



Focusing on Licensed Home Child Care

YOUR BEST OPTION FOR CHILD CARE MAY BE NEXT DOOR

When it comes to quality child care, the best program for you may be closer than you think. While some child care centres or schools are found in large buildings, a growing number of families are looking in their own neighbourhoods for a licensed home child care program. These programs are offered in homes in communities across the GTA, offering flexible, excellent child care for those who need it.

Did you know? Family Day has one of Ontario's largest licensed home child care programs serving children birth to 12 years old. Our programs are delivered by home child care providers in communities across the GTA. Each home and community is distinct and unique. The agency is committed to supporting the programs to promote quality, inclusion and most importantly, creating a positive experience for both the child and their families.

Our licensed home child care programs are a great option for families. Caregivers provide care for small groups of children in their homes in a warm, inclusive and nurturing atmosphere with consistent routines that support the unique needs

of each child. Caregivers are supported by agency Home Child Care Coordinators and can access a robust network of supports. Families can be assured that their children are receiving high quality care in rich learning environments. It's the best of both worlds!

In Marcus' case, this meant having access to Munazza, one of Family Day's Integration Coordinators. When he first arrived at his home child care program, four-year-old Marcus had trouble regulating his emotions and communicating with his caregiver and the

other children. Munazza was able to give Marcus' parents access to valuable resources, and helped Marcus' caregiver develop and use strategies to help him communicate more effectively. Marcus can now better communicate and share his interests, which include sea creatures and dinosaurs, a change that would not have happened without Family Day's resources.

The benefits of small a group setting

Smaller group sizes with increased individual attention means that licensed home child care programs are very appealing and provide a great deal of flexibility for families. MaryLou Maher, RECE, Program Manager, has countless examples of families that have benefited from home child care because the program was responsive to their non-9-5 work hours. Child care needs to work and support everybody, including our parents, she says.

MaryLou can share stories of the close relationships caregivers can build with their children and their families. In some cases, children will keep connections with their previous caregivers, even after they leave the program and head off to university. That's a program that creates positive impacts on everyone. Often times these relationships become long term social connections.



Help in transition

Licensed Home Child Care programs remain important after your child starts going to school—even if there's a before-and-after program in the building! Having your child's consistent caregiver walk them to and from school will help them adjust to their new environment. Starting Kindergarten is already an incredibly large transition for children—it's important to try to maintain consistency when and where you can.

What's in a Home Child Care program's home at Family Day?



Access to outdoor space

Suitable room for activities

Learning materials
(toys, supplies, and books)

Healthy Menu

New Season, New Hope



MESSAGE FROM DIANE DALEY, CEO

Spring—the season of rebirth—is finally here!

After more than a year of lockdowns, PPE, physical distancing and staying home, the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is well underway—bringing new hope that this horrible virus (and all the worry and sadness it brought with it) will hopefully soon be behind us.

The new season also brings fresh ideas and exciting activities at Family Day to keep our children happy, active and engaged, all while respecting safety protocols.

We are closely following all directives from our Public Health partners to ensure that health and safety—of children, families and staff members—remain a top priority. In this edition

of Focus, we have profiled Family Day Licensed Home Child Care. We have also shared examples of how these programs have been revised to manage health and safety and reduce the risks of COVID-19. To our families who have recently returned to their programs, thank you. We are looking forward to the peace of mind the vaccine will provide.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and respect to all Family Day staff members and home child care providers for the work they do every day.

Now that our Federal Government has recognized that childcare is essential to a robust and healthy economy, we have renewed hope for

the development and advancement of a national strategy. As CEO, I will use every opportunity to communicate with the Provincial and Federal government leaders, and reinforce the importance of high-quality early learning and its critical role in promoting wellbeing for children and families. Equally important is building a strong system that supports the sector, including the professionals who have chosen careers in Early Childhood Education.

Stable and accessible child care is crucial to our post-COVID recovery; people returning to work need to know their children are safe. That's why we are passionately invested in doing whatever we can to help build a strong, flexible, high quality, inclusive and affordable child care system.

As the rebirth of this new season surrounds us, my hopes are high for our sector.



Birdie Bites – A Springtime Snack

Playing with your food doesn't have to be a bad thing! Have some fun making this edible picture of some baby birds. All you will need are some crackers, cheese, carrots, olives, and some lettuce or baby spinach!

