



VOICE Valuable Outlook In Child Care Educators

Michelle Walker :: Southern Regional Representative for Alberta Child Care Association

Michelle Walker is the owner and Director of Sunny South Daycare in Lethbridge, Alberta and has been working in Early Childhood since 1974.

Before operating her own daycare Michelle was the Director at the Lethbridge College Daycare for 27 years. Michelle has a Masters Degree in Art and Curriculum Development from the University of Lethbridge as well as a Diploma in Early Childhood Education from Lethbridge College.

Michelle is an active member of the Child Care Directors' Association of

Southwest Alberta and is also the regional representative, along with Tobi Horon, for the Alberta Child Care Association (ACCA).

Michelle has a strong passion for supporting the ACCA because "they are a direct voice to government representatives and a voice to advocate for us in a time when money is tight due to fiscal restraints. ACCA has done so much for this field; they are responsible for the creation of Accreditation and quality care."

When asked "Why should early childhood professionals support the ACCA?"

Michelle responded "The ACCA has a professional advisory group that speaks on our behalf. They are our voice to the government; they forward our thoughts and concerns to the government which are then considered in the governments strategic planning. The process is slow but if we all support the ACCA (by getting a membership) we can all work together to create a good future for early childhood professionals and quality care for children. Now is the time to support them, it's a full circle and they need our help."

Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement

Valuable Outlook In Child Care Educators

April 2011

Special points of interest:

- ☺ ACCA Regional Representative
- ☺ Conference Wrap-Up
- ☺ Sweetpeas Centre Profile
- ☺ ACCA Membership Information

The Child Care Directors' Association of Southwest Alberta hosted another successful conference on March 11 & 12, 2011.

The Child Care Directors' Association needs your help. Email suggestions for session presenters, keynote speakers, conference theme and logo to eeconference@live.com to be entered into a draw for a free registration for next years conference.



A special thanks to Pauline Johnston, the 50/50 draw winner. Pauline graciously donated \$100 of her winnings to the Val Forman scholarship. This years donation reached its highest at \$700. Thank you to all that supported this cause!



Centre Profile :: Sweetpeas Childcare Inc.

Sweetpeas Childcare Inc. opened its' doors on November 2009 after utilizing the Making Spaces Grant.

"Sweetpeas believes that every child who requires non-parental/guardian care deserves the best quality of care in the most nurturing, safe and loving environment possible. Children are our future, and we, as caregivers, can play a pivotal role in providing a sound foundation for positive development regarding their physical, social, intellectual, creative and emotional needs. "

"Sweetpeas vision is one of stability, support, security and sound upbringing

for today's children, creating a positive outlook filled with success in all areas of development, culminating in a bright future for tomorrow's adults, reaping a generation of caring, well-rounded, grounded adults able to mentor the next generation. We would hope to make a difference in the lives of children."

"Sweetpease Childcare Inc. is committed to providing the highest standard of childcare possible through excellent, well-trained, and caring staff; healthy, delicious

meals and snacks; nurturing, safe and encouraging environment; and superior programming which includes plenty of individual attention."



Director Profile :: Sweetpeas Childcare Inc.

Dianne Braun is the Director of Sweetpeas in Stirling, Alberta. Dianne has worked hard in building Sweetpeas to what it is now; starting with her vision and passion for working with children. As of today, Dianne has her Child Care Assistant equivalency and is working towards her Child Care Supervisor certification. Originally, Dianne went to school to receive

a bachelor's degree in education however life become very busy as she got married and had children of her own.

Dianne says a lot of her success in being a Director is due to her wonderful staff that are committed to providing quality child care from day to day.



Program Information :: Sweetpeas Childcare Inc.

Dianne and her team of Child Care Professionals have been working in collaboration with ARCQE to prepare for Accreditation. Dianne says "Although we are committed to providing quality



care, we do not have a site visit booked but we are working hard to prepare for it." Sweetpeas employs 5 full time, 1 part time and 1 casual staff member and is

licensed for 44 children; 27 daycare children from birth to 6 years, 17 preschool children and 17 afterschool care children from 6 years to 12 years.

To accommodate community needs Sweetpeas offers full time, part time and drop in care Monday— Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sweetpeas :: A Child's Home Away From Home



Inspired to create a home-like atmosphere, Diane added wood finished flooring, inviting wall colours and curtains.



This feature wall highlights the art work and other projects that children have completed.



Children have easy access to child-sized materials and furniture for comfort and relaxation.



Large windows, low and at the children's level were added to allow for a lot of natural light and viewing.



Easy access kitchen with two stoves, three sinks and a heat sanitizer.



Certified staff, interacting with the children at their level.

Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement

Creatively inspiring professionals to build leadership and capacity by enhancing quality in programs and services that support children and families



Voice is a quarterly newsletter for child care owners/operators and early childhood professionals in Region 1 produced by the Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE) with funding provided by Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA)

Suite 110 Baker Centre
10025 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 1G4



Phone: 780.421.4930.
Toll Free: 1.866.429.4930
Fax: 780.421.1730
Website: www.arcqe.ca

Alberta Child Care Association (ACCA)

Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) in Alberta is facing a time of major change and growth. Now is the time for us to move ELCC forward as professions. Join the ACCA and help make ELCC the profession that it truly is.

The goals of ACCA:

- ◆ To provide a strong unified voice for child care in Alberta
- ◆ To offer opportunities to access professional benefits and supports
- ◆ To offer opportunities for professional development and networking within the sector
- ◆ To keep members abreast of

issues in the field

- ◆ To maintain and foster relationships with other child focused organizations, institutions and all levels of Government.

Benefits of Membership:

- ◆ Automatic Canadian Child Care Federation affiliate member status
- ◆ Regular child care information from around the province
- ◆ Access to a comprehensive Health Benefit Plan through your centre
- ◆ Connections to the only all-en-

compassing child care professional association in Alberta

- ◆ Ongoing links to professional development opportunities
- ◆ Access to a cost effective Umbrella Centre Insurance Plan

For more information please visit:

www.albertachildcare.org



Alberta Child Care Association