# Southgate Medallion Tribute
## *Parents Edition*

Southgate Medallion Family Day Homes
Excellence in Child Care & Early Learning

Alberta Approved Family Day Homes

## Welcome

Welcome to the May/June 2020 edition of the Southgate Medallion Family Day Home Agency Parent Newsletter.

Spring is finally on its way, which is hopefully enabling you and your family to enjoy fresh air and the outdoors.

With this in mind, our focus of this newsletter is on outdoor play. We have a wonderful article on page 6 on how to have fun in the yard with your child, which includes ideas of what you can do using simple materials and resources that are readily available in your home.

**Upcoming Holiday**

Victoria Day
Monday May 18th 2020

## Survey Results

Thank you to all parents who completed the agency survey. We appreciate your feedback. You will find a breakdown of the results on pages 4 and 5.

*Please contact your consultant if you have any questions or concerns.*

## Day Home Educator Appreciation Month

May is Day Home Educator Appreciation Month.

We know that you appreciate all that your educator does for your child and for you. This month is a great opportunity for you to consider showing them your appreciation.

Some suggestions of how you can show your appreciation are:

* bringing them their favourite beverage at morning drop-off
* encouraging your child to create a piece of art work for them
* donating a toy, book or your time
* cup cakes, cookies or other home made treats
* A thank you card
* A simple thank you goes a long way to making a person feel that they are appreciated too

## Two Important Reminders

◊ It is important that you inform your educator if you, your child or anyone you have been in recent contact with is sick. We ask that you do not send your child to the day home if they or anyone they are living with are showing any of the following symptoms: **fever, sore throat, dry cough, runny nose & lethargy**

◊ Please be proactive in ensuring that your subsidy is up to date, even if you are not currently sending your child to the day home. If subsidy is not in place when your child returns, you will be charged the full fee. The agency cannot make applications for you.

# Diane's Corner

It has been over a month since the lockdown was issued by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Deena Hinshaw. I hope everyone is keeping safe and healthy. These are very challenging times and we need to stay strong . On a positive note, May is a special month for two reasons:

**Mother's Day**

On behalf of the Agency and myself, I would like to wish all the families a very

**Happy Mother's Day (Sunday May 10th).**

Take some time to pamper yourself. You deserve it. You are greatly appreciated.

**Educator's Appreciation Month**

Let's celebrate our day homes with a huge **"THANK YOU"** to all of the Educators of Southgate Medallion Family Day Homes. The love and care they provide to the children and families is outstanding. Their contributions and dedication to the child care field is greatly appreciated. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If you require any information, please feel free to contact me at diane@sgmfdh.com or call 780.438.4012 ext. 102

## Standard 4 C: Outdoor Play Space

"The provider must ensure that children have access to outdoor play space:

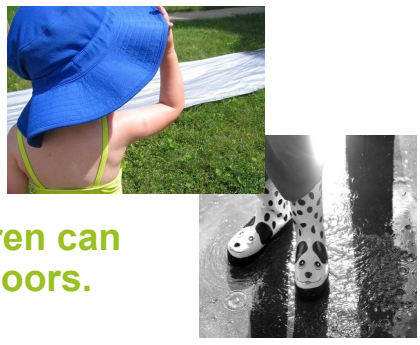
If the outdoor play space is a part of the provider residence, it must be securely enclosed. (Or the provider has an Agency-approved exemption); or

If the outdoor play space is not part of the provider residence, it must be within a safe and easy walking distance." **CFS Standards**

Outdoor play, whatever the weather, is important for the holistic development of children. It is a stipulation for all day homes that children engage in outdoor play twice a day providing the conditions and temperatures are safe to do so. Day home educators should be planning meaningful outdoor experiences for the children in their care on a twice-daily basis.

**PARENT REMINDER**

**Please send bug spray, sunscreen, hats, splash pants and rain boots to the day home so that your child/children can safely and comfortably enjoy the outdoors.**



Check Out Our Pinterest Page:

**Southgate medallion family day homes. https://www.pinterest.ca/93c10bd05bc7bb7f3110595647b70c/**

# Educator Spotlight

What better way to approach talking with children about the Coronavirus than through the vehicle of a sensory art experience with Play Dough. In these photographs Nery shows how she introduced children to the subject of Covid-19.

