

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://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/family-day-home-standards-manual.pdf>

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

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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

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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

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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

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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