

VOICE Valuable Outlook In Child Care Educators

9,400 New Child Care Spaces Created

Provincial child care space creation initiative a success

Alberta's *Creating Child Care Choices* space creation plan resulted in 9,449 new child care spaces and more than 1,100 new staff choosing to work in Alberta's licensed or approved child care programs during the first year of the initiative. The Alberta government's commitment to child care has helped ease the challenges some parents have had when looking for affordable, quality child care.

The *Creating Child Care Choices* plan, introduced in May 2008, offers communities a range of funding initiatives and tools to support the creation of 14,000 new child care spaces by 2011; help operators attract and keep qualified staff; and make access to quality child care more affordable for low- and middle-income parents.

The Alberta government is continuing to work with communities to reach the three-year space creation goal of 14,000. The government has provided funding to school boards for the purchase and placement of 44 modulars that will be used to open new child care spaces adjacent to schools later this year.

"The child care profession is in a really good place right now," said Traudi Kelm, President of the Day Care Society of Alberta. "Staff are feeling a lot more secure and compensated in their jobs and operators are finding it much easier to hire and keep trained staff, leaving more time to

concentrate on delivering high-quality child care programming."

In 2009-10, the government will invest \$206 million in child care, which includes continued support for the second year of its three-year child care space creation strategy.

(Source: May 12, 2009 Government of Alberta News Release)

Watch Me Grow Watch Me Learn Early Childhood Conference 2009

A great success!

- Record attendance
 - Fond farewells
 - New friendships
 - Informative sessions and speakers
- = A fantastic time had by all!



Thanks for participating. See you next year!

-Conference Committee

Making a Difference

Lori Philpot
Director, Sandcastle Day Home Agency



(Lori, 2nd from left, with staff)

Q: What is it about childcare that you are passionate about? Working with the families and the providers. We see the children and provider grow by leaps and bounds.

Q: What does quality childcare look like to you? It should be healthy social and educational experiences under qualified supervision in a nurturing and stimulating environment. In such a home children are not only well cared for, but also are encouraged to participate in daily activities appropriate for their ages and developmental levels. Through these activities children will have the opportunity to develop social skills, build independence and self-esteem.

Q: What changes would you like to see over the next 10 years? To have Day Home providers get the respect as a professional body and more professional funding. I also would like to see that the Day Home agencies would be able to provide the group day home as a option.

Q. What is the best thing about working at Sand Castle Day Home Agency? We are a team. From families and providers to office staff we all have a voice in what goes on and it is great.

ARCQE 2009 SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Children Love Science – So Can We!

Children have a natural curiosity about the world around them, we as caregivers have the opportunity to be children's first introduction to many natural and scientific concepts. This workshop focus on the early childhood professional's role in supporting science through interactions, materials and interest based planning.

(Available July 2009)

Math is More Than Just Numbers

This workshop combines theory on how a child's brain understands the world around them according to groupings and patterns which provide the bases for more advanced math skills. The participants will engaged in hands-on activities and brainstorming related to how to use everyday routine and materials to support math skills.

(Available July '09)

Using Media in Early Learning Environments

How does screen time affect children from birth to five? Are we conscious about what the media we use is teaching children? In this workshops the participants with get an opportunity to reflect on their own values related to media and look at ways of including developmentally appropriate media experiences for young children.

(Available August '09)

For more information contact Laura Brinker, Program Delivery Specialist, ARCQE laurab.arcqe@telus.net or toll free 1 (866) 421-4930. Review additional workshop titles at www.arcqe.ca

We have a new home!

Check out the new and improved ARCQE web site at www.arcqe.ca



Special recognition for Region 1 Child Care providers

Congratulations to Monica Monoz, Director, Lethbridge Spanish Montessorri Child Care. Monica was nominated for the *2009 Child Care Professional Award of Excellence* (Urban



(Monica, seated, far left, with staff)

Day Care) which recognizes fifty Albertans in the delivery of quality child care. Alberta Children and Youth Services received 145 nominations submitted by the parents of those in child care, owners of child care businesses and other Albertans.

The parents come for the language as well as for the Montessorri. They want the children to learn Spanish, but that learn so much more.

- Monica Monoz

And.....

Special kudos to Zahra Foroud, Director, Lethbridge Montessorri, who was recently recognized as a semi-finalist with the *Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award*. Out of the 400 nominations, 136 was picked from Alberta and only 4 of the were from Lethbridge.

I wanted to make a difference.

- Zahra Foroud, on why she chose a teaching career
(June 11, 2009 Lethbridge Sun Times)



Have you got stories to share? Staff members to brag about? Contact ARCQE at 1 (866) 421-4930

Child-care, not gender, determines success in law

Research indicates that it is how a lawyer deals with child-care that leads to a career disadvantage, not the gender of the lawyer. His study finds that male lawyers who take time away from career to deal with child care, are just as disadvantaged as female lawyers who do the same.



Dr. Kenneth Schmidt found that:

1. Gender was secondary and much less important than whether they had interrupted their careers to do child care
2. Lawyers in the career-interrupted group worked less, earned less and made partner less frequently than those who soldiered steadily on with their full-time legal careers
3. As far as the women are concerned-those in the career-interrupted group are also the most satisfied of all the lawyers studied, both with their personal lives and with their professional lives

In order to become successful in law - , no matter what your gender, you must have a supportive partner to take care of the kids. The selection of that supportive partner is your decision alone. Failure to select a supportive partner and how that decision impacts your career, is no one's fault but your own.

[Excerpts taken from *Journal of Gender and Law*; Professor Kenneth Dau-Schmidt, May, 2009]



Techniques for encouraging everyone to participate in staff meetings:

- Ask for a show of hands on an issue. Once people show their hands, you can ask them to share their reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the group. You can target (gently) those people who have been quiet to date.
- Present the question or issue at hand in written form and ask everyone to jot down their responses quickly. Collect the responses. Read them to the group and ask the group for their reactions/comments. To start people talking with each other, ask them to do this in pairs.
- Invite non-participants by name to voice their views. Assign two or three people the role of "devil's advocate" and ask them to come up with any objections they can think of.

Taken from [Communication in Early Childhood Settings](#) (Melbourne, Australia: RMIT Publishing, 1999), Authors Patrick Hughes and Glenda MacNaughton