

Southgate Medallion Tribute

Welcome to September newsletter for our Educators.

September 2020
Volume 40, Issue 8



Message from Board

During Vision 2020, it was announced that the agency would be increasing fees.

As we all know these are difficult and uncertain times. Due to these circumstances we as an agency do not feel it would be the appropriate time to be increasing fees. However, as an Educator you have the option to increase your own fees.

Please contact your consultant if you have any questions.

Contest—Documentation

The agency is hosting a documentation panel contest. Create your own unique documentation. Take pictures and share with your consultant. Please choose one of the below criteria for your documentation.

- ◆ Photo documentation
- ◆ Documentation panels
 - ◆ Learning stories

Please send only 2 –3 pictures of your documentation to your consultant by Oct 18, 2020.

Your documentation should include:

- * Dispositions
- * Children's learning
- * Description of the pictures
 - * Photos

Reminder of the Attendance Records– Email

Please email your completed attendance records to your consultant once the last child has left on

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Please ensure **all information is complete, accurate, and clear.**
Late/incomplete fees will apply.

CORE TRAINING

Program planning	Sept 16
Ethics, professionalism, interviews & portfolio	Sept 23
9425 76ave NW T6C 0J8	

Office Closure

September 7th
2020

Labour Day

Please click and Follow our Social Media:



Please Click for more information about Flight Framework

Reminders

- ⇒ Ensure the information update sheets and school information sheets completed by the parents and have these completed forms ready for your consultant to pick up.
- ⇒ Email your consultants your menu.

Diane's corner

I would like to inform our Educators about the following changes that are taking place at the Agency.

Wage Top-Up

Starting April 1, 2020 – if a “new” Educator does not have a Level 1, then the Educator will not qualify for the Government of Alberta Top-up Wage. Educators that have been registered with the Agency prior to March 31, 2020 will be grandfathered in to continue to receive the wage top up.

Family Child Care Training Program (FCCT)

The Agency believes it is very important to have educated providers operating quality family day homes.

Therefore, the following will be implemented concerning the completion of FCCT program:

If you are a **new Educator**, you will be required to complete the FCCT program within **one** year of signing your day home provider contract. Please note, that you will not qualify for the wage top up until the training program is complete and you have submitted verification to Children's Services for assessment.

If you are a **current Educator**, you will be required to complete the FCCT program by DECEMBER 31, 2020. Failure to complete the FCCT program by the deadline, will result in a review of your family day home contract.

If you have a concern regarding this change, please contact your Consultant for more information.

I hope you and your family is staying healthy and safe during this COVID time. If you require any assistance, please feel free to contact me diane@sgmfdm.com.

Sickness Reporting/Tracking

If the child went home or is staying home due to fever, diarrhea, vomiting, pink eye etc. it must be reported to the Agency.

Record the illness on the Illness Tracking Form. Please email or call your Consultant to report the sickness.

If you have any questions please contact your Consultant.

All Illness Tracking Forms and Temperature Tracking forms are to be sent with your Timesheet on the last day of the month.

Procedures for OSC children

As Fall is fast approaching, the Agency would like to update the Educators on the procedures for the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative that we continue our vigilance on preventing the virus from spreading into the day homes.

The Agency takes guidance in implementing safety protocols from Alberta Health Services and Children's Services.

School Age Children returning to School

The Agency has developed a flow chart for school age children entering schools this upcoming year (Please contact your consultant if you have not received a flowchart).

Communication with your parents of school age children is extremely important during this time. Please ensure any changes or issues that are discussed with the parents is communicated to your Consultant in a timely manner.

Procedures for the day home:

- Continue with the screening questionnaire before families enter the day home. A revised screening questionnaire is attached.
- Sanitize children's hands before entering the day home.
- Leave school bags in individual bins in a separate area (if possible).

Families that travel

Within Canada – families returning from holidays within Canada, do not have to self-isolate unless COVID symptoms are present. The day home can remain open.

Outside Canada - families returning from a holiday outside of Canada, MUST self-isolate for 14 days and the day home will be closed during this time. Please monitor the websites where flights have been identified with COVID cases.

Procedures on traveling domestically and internationally will be monitored by Agency on the Government of Canada website.

The Agency will closely monitor Edmonton Public and Catholic school websites for any important information on protocols for COVID-19. We will ensure that Parents receive any pertinent information in a timely manner.

