



What Do Parents Need to Know About the Accreditation Process?

Step 1 Application

The service applies to be accredited.

Step 2 Self-Study

The service completes a self-study which can take from 2 to 12 months. Parents will be asked to complete a family survey. They will also have the opportunity to be a part of an accreditation team to support the service in becoming accredited.

Step 3 Site Visit

Part of the accreditation process involves peer review by validators who visit the centre or agency. Parents and children may see validators at the service during a site visit.

Step 4 Decision

An accreditation decision is made.

Step 5 Monitoring

The service is accredited for three years and will be monitored on an ongoing basis after which time the service must apply for re-accreditation.



Alberta
Association for the
Accreditation
of Early Learning and Care Services

(AELCS)

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A

ccreditation

"A" is for
Accreditation



What Does the Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services Do?

We:

- evaluate child care centres and contracted family child care agencies against standards that were developed together with Alberta Children's Services and the child care sector.
- grant accreditation status to those services that meet standards for high quality child care.

What are the Benefits of Accreditation for Parents?

It helps parents identify and choose high quality child care programs for their children.

Information about your child's program will be more accessible.

What are the Benefits of Accreditation for Children?

Children learn and grow best in programs that provide quality care and activities. Accreditation recognizes quality.



How Do Accreditation and Licensing Differ?

Licensing is required and is intended to meet health and safety standards.

Accreditation is a **voluntary** program which aims to improve quality of care.

Licensing	Accreditation
Required by law	Voluntary
Sets minimum standards	Sets standards of high quality and recognizes achievement
Purpose is to meet health, safety and other needs of children	Purpose is to achieve a high standard of practice

Recognizing
excellence
in child care
across Alberta

How Does a Centre or Agency Become Accredited?

Standards Must be Met in Order to Receive Accreditation

High standards enhance quality of care. Here are a few examples that show that a service is offering quality care and meeting the standards:

- The program has an open door policy and welcomes families to visit.
- Children are cared for by adults who are trained in early childhood education.
- Children can choose from a variety of open-ended play experiences that support varying skill levels and interests.
- The service promotes literacy.
- Rules, limits, and consequences are geared to the children's level of development and explained to children in language they understand.

(Please see your administrator for more information.)

How Does Accreditation Improve Quality?

Accreditation:

- Helps services and families to work together towards common goals.
- Sets standards of quality care and strengthens best practices within the profession.
- Recognizes services for providing superior programming.
- Increases the visibility and credibility of the early childhood profession and gives child care workers the tools they need to provide high quality programs and services.
- Supports on-going improvement through re-accreditation every three years.

