of course there is always room for improvement and the agency goals and work plan is on track to do just that—improve!

Many comments were positive—"We love our provider," "Karen is very professional," "Very happy with everything," and many more. Thank you for this confirmation that children are happy, healthy, and engaged and families feel supported in their roles.

Other comments were specific to a particular issue such as naps, menus and potty training. The survey did not require the respondents to add their names to the survey so specific concerns cannot be addressed via the survey. Any parent with a concern is invited and encouraged to speak with their consultant.

Two other questions were asked on the survey. The first one was on how you would like to receive the parent newsletter and the second was on methods of making payments. For your information we are very close to having Direct Withdrawal available for any parents who would prefer this method of payment. Having parent newsletters sent via email is still "in the works". Further details on both of these matters will follow.

**Announcements  
and Upcoming  
Events**

**Holiday Reminder**

Labour Day

Monday, September  
6th

Thanksgiving Day  
Monday, October  
11th

*SMFDH office is  
closed on all holidays.*



**Interactive**

**Newsletter**

Parental input to the newsletter is welcome. Please send your information, questions, comments, topic ideas, workshop ideas and day home stories to:

jcyre@southgatemedallion.com

**2010 Alberta Early Years Conference**

Will be hosting a Parent Evening featuring:

**Barry MacDonald**

Barry is the founder of [www.mentoringboys.com](http://www.mentoringboys.com) and best-selling author of *Boy Smarts*. He is an educator and counsellor with acclaim for building strong learning communities. A sought-after speaker, Barry has presented to thousands and was featured by *The Vancouver Sun* as one of the 25 Influential People to Watch for his innovative work.

Culture influences the ways in which boys perceive literacy. Often, there are few desirable gender role models for boys to emulate. For generations boys have been urged toward independence, toughness, and competitiveness; cultural messages today may equate being disrespectful with being cool.

Sunday, October 3rd, 2010 from 6:00– 8:30 p.m.

Marriott at River Cree Resort

**Pre-register online for Parent Evening at [www.albertaearyyears.ca](http://www.albertaearyyears.ca)**

**Fee: \$10.00 per person**

# Southgate Medallion Tribute

## Enhancing Play

### Guide and Enhance Your Child's Play by:

**Provide materials for unstructured play:** Put out collections of objects like cards or shells children can arrange, sort by size, color or shape, count or tell stories about. Set out open-ended craft materials like crayons and blank paper, or sand and water. Allow your child to move items from one area of play to another, such as using a doll in the blocks area.

**Promote dramatic play:** Create areas with props that encourage imagination. Supply play food, dress-up clothes, and household items to explore. Set up a restaurant, hospital, house area, or office.

**Include outdoor play:** Include daily physical outdoor play and allow experimentation with natural materials such as dirt, sticks, stones, leaves, water, and sand.

**Respond to play:** Build vocabulary by providing new words and talk about what the child is doing. "That's interesting. You have lined up the animals from tiny to gigantic."

**Enhance play:** If a parent observes a child pretending to drive a car, the parent can encourage imagination by asking, "Where are you going?" "What do you see along the way?"

**Guide Play:** Add props for the child above such as a box for the car, a lid for a steering wheel, make paper plate wheels for the car, draw lights, cut a door opening. Cut pictures of travel destinations out of the newspaper and post along with a map. Add a camera, cell phone, suitcase, passport, and another box attached to be a trailer. If this leads to a camping trip, provide more props!

**Source:** Jean Tepperman for Children's Advocate Magazine

## WORKSHOP: PARENTING CHALLENGING CHILDREN

November 5 & 6 ( 2 day course)

\$100.00 individual or 165.00 per couple

Explore communication techniques, self-esteem, behaviour management, anger, coping skills. Learn how to advocate for your child and build positive relationships with your child's school.

**Offered by:** The Family Centre [www.the-family-centre.com](http://www.the-family-centre.com)

#20,9912—106 Street, Edmonton

780-917-8205 to register

**As children play in their early years, they are:**

- ◆ Learning to build, and pretend
- ◆ Developing an understanding of who they are
- ◆ Making exciting discoveries about their world
- ◆ Building their vocabulary
- ◆ Strengthening their relationships with others
- ◆ Learning and having fun!

## Free Play

**Resist the urge to always clean up before meals and bedtime.** The children have put much effort into their project. If they are really involved in their play, allow toys to be left out so they can resume play later. The children can become very discouraged when they are not able to finish a project or have to start over again.

**Allow children to move toys to other areas of the room.** If they are busy in the kitchen area making a meal, allow them to take the play food to the block area to serve their meal. They may also want to take the blocks to the kitchen area to make a barbecue. Limiting where they play can limit their imagination.

**Resist the urge to help when your child is struggling.** Unless the child is clearly getting upset, let them use their problem solving skills. Ask questions instead: What would happen if you turned that puzzle piece around? Would a different shaped block fit better?

**Resist the urge to correct children.** If they put an eye on a snowman's stomach instead of its head, so be it. Let the child determine how much glitter to use. Experimenting without too many restrictions helps them learn.

**Observe and ask your child what interests them.** You may be surprised at what you can learn from them.