



## Southgate Medallion Tribute *Parents Edition*



Welcome to the September/October 2020 edition of the Southgate Medallion Family Day Home Agency parent newsletter.



### Looking ahead to the return to school

With schools about to reopen, we are once again facing a time of uncertainty and change. Please be reassured that the agency is continually monitoring AHS, the Ministry of Education for policy and procedural changes.

The agency has begun to formulate plans in cases of sickness being reported at a school. As no two cases are likely to be the same, we will be taking a case-by-case approach to each scenario that presents itself. *Please take a look at our policy review on page 2 for further details.*

### Reminders

Please complete your Information Update Form and School Form (if you have a child going to school) and return to your provider as soon as possible. Remember to inform your provider of any changes to contact details, addresses as they occur throughout the year - it is important that the agency and your provider has the most up-to-date information on file.

### Sensory Play

Sensory play is a vital part of children's holistic development.

As you are probably aware, your Educator is currently limited in what they can offer children for sensory play. You may want to consider offering more sensory play options in your own home as a way of compensating for it not being offered in the day home.

*Take a look at our article on page 4 for some great ideas.*

### Upcoming Holidays

September 7th: Labour Day

October 12th: Thanksgiving



## **Standard Review - Standard 10 C: ILLNESS**

### **Illness policy:**

#### **Standard 10C: Illness**

If a provider notices that a child exhibits any of the signs or symptoms listed below, the provider must ensure that:

- the child's parent(s) arranges for the immediate removal of the child from the program premises;
- the child does not return to the program premises until the provider is satisfied that the child no longer poses a health risk to others in the program (e.g. the parents provide a physician's note, the parents declare that the child has been symptom-free for at least 24 hours).

Signs or symptoms of illness exhibited by a child include:

- a child vomiting, having a fever, diarrhea or a new unexplained rash or cough;
- a child requiring greater care and attention than can be provided without compromising the care of the other children in the program;
- a child having or displaying any other illness or symptom the staff knows or believes may indicate that the child poses a health risk to persons on the program premises

### **Additional Covid-19 Illness protocols:**

If your child or any of your family members has Covid-19 symptoms OR has been in close unprotected contact with someone who is ill with a cough and/or fever, we ask that you to follow these steps:

- Keep the child home
- Do an online AHS assessment test and follow their instructions immediately - here is the link: <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>
- Inform your provider as soon as possible
- Go for a Covid-19 test (if needed)
- If the test comes back "NEGATIVE" and your child has been symptom free for 24 hours, the child can come back to the day home
- If the test comes back "POSITIVE", you are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days. The isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer

As an agency, we are following all public health measures as soon as we are aware of any changes. It is also your responsibility to keep up to date on AHS's policies.

Please visit AHS website for more updated and detailed information:

<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx#p22780s6>

# Educator Spotlight - Outdoor Play Space Contest

The agency recently conducted an Outdoor Play Space Contest. All of our Educators were encouraged to send in photographs of their outdoor classroom for review by the consultants and coordinator.

Thank you to all who participated in the outdoor play space contest.

The top 4 outdoor play space pictures were sent by:

**Nasima Begum, Fehmida Popatia, Nery Payne and Erica Riberio Sampaio**



The following homes were chosen based on the criteria listed below:

Loose Parts - Baddegamage Jayaratna, Sophia Richi and Imelda Ciano

Creative - Rekha Pant, Yanping Li and Tonia Browell

Bringing Indoors Outdoors - Bindiya More and Saba Qureshi

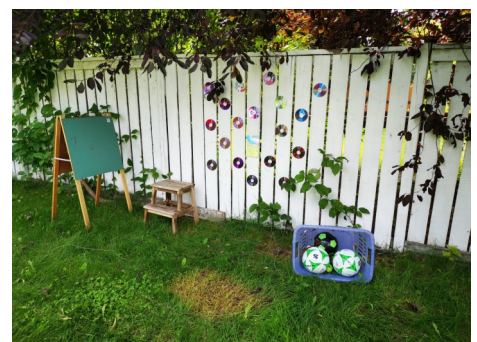
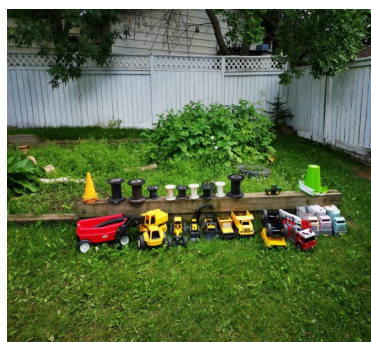
Risky Play - Kamani Badugoda Hewage

Most Improved - Vera Halabi and Shabina Abid



Participants:

- **Analyn Marquina**
- **Allyn Cayabyab**
- **Miriam Almazan**
- **Bimala Pokharel**
- **Meeka Kathpalia**
- **Shirley Paulson**
- **Girija Prakash**





# **Sensory Play**

Sensory play is a wonderful way to explore and play for all ages. It is essentially cost free and offers wonderful opportunities for learning without leaving your house!

## **Sight**

Pick a different color every week, for example; orange. Go around the house and collect anything you can find that is orange. Place it in a box and see what unfolds!

## **Taste**

Gather some fresh fruit and veggies from your garden, or the store. Sit together and smell/taste them. Describe the flavors and textures to each other. (Sweet, sour, crunchy, juicy!) Try to categorize them based on flavor or texture.



## **Touch**

Make a sensory basket, gather different fabrics from around your home and let your child feel and touch them with their hands, feet and mouth!

## **Sound**

Lay a blanket in your back yard and place any musical instruments you can find on it. You can even make your own. Make a guitar using an old tissue box and some elastic bands or turn an old coffee tin into a drum.



## **Smell**

Gather all your spices and take turns smelling them, see if you can guess what you are smelling. Take turns mixing a few spices together and see if you can guess what's in the mixture.

Add some fresh herbs from your garden and compare the fresh and dried versions.