

RESPIRE CHILD CARE SERVICES:

What is Respite Child Care?

Respite child care is a service for vulnerable families. Eligible families can access respite child care from licensed and approved child care programs in Central Region.

Who can access respite child care?

Vulnerable families who want to increase or enhance their parenting skills and capabilities can access services.

Vulnerable families could include:

- Single parents and teen parents
- Families who lack supports and or social networks
- Families impacted by socioeconomic factors – finances, housing challenges
- Families who have children with exceptional needs – medical, developmental, behavioral
- Parents with exceptional needs – medical, developmental, behavioral
- Parents requiring enhanced parenting skills
- Families facing long lasting challenges – e.g. mental health, substance use

When is respite child care available?

Parents may need respite child care if they:

- Are accessing individual or group counselling supports that will enhance their parenting abilities.
- Are managing a life situation that requires time away from their children – e.g. leaving a domestic violence situation, medical appointments, mediation, family group conferences, etc.
- Can demonstrate that respite child care will enhance their family situation – e.g. increase capacity for quality time with children

Who can provide respite child care?

Licensed and approved child care programs who:

- Are in compliance with *the Child Care Licensing Act*, applicable Regulations and or Family Day Home Standards.
- Have a demonstrated inclusive child care philosophy with the capacity to meet the needs of children with disabilities.
- Have the capacity and ability to work with families requiring additional supports.
- *Note:* Experienced early childhood professionals with minimum Alberta Staff Certification are considered to be an asset to the program.

How do I find out more about respite child care services?

Referrals and Inquiries for Respite Child Care can be made to Central Region Child & Family Services, Child Care Licensing Unit. Please contact:

- Marlene: (780) 608-4079 north
- Lee: (403) 340-7755 south
- For toll free service: first dial 310-0000; then the phone number

