

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Accreditation = A self-reflection process for meeting formal standards of excellence and enhancing Best Practice

Accreditation team = A group of three to six persons whose responsibility is to ensure that all stakeholders are informed about the service's application for accreditation; that all of the Accreditation Standards are being addressed; and that the process is moving along according to the timelines.

Appeal process = a process which addresses how a formal decision can be reassessed

Approved Family Day Home Provider = a family day home that is approved by a contracted family day home agency and abides by the provincial Family Day Home Standards
<http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/family-community/child-care-approved-family-day-homes.html>

Attachment = one aspect of the relationship between a child and adult/parent/caregiver with its purpose to make a child feel safe, secure, and protected. A strong attachment leads to bonding and supports psychological/emotional well-being and helps shape the child's sense of self and resistance to stress

Best practice = a technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has reliably led to a desired or optimum result; a set of procedures that exceed the minimum requirements set out by licensing

Board of directors = a group of persons chosen to govern the affairs of an organization, usually not-for-profit

Child Care Licensing Act

<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/C10P5.pdf>

Child Care Licensing Regulation

http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2008_143.pdf

Child care professionals = a practitioner responsible for working directly with children to provide supervision, planning/organizing activities, and interacting with children to contribute promote their growth and development, as well as a person responsible for the overall supervision of practitioners and programming

Child guidance continuum = a scale of child-adult interactions that ranges from non-intrusive to interactive practices, as well as preventive and interventive strategies

Child wellness = the harmony of mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, environmental and cultural well-being which enables a child to reach optimal **developmental milestones**

Comprehensive = refers to policies and documents which include sufficient information to meet each standard

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Creative thinking = a process by which individuals assess a situation or problem and develop a unique approach or solution

Criterion = refers to principles and guiding practises that make up each standard

Critical thinking = a way of applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action

Culture = the behaviours, beliefs and/or characteristics of a group of people

Day care program (DC) = a child care program licensed under the Child Care Licensing Act providing care and supervision to infants, pre-school children and kindergarten children for 4 or more consecutive hours in each day the program is provided

Developmentally appropriate = a way of describing practices that are adapted to match the age, characteristics and developmental progress of a specific age group of children
<http://www.naeyc.org/DAP>

Developmental domains = term used to describe areas of child development, including: gross motor development (large muscle movement and control); fine motor development (hand and finger skills, and hand-eye coordination); speech and language/communication; the child relationship to toys and other objects, to people and to the larger world around them; and the child emotions, coping behavior and self-help skills

Distal supervision = refers to child care professional's proximity to the children in their care who are school aged

Diversity = variety; a range of differences, for example, diversity can refer to culture, family makeup, income, etc.

Early Childhood Services = includes options for educational programming for children as young as 2½ years old. The School Act states that a board or an approved school authority may provide an ECS program to a child who is younger than 6 years of age as of September 1.
<https://education.alberta.ca/parents/ecs/>

Early literacy = developmentally appropriate approaches for children aged 1 to 6 that promote the development of skills to access and convey information through written and oral communication

Emotional climate = the overall tone of the environment, for example, children feel safe to share their feelings within the program

Exceptionalities = refers to a child who has some form of functioning that is different from the norm, for example, exceptionality may refer to a child with Down Syndrome, as well as to a child who is gifted intellectually

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Family day home agency (FDH) = an agency that is contracted with Child and Family Services to provide child care for children 0-12 years old in the homes of their contracted family day home providers

Group family child care program = a licenced child care program provided in the private residence of the licence holder to infants, pre-school children, kindergarten children and school-aged children

Inclusion = the act of being included within a group or community

Inclusive practice = the flexibility of a program or organization in order to accommodate for all children, for example, an inclusive practise may be wheelchair accessible

Indicator = the observable measurement that must be met in order to meet the criterion and, therefore, the standard

Innovative child care program = a licenced child care program approved by the director that is designed to meet the unique child care needs of the community in which the program is provided