Are you wondering how to talk to your child about Covid-19? Here are a few tips from childmind.org

1. Don't be afraid to discuss the pandemic
2. Be developmentally and age appropriate, don't overwhelm your child with too much information
3. Take cues from your child
4. Deal with your own anxiety
5. Be reassuring
6. Stick to routines—consistency is comforting for both you and your child
7. Keep talking—let your child know that they can talk to you when they need to

For more details, click on the link below

https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/

https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/how-to-talk-to-children-about-the-coronavirus-2020030719111

Some of the children who attend Sister Margaret's day home enjoyed engaging in a cooking experience with a distinctly Easter/Spring theme

Earth Day (April 22nd 2020) was celebrated and acknowledged through some messy and sensory play experiences at Generosa's day home

# Survey Results

## What is working well in the day homes:

“Love our ‘above and beyond’ childcare provider.”

“Very satisfied with program, particularly with the focus on activities. Their days are very structured which we like. Both kids have made noticeable advances since joining and enjoying attending day home everyday.”

“(Provider) is amazing! This is my second son in her care and feel so blessed to have her as my provider”

“(Provider) is wonderful. She is engaged, cares and wants the best for my child. The agency staff are good. It can be hard to know who to contact at the agency as there is a lot of turn over, makes it hard on parents.”

“The kids are always happy to go to the day home and don’t want to leave at the end of the day”

“I am so happy I chose this Agency and Day home Provider. My kids love going and learn so much!”

“(Provider) is the best Day home provider. She treats my son as her own. I couldn’t ask for a better day care provider.”

“(Provider) always welcomes us with a smile. My daughter loves her and (Provider) loves my daughter. We have peace of mind taking my daughter to her.”

“We are happy with the care our child receives from our day home provider.”

“I love receiving photos each day!”

“(Provider) has been a great care provider for our son.”

“Southgate Family Day Homes goes above and beyond to inform and accommodate with communication that is amazing for the families and children!”

“I’m glad that I found this program. I fee so confident about my daughters day spent at the daycare.”

“We are so happy with the care our daughter receives. We feel so lucky to be at our providers day home.”

“(Provider) is absolutely amazing, my daughter loves her so much! She pays attention to her individual needs and continues to show her above and beyond character on a day to day basis! You can see she loves what she does and truly cares for the children in her care.”

“We are so happy with the care our son gets at (Providers) day home. She is a wonderful person and an amazing day home provider.”

“Very satisfied with my child’s care provider. Her food and activities are the best!!!”

“We are really happy with the care provided.”

“We have been very happy with the care our child has been receiving. It’s great to have a place to take your child that you feel super comfortable with. Our child loves to go and has been learning so much and enjoys his time with their friends and teacher.”

“You guys are doing a wonderful job! Thanks for all your hard work!”

“(Provider) and her family have been like a second family to me, my husband and our daughter long before we started care with them. We wouldn’t trust anyone else with our daughter, they love and treat her as their own. That goes for the entire family residing at the day home location. They are all amazing!!!”

“Excellent program Kudos to my day home provider.”

# Survey Results continued

## Changes you would like to see with response from the agency

"I would like not to have to comment on monthly stories that need to be submitted to the Agency. Didn't join day home to do homework. Any comments I have should be optional, not mandatory."

-*We understand parents are very busy. Any monthly documentation educators are sharing with you is optional. We greatly value parent input and this form provides an opportunity for you to help develop planning.*

"I would appreciate if the payment withdrawals were more consistent from my account and that they were taken as described in the contract. (1st of the month)."

-*We understand that having fees withdrawn on a consistent basis is important when organizing your finances. We do withdrawals on the 1st of the month, sometimes banking systems take a few days to process and this can result in a delay. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.*

"For the 2018 tax year, I was audited for child care expenses. The CRA request was for receipt with children's name on the receipt. The one I received (this year as well) doesn't show the child's name. The audit was complete with the provided receipt but thought you should know that they request different information than provided."

-*Thank you for your input. In the event that you are audited please contact your consultant.*

"If the day home provider could provide more healthy food choices and update on what my child does it would be nice. She reports about activities once in a while and is not consistent."

