

2024 Annual Report

Prairie Grown
Early Learning Centre

The pages that tell our story

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Purpose

To provide quality childcare with a strong focus on sustainability and teaching future generations the importance of social responsibility through enriching, hands-on experiences.
We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where every child and family feels welcomed, valued, and supported, celebrating diversity and fostering a sense of belonging for all.

Vision

Prairie Grown Early Learning Centre aspires to be a child-centred environment that encourages exploration, creativity, and discovery. Through open-ended activities and thoughtfully designed spaces, we support each child's growth and development. Grounded in the Play and Exploration Philosophy, our approach nurtures social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and spiritual development.

Values

Family and Community:

We are dedicated to building strong, meaningful relationships with families and the broader community, fostering collaboration and trust as we work together to support each child's learning journey.

Quality Care & Trust

We prioritize a safe, nurturing environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive with confidence.

Sustainability

By embedding sustainable practices into daily routines and learning experiences, we empower children to care for the planet and become responsible global citizens.

Early Learning Professionals

Our educators are passionate role models committed to creating purposeful, engaging experiences that support each child's development and curiosity.

Message from our Co-Directors *Jessica Hoffman & Lyndsay Lazorko*

As we reflect on the past year at Prairie Grown ELC, we are incredibly proud of the progress, growth, and sense of community that continues to flourish within our centre. 2024 was a year of exciting initiatives, new opportunities, and strengthened relationships—with our staff, families, and the broader early learning community.

One of our biggest focuses this year has been enhancing our learning environments to better support children's curiosity and development. Through grants, we invested in recruitment and retention efforts, ensuring Prairie Grown ELC remains a place where passionate educators thrive. Our involvement in the Building Inclusive Practices initiative also deepened our commitment to inclusive and culturally responsive programming, with valuable insights from the Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP).

We were thrilled to welcome visitors during the Ministry of Education Site Visit, sharing our approach to sustainability, open-ended learning, and thoughtfully designed environments. These visits sparked meaningful discussions and highlighted the incredible work of our educators.

Family engagement remained a top priority, with staff going above and beyond to organize meaningful gatherings throughout the year. Their dedication to building strong relationships has created a warm, welcoming community. We're also grateful to the families who supported our fundraising efforts, including the Boston Pizza Fundraiser, which directly enriched our programs.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the continued professional growth of our team. With participation in the Saskpolytech Alumni group, professional development opportunities, and collaborative learning, our educators remain well-equipped to provide the best possible care and education. Looking ahead, we're excited about upcoming training, including potential PD sessions on Responding to Children's Interests.

As we close the chapter on 2024, we are filled with gratitude—for our incredible team, supportive families, and the little learners who inspire us daily. Thank you for being part of this journey. We can't wait to see what 2025 brings!

Jess & Lyndsay




after our Planet

Message from our Board Chair *Nicole Cook*

Dear Prairie Grown Early Learning and Childcare Team and families,

As the Chair of the Board, it fills me with immense pride to congratulate each of you on your remarkable accomplishments in 2024. Your unwavering commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education has not gone unnoticed.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Co-Directors, Jess and Lyndsay. Their dedication, vision, and leadership have been instrumental to the success of our organization. They are the heart and soul of the centre, and their passion and commitment shine through in every aspect of what we do.

The consistency of the dedicated staff has been a cornerstone of our success. It's been wonderful to witness the strong morale and retention within our team. It's a true reflection of the supportive and nurturing environment you've all worked so hard to create.

Your incredible "Play to Learn" program for children aged 18 months to 5 years is truly inspiring. The expansion of this program, alongside your role as the top site for other early childhood educators, showcases your leadership and innovative practices that set a standard for excellence in our community.

Additionally, your dedication to sustainability through reusing and recycling has not only enriched the learning experiences for our children but also strengthened our financial stability. This commitment reflects your deep care for our planet and for the future generations.

Thank you for your hard work and passion. Together, we are shaping the future of our children and creating lasting memories. Here's to another successful year ahead!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Nicole Cook
Chair of the Board



Sprouting Curiosity at Prairie Grown

This year at Prairie Grown ELC, our educators continued to deepen their commitment to emergent, play-based learning through responsive project work and thoughtful curriculum planning. We focused on following children's interests, building on their curiosities, and intentionally creating learning environments that spark exploration and meaningful engagement. Our Early Childhood Educators (ECE's) regularly documented children's learning journeys, fostering collaboration among staff, families, and children through open-ended activities, invitations to play, and shared reflections.

One of our key highlights was strengthening our approach to curriculum through more intentional observations and developmental checklists, ensuring our program continues to meet children where they are while supporting their next steps in learning. Our staff also participated in professional development tied to the Saskatchewan Play and Exploration curriculum framework and engaged in discussions around cultural responsiveness and inclusive practices.