Leadership = refers to a person who guides or directs a project or group

Logical consequences misbehaviour = happen as a result of a child's action, but are imposed by the care giver, and make sense in relation to the behaviour. For example, a child throws paint on the wall and then must clean it up

Media literacy = the ability to use and understand technology and media

Licensing regulation = the legal regulation set by the province that indicates the minimum standards all licensed child care programs must meet (Child Care Licensing Regulation)

Mentors = the trusted and experienced supervisors or advisers who have personal and direct interest in the development and/or education of younger or less experienced individuals, usually in professional education or professional occupations

Metacognition = refers to higher order thinking which involves active control over the cognitive processes engaged in learning. Activities such as planning how to approach a given learning task, monitoring comprehension, and evaluating progress toward the completion of a task are **metacognitive** in nature.

Moral development = developing attitudes and values that benefit society

Natural consequence = the results of misbehaviour that occur naturally, for example, a child throws away all the crayons and then has nothing to draw with

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Nature literacy = the understanding of the natural world around us

Natural world = the naturally occurring plants, animals and environments around us

Open posture = the physical position of a child care professional's body, for example, an open posture includes arms that are not crossed

Out-of-school care program (OSC) = A child care program providing care and supervision to kindergarten and school-aged children in any or all of the following periods: (i) before and after school; and/or (ii) during lunch hours; and/or (iii) when schools are closed

Physical activity = any action that inspires movement and causes a child to perspire

Physical literacy = the understanding of the fundamental skills and movements that allow children to move with confidence

Physical wellness = the development of healthy eating habits and physical activity

Play = a pleasurable and highly motivating context in which children can explore possibilities and solve problems that are beyond their reach in ordinary life

Positive interactions = the interactions between people that are helpful and not harmful

Pre-school program = a child care program provided to pre-school children and kindergarten children for less than 4 hours per child in each day the program is provided

Professional Administration Scale = the tool program's use to evaluate their administrative practises

<http://mccormickcenter.nl.edu/program-evaluation/program-administration-scale-pas/>

Professional agencies = refers to a business or organization which serves a professional need

Professional isolation = a condition of professional individuals or groups characterized by lack of communication or interaction with; colleagues, the relevant professional community, or related professional organizations

Professional recognition = the expressed or implied acknowledgment of one's professional efforts, qualities, and/or training

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) = the document completed by programs which outlines the steps taken to improve the overall quality of their program

Redirection = offering choices to children in order to avoid conflict

Regulatory requirements = specific activities that are mandatory as set out by Alberta Human Services, the regional CFS and the Regional Health Authority in the area where the agency is located

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Routines = the activities that occur consistently, for example, daily or weekly

Scaffolding = building on previous learning or accomplishments, for example, a program may conduct family surveys; then use the information from the survey's to enhance the quality of their program

Schedules = planned activities

Sedentary behavior = any waking behavior that keeps an individual still, such as: sitting, being held or being secured

Self-efficacy = an individual's ability to succeed on their own capabilities

Self-evaluation = activities undertaken by a child care program, as part of the accreditation process, to review and improve the quality of the services provided by the program. The self-evaluation includes the initial self-assessment, quality enhancement plan and the final review

Social media = the technology, software and applications used for social interactions

Special needs = a person with a significant disadvantage, background or disability, for example, learning disability or low income

Staff = all adults involved with a program who are on payroll and can include the bus driver or cook

Staff: child ratio = The minimum number of adults required to work with the children within the program

Standard Self-evaluation Tool = the document which programs complete outlining the self-assessment for each of the six standards

Standard = refers to the standards of excellence of Accreditation which reflect leading practises to provide high quality care for families and children from birth to 12 years of age

Transitions = refers to the preparation of moving from one activity to the next, for example, child care professional gives children a two minute warning before moving from reading into outside time

Volunteer = refers to any person who assists in a program, however, is not on payroll