

December 2024 Newsletter

December 1, 2024

Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society

Community Events To Celebrate the Holidays!

It's hard to believe the holiday season is already upon us! Are you looking for a special activity to get your family into the holiday cheer? Check out the below festive events happening this month in the communities we serve:

Innisfail

- Hometown Christmas (December 7th– various locations). *Market, photos with Santa, wagon rides, etc.*
- CP Holiday Train (December 13th at 12:55 PM at the Fas Gas crossing). *Live entertainment & more!*

Penhold

- Christmas Light Tour & Bingo (November 29th to December 15th). *Tour the town for a chance to win!*

Springbrook

- Springbrook Association Christmas Parade (December 7th at 5:00 PM). *Free BBQ, photos with Santa, games & more to follow!*

Olds

- Old Fashioned Christmas Kick Off (December 7th from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM at Centennial Park). *Mr. & Mrs. Claus, hot dogs, hot cocoa, cookies, wagon rides & more!*
- Santa Claus Parade of Lights (December 7th at 5:30 PM). *Check Town of Olds for parade route*
- CP Holiday Train (December 13th at 2:30 PM at 50th Street crossing). *Live entertainment & more!*

Three Hills

- To be announced

Other

- Innisfail Discovery Wildlife Park “Light the Night”- Drive Thru Light Display (Now until January 5th from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM). *\$30 a vehicle, up to 8 people. The Grinch makes an appearance Wednesday to Saturday!*





Society News

Nominate an Educator Today!

2025 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education is now open for nominations. Nominations must be submitted to the Prime Minister's Awards office by January 15, 2025

pmaece-ppmepc.ised-isde.canada.ca/site/pm-awards-excellence-ecce/en/nominate-early-childhood-educator#toc-51



Educator Holiday Party

Friday, December 6th
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

"It's all fun n games"

The Staff & Advisory Board would like to wish everyone a safe & joyous holiday season!



Happy Anniversary to:

Rebecca Allen

6 years

Thank you for all you do for the children and families!



Updates to our FOIPP Agreement



Under our new Agency Contract with the Government of Alberta, our program will be required to upload our day home visit checklist to the Child Care Licensing Portal for our licensing office to view.

Through this Portal the information reviewed under the day home standards checklist, completed during the home visits, will be reviewed by the Alberta Ministry of Jobs, Economy & Trade and the Child Development Branch Licensing Officers designated to this licensed agency.

Please know that this information is released on a confidential basis to be used only for the purpose it was disclosed.

All records collected are subject to the provision of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, referred to as the "FOIPP" Act.

What does this all mean...?

When parents and educators signed on with our program, everyone agreed that their information would be shared with our licensing

officers to ensure that the Agency is meeting their legal obligations under the Standards and our contract (*see your agency agreements for this clause*) — this meant that at any time we could be requested to send this information to our Licensing Officer or they could come retrieve it from our office.

Now, this information will be provided to licensing monthly and they will no longer need to request it of the agency.



Christmas, Hanukkah & Kwanzaa: Creating an Inclusive Celebration



Multiculturalism and the Holidays

It's important to create an environment where all of the children feel welcome and represented. While teaching a multicultural curriculum may not be too challenging most of the year, December brings the holidays, when one or two holidays are usually much more visible than the others.



If done well, an inclusive holiday celebration can help children learn about diversity. Each child and

their family will celebrate the holidays differently. Although not everyone who celebrates Christmas associates the holiday with its religious origins, it's important to keep in mind that by choosing to celebrate only certain holidays, you could be excluding some of the families. In other words, if you'll be celebrating Christmas, make sure to carve out equal time during the year to devote to all holidays of major importance.

Examples include Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights that usually takes place in October or November; Bodhi Day in December,

which marks the day Buddhists celebrate the enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama; Kwanzaa, which celebrates African heritage in late December through early January; and Yule, a pagan holiday in honor of the winter solstice.

Hanukkah, while celebrated around Christmas time, is not equal in importance to the major Christian holiday. Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah, which happen in the fall, are the holiest days for Jews. Ramadan, too, does not always fall in December, but it is the holiest month for Muslims. It's also

important to keep in mind that some religions do not celebrate any holidays, such as Jehovah's and Seventh Day Adventists.

When you're exposing children to cultural traditions they may not be familiar with (*and which you may not be either*), it's important to avoid clichés and harmful stereotypes.

Just like no two families who celebrate Christmas are exactly alike, the same goes for those who celebrate non-Christian holidays. So do your research and talk with the families about what and how they celebrate the holiday season.

OFFICE
HOURS

WE WILL BE

CLOSED

For the Holidays!

CLOSED

December 24 @ noon
December 25 - 27
December 31 @ noon
January 1

OPEN

December 30
January 2



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



**INNISFAIL & AREA
FAMILY
DAY HOME
SOCIETY**

— Established in 1983 —



**Alberta
Approved
Family
Day Homes**



Curriculum Corner: Creating Christmas Trees!



Materials for inspiration:

- Green colored playdough
- Plastic straws (or similar items)
- Foam stars
- Loose parts for decorations (beads, pom-poms, etc.)



https://www.tiktok.com/@mrsmeyersprek/video/7310185271230745898?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7283954767557740037

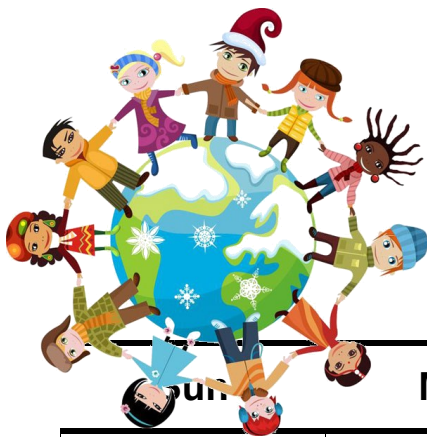


Recommended for
ages 3+

Play & Playfulness (Playful Exploration & Problem Solving)

Children learn to employ creative approaches to identifying & working out practical problems by:

- Choosing from a range of materials, tools & languages to investigate, experiment & make their thinking visible
- Raising questions & making hypotheses about how & why things happen



December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			<div data-bbox="1459 1328 1948 1507" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca www.ifdhs.com</p>  </div>	

1
8
15
22
29

2
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30

3
10
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31

*Office open 8:30a-noon
Closed at 12pm (noon)*

Christmas Eve

*Office open 8:30a-noon
Closed at 12pm (noon)*

New Years Eve

4
11
18
25

Office Closed

*Christmas Day
Hanukkah*

5
12
19
26

**Month End
Paperwork Due
by 8:30 am**

Office Closed

*Kwanza
Boxing Day*

6
13
20
27

Office Closed

7
14
21
28

Winter Solstice

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div data-bbox="149 472 600 634" data-label="Text"> <p>Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca www.ifdhs.com</p> </div> <div data-bbox="478 509 600 643" data-label="Image"> </div>			1 <i>New Years Day</i> Office Closed	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 <i>Virtual Session with Aynsley Graham 7:00pm</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Month End Paperwork Due by 8:30 am	29	30	31	