

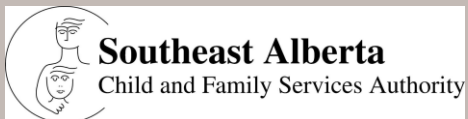
ANNUAL REPORT

MEDICINE HAT & DISTRICT CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

www.mhdcca.com

Building a Strong Foundation in Child Care Since 1989

In partnership with the:





MISSION & GOALS

Mission:

The Medicine Hat and District Child Care Association works to support the child care community by promoting quality outcomes for children 0-12 years of age.

Values of the Association:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Accountability/financial stewardship
- Respect for diversity
- Commitment to quality

In November 2012, the MHDCCA worked with Julie Friesen of Alberta Culture to devise a 3 year strategic plan. This included an updating of our goals.

Goal 1: To promote best practices in early childhood environments

Goal 2: To raise awareness that quality child care is a vital asset to our community

Goal 3: To support and recognize Early Childhood Educators

Goal 4: To ensure strong governance policies support the organization

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Michelle May, Chairperson
Shandra Beaulieu, Vice Chairperson
Lisa Lutz, Secretary/Treasurer
Khirsta McDowall, Past Chairperson

SERVICE PROVIDER

Jennifer Usher, Coordinator

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Funding Committee
- Recruitment, Recognition, and Retention Committee

April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013

CHAIRPERSON & COORDINATOR'S REPORT

2012-2013 has been a year of growth for our organization. This year, we have experienced an increase in membership, especially in our individual and associate members. We have been joined by some service agencies, for e.g., Speech & Language Works, McMan Parent Link Centre, and Autism in the Family and some local Catholic preschools. This increase in membership can be credited to the amazing professional development opportunities we have been able to provide to Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and other Professionals in the past year. In addition, we have begun to offer Individual Memberships to ECEs working in our member programs. This has allowed us to have a more direct connection to the front line staff and providers. These relationships are important to the success of our organization. We want to ensure we are providing support to all those involved in child care in our Region.

In the spring, the release of the Supporting Inclusive Approaches to Play Totes from the Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE) spurred the MHDCCA to develop a system for distribution of these totes and the previously released Birch Bark Baskets and the Treasure Chest Cultural Resource Baskets to over 20 child care programs (daycares, preschools, and out of school cares) throughout Medicine Hat and Redcliff. On a monthly basis, the coordinator visits the participating centers to bring a new tote. This new system allows programs to access these totes in a time efficient way and it allows children access to a wider variety of multicultural and inclusive materials on a daily basis.

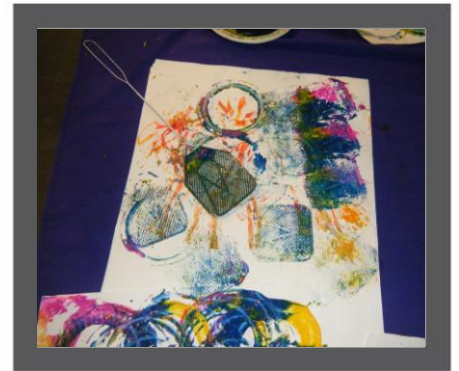
Another interesting development this fiscal year was the opportunity provided to our Coordinator to be accredited in Stepping Stones Triple P Training. In coordination with the SEACFSA's Inclusive Funding, the plan is to have our Coordinator work with primary staff in centers who have children with diagnosed needs and are requiring additional assistance. We look forward to seeing how this initiative progresses.



A YEAR OF LEARNING...

Professional development is key in early learning and child care. We recognize that it is essential that our local ECEs remain informed as to what best practice looks like and how to implement it. Our Association offered a number of opportunities for learning this year. These included:

- "Remembering To Play", a workshop on re-connecting to our inner child and how to connect with children in care with Vince Gowmon of Remembering To Play Events
- "Working with Explosive/Non-Compliant Children- Part I and II", a set of workshops on Collaborative Problem Solving with Kent Hollingsworth of Key Connections Consulting
- "Promoting Sensitive Interactions", a workshop for dayhome consultants and providers with Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE)
- Day Home Consultant and Administrator Training which included Adoption of Sensitive Practice into Agency Work Plans, Indicators of Sensitivity, and Incorporating Strategies with Providers
- "The Ooey Goey Lady", including information on creating child-centered environments, sensory play, and rhymes/fingerplays



