



# HIGH RIVER DAYCARE

February 2012

## ALBERTA DAYCARE LICENSING & ACCREDITATION UPDATE

We have just received our annual licensing inspection and renewal checklist and we are very proud to announce that we had no non-compliances noted in all 3 programs. Thank you to all the parents who helped us get all the registration forms up to date and completed.

A Perfect Record in all 3 programs!!!!

If you are interested in reading the annual report or any licensing inspections they are always posted on the bulletin board just outside the office. If you would like to read about all the inspections made to a specific child care centre please visit [www.child.alberta.ca/home/ChildCareLookup.cfm](http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/ChildCareLookup.cfm)

Our annual accreditation renewals have been submitted for both programs (daycare and school age) and we are awaiting our new seals.

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE REGISTRATION NIGHT

The Preschool Program will be holding it's 2012/2013 Open House Registration Night on February 23, 2012 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

The 3 year old program runs from 9:00 - 11:30 am Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

The 4 year old program runs from 9:00 - 11:30 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Call 403-652-3352 to Pre-Register.

Spaces are filling up fast!!!



*The SAC program recently visited "China" and are enjoying some Chinese noodles with chopsticks!*

## WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

Find us on Facebook for a look at our special events, fundraisers and exciting programming.

We're on the Web!

See us at: [www.highriverdaycare.com](http://www.highriverdaycare.com)

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## The Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum

Handwriting fluency is fundamental to learning because children think and write at the same time. When we teach children to write, we also teach them how to express themselves. If they struggle to form their letters, their ability to express themselves will suffer. Children who don't master handwriting may be slow, sloppy, or illegible writers.

We focus on fun and achievement to optimize children's curiosity and joy of learning throughout school. Our goal is to help students learn proper handwriting habits and then apply those habits naturally and automatically to all writing experiences that they'll take throughout elementary school, high school, and beyond.

The HWT curriculum starts when children enter kindergarten. By playing, singing and building letters, they develop important skills they need to print words, sentences, paragraphs, and eventually transition to cursive.

We are proud to offer the HWT curriculum here for our pre-K and Kindergarten students. For more information on HWT please visit [www.hwtears.com](http://www.hwtears.com)

HWT certified teachers – Caroline, Sandi (Pre-K) & Shannon (grades K-5)

Upcoming certifications – In March 2012 – Nancy, Brandy, Alberta, Sherrill, Caroline, & Dorte will be attending the workshop to achieve their certification in the HWT curriculum

## Preschool Program

High River Daycare offers Preschool programs for 3 and 4 year olds. The children are encouraged to discover and explore through experiences offered to them. Learning through interactions with other children and adults, as well as multiple options of materials to work with provides opportunity for growth socially, emotionally, and academically. Each program is age and developmentally structured to meet the needs of all the children enrolled. High River Daycare offers opportunity for the children to share their learning with their families through progress reports, parent conferences, student performances, weekly take-home projects, and year-end graduation. The staff is friendly, open-minded, and creative in their approach with each child and his/her family. So why don't you drop by and talk with our Preschool staff to get a better picture of what High River Daycare Preschool Program has to offer you and your child.

*There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.  
~Walt Streightiff*

Thank you so much to all our Preschool Families that took the time to complete the annual survey. Our program is new and it's nice to know what we are doing well and where we can improve. The results of the survey will be available in the March Preschool Newsletter which is delivered to each child and posted on the centre website [www.highriverdaycare.com](http://www.highriverdaycare.com) and also on facebook at High River Daycare. Thank you again!

### **ECS & School Age Care Reminders**

The Electronics centre (wii, playstation, computer & tv) are available to your children from the hours of 3pm to 6pm daily. Each group(see group lists posted in room) gets a turn for 30 minutes.

The Electronics centre is not part of the ECS programming and therefore will not be available on regular school days between the hours of 9am -3pm.

To enhance the SAC play experiences the program has been divided into 3 groups. Each group has their own space to play and an opportunity to access the outdoor play environments in smaller groups allowing for more in-depth play to take place. For more information on the groups please ask Sherrill, Caroline or Alberta.

## INFANT PROGRAM

Our Infant program is available for children 8 months and up. This allows parents the opportunity to return to work a little bit sooner than 12 months. Some parents do not qualify for maternity leave or due to difficulties in the pregnancy may have begun their leave before the baby's birth and are therefore returning after a 12 month leave but the baby may not be 12 months yet. The ratio in this program is 1 caregiver to 3 children until they are 12 months old then the ratio returns to 1 caregiver to 4 children. **This program is available for subsidy.**

The infant program is designed to create a warm, nurturing and safe environment where an infant is encouraged to learn, grow and explore using all of their senses. In order to make this happen, our caregivers provide numerous play experiences each and every day. We know that rapid development is happening in the first year of life and therefore it is essential that we provide stimulating activities to encourage optimal development.

We understand that in all of these activities there need to be social and emotional connections between the caregiver and the child. Our caregivers seek to create a bond and form a trusting relationship with each child, in order to help healthy growth to occur. The setting of our infant care room is designed to encourage infants to build trust in themselves and those who care for them.

We ensure that you remain the most significant and most important adult in your baby's life as we work together as a team. Daily written and verbal communication keeps you informed about every part of your child's day. We seek to provide our parents peace of mind and build mutual respect between our parents and caregivers.

### **Our language program features "Baby Signs" Baby Sign Language program.**

We are excited about the outstanding results that this remarkable program has shown in infant language development. Signing gives infants the tools to communicate long before language develops and reduces frustration

We acknowledge that each child grows, develops and learns differently. This is why we believe that providing a multi-sensory approach to learning is the key to meeting each individual child's needs. The time from Birth to 18 months is the best time to facilitate knowledge, as all areas of the brain are developing at an incredible rate. We are ready to give all of the infants in our care the best head start for future success!

## ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF OUR INFANT PROGRAM

- Daily outside time including neighborhood walks and outside experiences in our infant play yards.
- Music and story time throughout the day.
- Daily Report to all parents, which highlights your child's daily activities and covers: food intake, a record of diaper changes, a record of medication administration (if applicable), special activities etc. Parents also provide our care givers information on how their child slept the previous night, most recent diaper change, and any other information they would like to provide.
- Daily availability of caregivers and centre directors, ensuring an open and warm communication process.



High River Daycare  
1006 11<sup>th</sup> Ave SE High River, AB T1V 2P9  
Phone - (403)-652-3352  
Fax - 403-652-0183  
Email - [highriverdaycare@telus.net](mailto:highriverdaycare@telus.net)  
WWW.highriverdaycare.com

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