

OCTOBER  
2011



# Medicine Hat & District Child Care Association

In partnership with the:



Celena Gerl from the Family Literacy Regional Network recently sent us this link. She says, "This video is what family literacy is all about. This is why it is so important to read the same story over and over again. We may be tired of reading it but the children are never tired of hearing it. Enjoy!"

Check it out at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A17aPRAVPGs>

## The MHDCCA would like to recognize the following child care professional...



Once upon a time there was a lovely person who chose to be a child care professional. All of the people around her could see that she had made a great decision in doing this. As time went on, she proved that she could guide and take care of children in the most amazing way. She found it very natural to treat each child with respect and it was important to her to

let children know they matter. Her great sense of humor was balanced with top-notch professionalism. She liked to volunteer in any way she could to support her child care program. Her resource library and creative ideas were endless and the children looked forward to her activities. She taught children that we take risks and sometimes things do not work out— it is *trying* that is important. She emulated kindness and consideration for others. She was an amazing child care worker. To watch her work was a joy— it was clear that she wanted to be in the moment. Today this person works at *The College Child Development Centre* and her story continues. She enriches the lives of every child, parent, and co-worker that shares in her day. Indeed, they are all in for a happy ending. She does not have or need a magic wand, for all she does comes from her heart. Thank you Susan Wells for your incredible contributions! Submitted by Shirley Simmons, Director

## "NIGHT OF THE LIVING BREAD" SNACK IDEA

Instructions: For each, remove one half of the top layer of a small pita. Fill the pita with flavoured cream cheese or hummus and add edible features. These faces have cheese teeth, bologna and pickle tongues, a cauliflower brain, olive-slice eyes, carrot and scallion hair, a carrot nose, and a pepper mouth.



<http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/night-of-the-living-bread-1024756/>



# Medicine Hat & District Child Care Association

www.MHDCCA.com

Check us out on Facebook!

## Motivating Children through Movement, Music, and West African Cultures

Louise Raymond, Malicounda Dance Company

This workshop is FREE! No need to register- just show up and have fun! Hosted by the Medicine Hat & District Child Care Association, in partnership with Southeast Alberta Child & Family Services

Using over 50 West African drums, Louise Raymond provides a unique cognitive approach to multicultural knowledge and awareness, stimulating the children's own creativity and intellectual development. Participants focus on a foundation of rhythm patterns, rhythm activities, movement, stories and songs in French and African. This workshop provides a dynamic multi-sensory, kinesthetic, creative and West African experience.

Oct. 17, 2011 from 6-9 p.m.

Connaught School Gymnasium (101 8<sup>th</sup> St S.W., Medicine Hat, AB)

Many thanks to: Valerie Barrett (Connaught Before & After School Care) and Kerrie Gauthier (Montessori Children's House)



# Dayhome Visitor & Provider Training

September 19th & 20th, 2011 was our day-home visitor & provider training provided by Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE). Early Monday morning, Corinne and Beth arrived safely in Medicine Hat (despite the tiny plane they had to take from Edmonton). First on the agenda was "Reflections on Practice Training" for our dayhome visitors and administrators. The visitors and administrators learned the



importance of caregiver's interactions with children and learned about how the Caregiver Interaction Scale (CIS) works. They reviewed the 23 descriptors in detail and worked to define determinants and descriptors of adult behaviours relating to sensitivity, harshness, and detachment. They also

learned how to conduct a CIS observation in a dayhome. Following a short break, the



visitors and administrators, joined a large group of dayhome providers at the library for a workshop called "Plotting a Course Towards High Quality Caregiver Interactions". This workshop covered lessons that have been learned from the observations that have previously been conducted, common traps and pitfalls of caregiver practice, and limitations and barriers of the CIS tool. The next morning, the visitors and administrators were assigned to dayhome practice

sites in order to complete a CIS observation. Upon returning to the MHDCCA office, they had time to reflect on their observations and learn how to conduct the follow-up talk with the dayhome provider. This training truly highlights the importance of caregiver interactions in dayhome settings. In fact, 60% of the total accreditation rating that a family child care agency receives is assigned to adult-child interactions.



Responsive, stable caregiver-child interactions are the single most important element of quality child care. These interactions are sensitive to children's needs, provide support and encouragement, and set consistent behavioural expectations. For more information on ARCQE, check out [www.arcqe.ca](http://www.arcqe.ca)