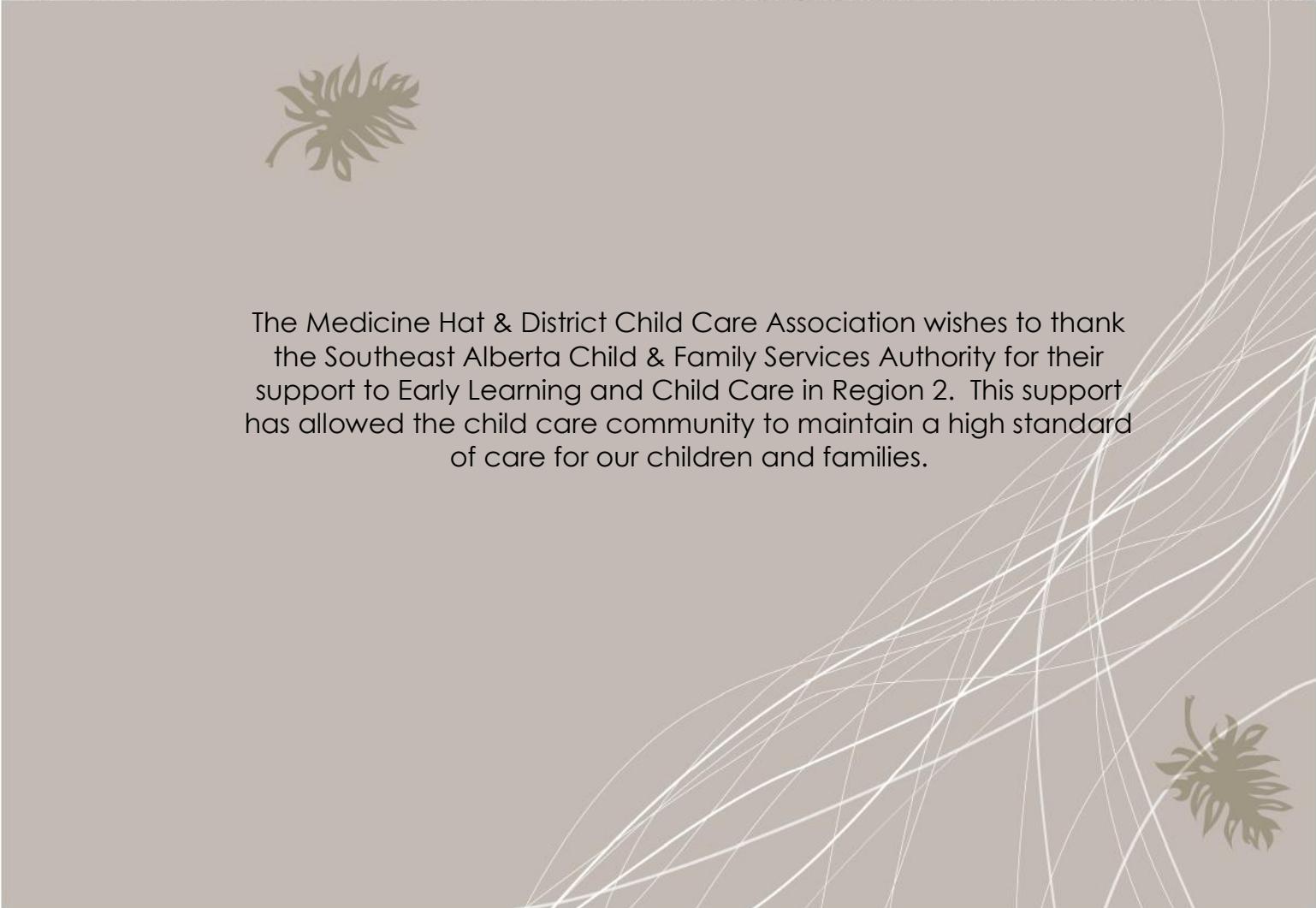

CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

Our profile in the community has been strengthened this year. We have participated in the Medicine Hat College Job Fairs to promote Early Childhood Education as a profession of choice. Our connection to the College was also fortified with the planning of the Ooey Goey Lady workshop. The Early Learning and Care Coordinator at MHC was an integral part of the organization of this event.

Our Coordinator continues to sit as Co-Chair of the Medicine Hat Early Childhood Coalition, working to support children's development through strong community. In addition, our Coordinator sits as a member of the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services (AELCS) Governing Council. This allows our Region have its specific experiences with accreditation represented when changes are being made. Our regional voice is heard at this table.

In November, our organization and many members of the Medicine Hat Early Childhood Coalition participated in the "Toward a Provincial Framework for Early Learning and Care in Alberta" consultation. This was a great opportunity for those in the child care sector to weigh in on changes that may be adopted by the Province.

We have had regular contact with the community via Facebook, articles in the Medicine Hat News, in the Cribbs 2 Crayons magazine, an interview on Chat 6 & 3, Community Events such as Canada Day & Flulapolooza, Baby & You Sessions and a bulletin board at Parent Link Centre. We are excited to present a positive face to child care in Medicine Hat and the rest of Region 2.



The Medicine Hat & District Child Care Association wishes to thank the Southeast Alberta Child & Family Services Authority for their support to Early Learning and Child Care in Region 2. This support has allowed the child care community to maintain a high standard of care for our children and families.



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