This COVID response will be updated on a regular basis. Please contact your Consultant if you have any questions or concerns.

Personalized Learning Network

Developing a community of practice as an Early Childhood Educator

Now, more so than ever, the modern approach to networking with a group of professionals is taking on the form of a distant, remote, technology-led model. Currently the restraints brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic has reduced our opportunities to network face-to-face at workshops, conferences, and other places of professional development. Due to the solitary nature of the role of day home educator you are already limited in the amount of daily, or weekly professional interactions you are exposed to. A PLN (personal learning network) is an invaluable professional tool that you can consider using to broaden your horizons, get support and engage in reflective practice that is so important as an educator.

What is a PLN?

A personal learning network or PLN is a network that comprises of colleagues, mentors, and professionals. Some PLN's are global in their membership, other PLN's are local community networks (Trach 2017).

Some of you may already be a part of a PLN without knowing it! If you are part of a WhatsApp group with other day home educators, maybe a Face Book page devoted to issues in Early Childhood such as Fairy Dust Teaching or Let the Children Play or a member of local day home Face Book pages, then you are part of a community of practice whose aim is to share resources, ideas and best practice.

What are some of the benefits of being a part of a PLN?

Many education professionals feel that there are a great many advantages to being part of a community of practice. Here are some of the possible benefits you can access from being part of a PLN:

- They promote open collaboration

- They provide an opportunity to share ideas, resources, and practice

- Within a PLN you can be both a mentor and a peer

- PLN's can be global-wide, therefore offering a multicultural perspective on Early Childhood

- They are easy to access via Face Book, Twitter, Pinterest, blogs, and YouTube.

- By surrounding yourself with positive people who are supportive and energetic, your own sense of professionalism can flourish and be affected positively (Mancinelli 2020)

How to form your own PLN

If you have ever felt drawn to taking on a mentorship role then a gentle way to ease into this would be to form your own PLN. It is not as hard or intimidating as you might think.

- Open a Twitter account, Face Book account or other account on social media

- Blog your own ideas, reflections, and perspectives – personal insights and perspectives are a great way to not only share with other, but also reflect on aspects that resonate with you

- Create your own social media group (Face Book, Pinterest, LinkedIn are some of the platforms you could use)

Reflective Questions

Reflective practice is an important part of your role as an effective, progressive practitioner. Consider answering the following questions related to PLN's:

What has surprised or challenged you, having read about PLN's? Are you a part of a PLN? If so, list how many groups you would consider to be a PLN. What have you learnt from being a part of a PLN?

Have your PLN's always felt positive and uplifting, or are some of your PLN groups focused on gossip, negativity, and unprofessionalism? What would you change about any of your PLN's? Consider your interests in the field...

If you were to create your own PLN, how would you do it and what would the focus be?

References

Mancinelli, D. (2020) Using Social Media to Build a Personal Learning Network, accessed 10/8/2020 <https://www.edutopia.org/article/using-social-media-build-personal-learning-network>

Trach, E. (2017) Personal Learning Network (PLN) Benefits, Tools, and Tactics, accessed 10/8/2020 <https://www.schoology.com/blog/personal-learning-network-pln-benefits-tools-and-tactics>

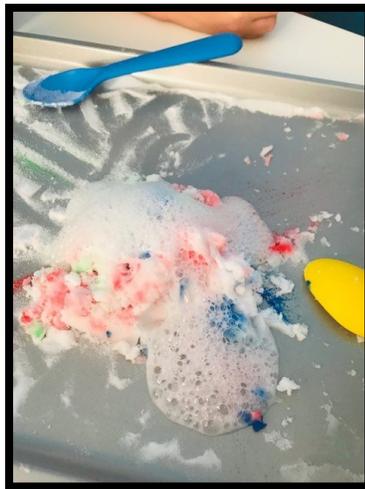
Your Best Practices



Nirmala provided children with a provocation of painting flowers. Children were given the opportunity to use their imagination and creativity to create their own flowers.



Generosa provided children with opportunities to experiment with baking soda and vinegar.