In alignment with our values of sustainability and stewardship, Prairie Grown ELC advanced its Green Initiative with both small and impactful changes. We expanded our outdoor learning opportunities, incorporated more natural and recycled materials into the classroom, and encouraged waste-reducing practices across age groups. Children were active participants in caring for our garden, composting efforts, and learning about the life cycle of plants and animals, strengthening their connection to the land and environmental responsibility.

We also applied to the Energy Support Services (ESS) program and are currently waiting for a plan. This will help us learn how to reduce our energy use and support our ongoing efforts to be more environmentally friendly.



The hands that help us bloom

Board of Directors

Nicole Cook *Board Chair*

Shelia Pelletier *Vice-Chair*

Sanam Zimmer *Treasurer*

Melissa Mills *Secretary*

Amanda Clarke *Director*

Natalie Millar *Director*

Our Staff

Leadership



Jessica Hoffman
Director



Lyndsay Lazorko
Director



Kristal Hine
Nutrition Specialist & Supervisor

Preschool Team



Brittany Ingersoll
Early Childhood Educator



Grace Schmidt
Early Childhood Educator



Navjot Kaur
Early Childhood Educator



Jordan Allen
Early Childhood Educator



Lora Vaughan
Early Childhood Educator



Ramanpreet Kaur
Early Childhood Educator



Rebecca Baragar
Early Childhood Educator

Toddler Team



Courtney Ehman
Early Childhood Educator



Cyber Lamba
Early Childhood Educator



Gurjinder Kaur
Early Childhood Educator



Jagjit Kaur
Early Childhood Educator



Kealy Cruickshank
Early Childhood Educator



Kuljeet Kaur
Early Childhood Educator



Saifina Maredia
Early Childhood Educator



Relationships & Celebrations

At Prairie Grown Early Learning Centre, building strong, meaningful relationships is at the heart of what we do—both with our families and within our team.

Throughout the year, our dedicated staff go above and beyond to plan and host family gatherings that create a sense of connection and belonging. These events offer families the chance to engage in their child's learning journey, connect with educators, and form lasting relationships with one another. Whether it's a casual get-together or a special celebration, these moments strengthen our centre community and reflect our commitment to family engagement.

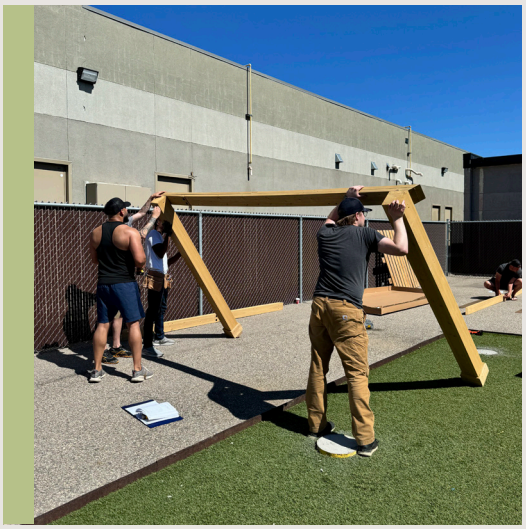
Equally important are the opportunities we create to connect as a team. Staff gatherings outside of work are a cherished part of our culture. From our summer picnic full of games and good food, to Diwali celebrations, laser tag outings, and our festive Christmas Twinkle Tour party, these events bring laughter, joy, and a deeper sense of camaraderie among colleagues. These moments help us recharge, connect, and continue building a strong, collaborative team environment.

We're grateful for the dedication, joy, and connection these experiences bring, strengthening our relationships and the vibrant community we're proud to be part of.





Helping hands, Big Hearts



Gazebo Gratitude

Thanks to a generous donation from Elizabeth Smart, our outdoor space now includes a beautiful new gazebo — a space for children to learn, play, and explore. Thank you to the families who came together to build it: Andrew Biss, Chantel Berriault, Patrick Brockbank, Tanner Hope, Davin Stachoski, Kristen Flavel, Curtis Flavel, Tysen Deregowski, Mandip Dhesi, Devan Knoll, Caitlin Roy, and Cody Straker.

Your time and teamwork made a lasting impact.



Picture Perfect Moments

A heartfelt thank you to Rebbeca Marroquin for capturing stunning portraits of our children and staff. Her talent helped preserve cherished memories for our community.

Helping Hands, Handy Work

We deeply appreciate Handyman Moe for keeping our centre running smoothly. His ongoing support and can-do attitude ensure our space remains safe, functional, and welcoming.

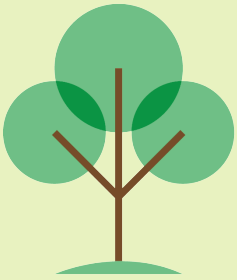


Crafted with Care

A big thank you to Maynard “Mal” Mallow for handcrafting wooden toys and sensory tools for our children. From balance beams and stumps to fidget boards and storage crates, his work enriches both our play spaces and developmental learning.

Community Contributions

We are grateful to the many parents who donated toys and loose parts throughout the year. Your generosity continues to spark creativity, exploration, and joy in our learning environments.



Prairie Grown

Early Learning Centre

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