Directions

1. Cut the cheese into circles slightly smaller than the crackers... a small jar lid or egg cup does the trick.
2. Slice a carrot into rounds. Cut a tiny notch out of the carrots to make the feet. Make the beak from the notch or cut a bigger wedge if you want the beak to stand out.

3. Slice the remaining carrot longways to make the bird's hair. Consider giving it a branch to perch on.
4. Slice an olive in half to make the eyes. Is your birdie happy, or sleepy?
5. Arrange your snacks on top of a bed of lettuce or baby spinach to make a fun—and tasty—craft!

Do you know someone who needs child care?

Click Here!

Get in touch with us today and we can direct you to a Licensed Home Child Care program that's close to you!

<https://familydaycare.com/contact/childcare-inquiry-form/>



Spring Scavenger Hunt

With warmer weather here, it's time to get outside and explore! Spring is an exciting time of year to go searching for new plants, animals, and flowers after a long winter sleep. Go for a walk with your family around your neighbourhood and see how many of these things you can find!

In addition to the things shown to the right, try to find...

- A fire hydrant
- New leaves on the branches
- A funny looking tree (draw it...)



WHAT DID YOU SEE?

I saw something...

- Soft _____
- Hard _____
- Round _____
- Pointy _____

How many dogs did you see? _____



Supporting Caregivers:

How Do We Ensure Quality Programming?



When it comes to Licensed Home Child Care, MaryLou Maher shares that: “Licensed home child care is certainly not babysitting in any sense of the word,” MaryLou, Family Day’s Program Manager, says. “There’s definitely high-quality programming happening in home child care, as there is in our other programs.” Our programs must also be in compliance with rigorous standards as identified through the Child Care and Early Years Act CCEYA.

In other words, licensed home child care is as pedagogically rigorous as any other program offered by Family Day. Here’s what that means:

Pedagogy (n.) The art, science, or profession of teaching

Pedagogy is the way and methods we use to learn. In *How Does Learning Happen?*, Ontario’s 2014 document that outlines the province’s approach to early childhood education, both the caregiver and the learning environment greatly contribute to the child’s ability to learn. By supporting the caregiver while overseeing the learning environment, Family Day can ensure that quality learning experiences are happening everywhere: inside, outside, and everywhere in between.

Even though licensed home child care is delivered by independent providers, the programs are overseen and supported by Family Day.

This means that caregivers provide healthy nutritious menus, high-quality programming through active learning, a rest period and daily outdoor play. Family Day Program Coordinators ensure that all programs are meeting and exceeding all requirements under the CCEYA (Child Care and Early Years Act) and policies and procedures set out by Family Day. But this relationship is a collaborative partnership, and Family Day works hard to empower our caregivers.

One way that Family Day supports learning in every home is with the ongoing support of the agency’s Pedagogy Consultant Team. This team supports and mentors the Home Child Care team in developing and delivering the most current learning approaches, opportunities and resources to caregivers and all staff. The Pedagogy Consultant team ensures staff are aware of current research, methods and practices within the early learning sector.

Caregivers are encouraged to attend monthly training workshops and seminars facilitated by the Home Child Care

Coordinators and supported by the Consultant Team, with topics changing every month (some prominent topics include proper nutrition and behaviour guidance methods). In this way, caregivers can be sure that they are continuously increasing their own knowledge and creating the best learning environments that they can.

There’s an extra level of support, too, provided by program coordinators, who provide one-on-one, monthly in-home support to caregivers. They’re always bringing in new “things,” MaryLou says: activities, toys, materials, and the like. “It’s just one of the ways that we strive to make sure that ongoing learning happens.”

Over the last year the agency has swiftly navigated many concerns related to COVID-19 and the impact of the pandemic, including health and safety of programs. We been working in partnership with public health agencies and other community partners to ensure all safety measures are in place in homes. This work is on-going. We now look forward to the vaccine roll out, and see this as vital to supporting ongoing recovery for all communities.

[Click here for protocols](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2N_PD6YwSc&feature=emb_logo



FAMILY DAY

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Our Programs

- Licensed Home Child Care
- Child Care Centres
- School Age Programs
- Resource Programs
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- Homework Plus

FOCUS Newsletter

Writing and Design:
WISHART.NET



United Way
Greater Toronto

For countless families, Family Day is the only way!