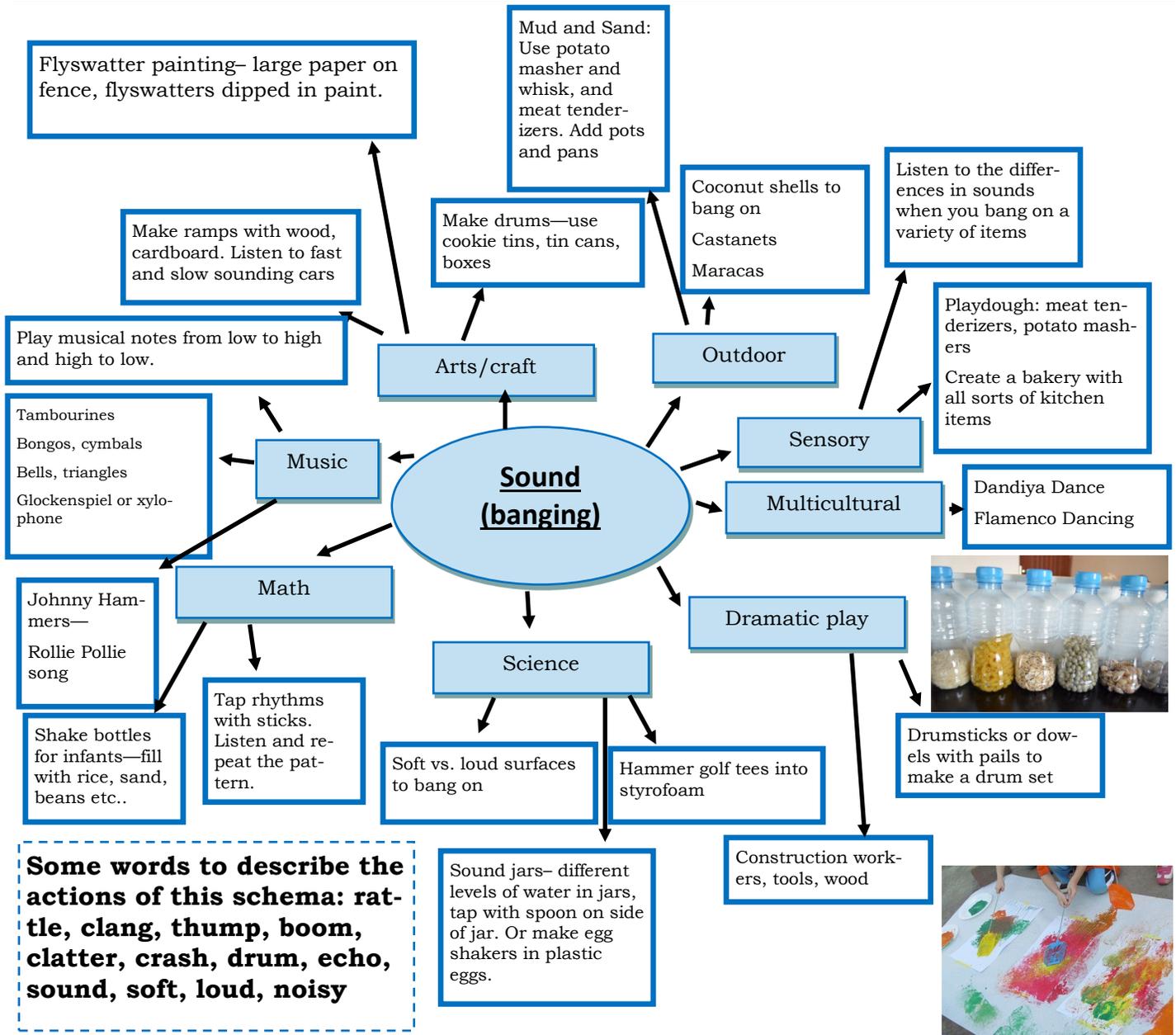
Generosa did an experiment with children with skittles. Experiments teach children to explore, learn concepts, use their senses, be curious and use their observation skills.



Note: All Educators are welcome to submit children's experiences in the day home. Please include a written description. Thank you

Flow Chart

Include children's interests on your flowchart: A child lined up the shoes at the door by putting them from smallest to largest.



BOOKS:

- Crash! Bang! Boom! by Peter Spier
- Noisy Nora by Rosemary Wells

- Too Much Noise by Ann McGovern
- Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
- Mortimer by Robert Munsch

References:

- Pinterest.com
- Loose Parts 2: Inspiring Play with Infants and Toddlers
- Epl.ca