-*We are sorry to hear you are not getting consistent updates. We do ask our Educators to communicate with families on a daily basis. Educators are required by licensing to provide healthy meals in accordance with the Canada food guide. If your provider is not following her posted menu please speak to her about it. If you feel you are not able to resolve these issues with your Educator please contact your consultant as we would like to work with your Educator on these issues.*

"As a parent there should be clear program per child that needs to be done by the provider depending on the age and should be reviewed at the end of certain period. Example identify colors and potty training. Monthly surprise visits should be done not just the beginning of the month but instead spread out through out. More detailed checking and allowing parents to know the results. To be honest I'm seeing more then 6 children in the day home sometimes when I come to pick up my child."

*-Thank you for your input. Providers are required to create program planning based on each child's interest monthly. This programing is then reviewed by the consultant on her visit. Monthly consultant visits are unannounced and should be conducted at various times through out the month. If you would like to see your providers profile, regarding results of visits, you are welcome to ask your consultant at any time.* ***If you are seeing more than 6 children in the provider's home we need you to call the agency and report this right away. This would be a non-compliance and the agency takes this very seriously. Please contact your consultant to discuss further.***

"I am very happy with the care provider but I am not sure about the Southgate Medallion Family. It has been very bad organized, confusing and very badly run. There have been many changes throughout last 1.5 years, not for the good."

-*We are sorry to hear you have had a challenging experience. We have been working on building a strong united team that is happy to serve you. Moving forward we hope you can sense this.*

"Policies and procedures handbook would be nice. We weren't aware of some day home specific rules until after enrollment (ie. No personal toys.)"

-*All parents receive a parent handbook at time of signing the contract. It outlines the agencies policies and procedures. If you would like another copy please let your consultant know. "No personal toys" would be an educators personal policy as this is not an agency policy.*

"Overall the program is doing a good job. Just one concern is staff need to be taught more on how to clean properly baby (infant) diapers so rashes or such appear."

*- We are sorry to hear you are noticing your child getting rashes. Please speak to your Educator if you have concerns regarding diaper changes. If you need further guidance please contact your consultant. She would be happy to help your Educator review these skills again.*

# OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY WITH YOUR CHILDREN

As we continue to adjust to the current unprecedented circumstances, the agency understands that it can be difficult to keep your children busy during this time of social distancing. I am sure that you have been asking yourself "How can I keep my children entertained during this time?" Hang on in there! It seems as if the weather has turned a corner, and the signs of summer are beginning to show. Now is a great time for you and your child to get some much-needed fresh air and vitamin D. **See below for just a few ideas of how you can share some meaningful and fun experiences outside:**

1. Make a cardboard fort
2. Set up a treasure hunt in your yard
3. Cook together – smores on the firepit are fun (safety first)
4. Have a picnic in the backyard
5. Go for a nature walk in your neighbourhood
6. DIY playdough outside
7. Make a shelter using old fabrics
8. Hopscotch
9. Set up a pool in the backyard
10. Set up outdoor gym class (Zumba/yoga)
11. Outdoor painting – use old paint brushes and make mud paint
12. Make rainbow ice paint
13. Paint with shaving cream on tarp
14. Blow bubbles
15. Ride bikes
16. Fly kites
17. Set up a sprinkler in the backyard
18. Make homemade bird feeders
19. Plant seeds – sunflowers and peas grow easy and fast
20. Set up a camping site in the backyard
21. Water gun play
22. Resting on the grass
23. Gardening
24. Rock painting
25. Bug hunting
26. Puddle jumping
27. Hula hoop
28. Making mud pies
29. Digging in the dirt
30. Go on a listening walk—what do you hear?
31. Make Tik-Tok Videos with your child

**Remember! Anything that you can do inside with your child, you can take to the outdoors – read, sing, make art, play music, eat, cook, craft – it can all be done in your back yard.**

**TIPS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON YOUR CHILD THIS SUMMER:**

**C**o-operate with AHS expectations

**O**ffer open-ended activities with your children

**V**alue family time

**I**nspire your children to see the positives of being at home

**D**evelop happy memories

**1** fun activity

**9**0 minutes of engagement

**Click the links below for more great activity ideas:**

https://parade.com/1009774/stephanieosmanski/things-to-do-with-kids-during-coronavirus-quarantine/

https://parade.com/1023648/jessicasager/scavenger-hunt-ideas-for-kids/

https://kutv.com/news/coronavirus/giant-list-of-things-to-do-with-your-kids-during-the-coronavirus