

## How would an accredited program meet my family's needs?

- 1 Accredited programs demonstrate their commitment to work in partnership with parents to meet your child's specific needs.
- 2 Accredited programs document your child's development.
- 3 An open door policy is essential to an accredited program's practice, and your input and feedback are welcomed.
- 4 Additional opportunities are available to access workshops and other resources that support planning of activities specific to your child's skill level and interests.
- 5 Accredited programs have access to provincial government funding at enhanced rates to attract and retain qualified staff and to promote staff development.
- 6 The facility exceeds licensing standards.



Alberta  
Association for the  
**Accreditation**  
of Early Learning and Care Services

**(AELCS)**

*The Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services (AELCS) is a non-profit organization that is funded by Alberta Children's Services*

Suite 802 Baker Centre  
10025 106 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 1G4  
Phone: 780 421 9222  
Toll Free: 1 877 552 2227  
Fax: 780 421 9229  
Email: [info@abccaccred.ca](mailto:info@abccaccred.ca)

**Alberta**

# Accreditation



## Interested in Quality Child Care?

*Accreditation is a tool  
parents can use to help  
them choose child care  
that meets their needs.*



## What is Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services?

Alberta's Child Care Accreditation Program was designed to improve the quality of child care in Alberta and to help parents choose child care that meets their needs. Accreditation is available to licensed day care programs and contracted family day home agencies.

It demonstrates how programs go beyond minimum requirements to meet higher standards of care in delivering child care services.

## How is accreditation different from licensing?

Licensing is required by provincial legislation to ensure that minimum standards of health, safety, and care are in place at all times. Accreditation is voluntary. Accreditation exceeds the regulated standards of licensing.

## How does a centre or agency become accredited?

Programs engage in a self-study process and undergo a site visit by external examiners to demonstrate they meet ten quality standards.

## Why would I want my child in an accredited program?

High quality child care can positively influence your child's development because children learn and grow best in programs that provide quality care and activities.

Accredited programs encourage the involvement of parents in the child care program.

## What is the role of the Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services (AELCS)?

AELCS assesses licensed child care centres and contracted family day home agencies according to standards that were developed by Alberta Children's Services and the child care sector; and *accredits* child care programs that meet the standards.

*For more information about the benefits of enrolling your child in an accredited child care program, feel free to speak to your child care provider or visit our website at [www.abccaccred.ca](http://www.abccaccred.ca).*

# Recognizing excellence in child care across Alberta

