



Regina Early Learning Centre

2024-25 Annual Report



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The First Years Last Forever.



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Thank You to Our Supporters



The Regina Early Learning Centre (RELC) acknowledges we are on the traditional lands of the Treaty 4 Territory, the original lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the homeland of the Metis Nation. The Regina Early Learning Centre is committed to working together with Indigenous peoples as we take important steps forward on the pathway of collaboration, reconciliation, and change.

Vision

The First Years Last Forever:
Working in partnership with
families to support the healthy
development of young children.

Mission

The Regina Early Learning Centre
provides programs that support
families to nurture the healthy
development of children from
prenatal to five years of age.

Current Board of Directors

Danica Escobar – Chair Person

Danielle Pass – Vice Chair

Hilde Morrow – Secretary

Harshita Senguthar– Member at Large

Fatima Riaz–Member at Large

Chair's Report

It is a pleasure to present the Regina Early Learning Centre's **2025 Annual Report**. Since joining the Board in 2022, I have been proud to work alongside a dedicated group of volunteers whose commitment to RELC is inspiring.

This past year was filled with meaningful programming, from supporting new mothers and babies, to creating safe and engaging learning spaces for young children, to working with fathers to support their parenting journeys. We also celebrated many highlights, including our first Lip Sync Showdown fundraiser, a joyful evening that brought our community together.

Alongside these successes, RELC faced several challenges in 2025. A leadership transition occurred with the departure of our Executive Director in June, and adjustments were made to our preschool program in response to funding pressures. These changes, including reducing the number of classrooms and increasing class sizes, were made thoughtfully with a focus on sustainability and quality care.

Our commitment to children and families remains unwavering. RELC continues to provide safe transportation, nutritious meals, and no-cost, evidence-based programs that remove barriers and support family well-being. We were also pleased to reopen our renovated 5th Avenue location, welcoming families back into a refreshed and accessible community space.

We would like to give a special thank you to Mary Ann for stepping in temporarily and providing leadership and stability as we worked on hiring for the permanent Executive Director position. Her calm, steady, collaborative leadership was very important.

As we welcome a new Executive Director, Jessica Guraluick, we are excited to move into 2026. Thank you to everyone who supports RELC and for entrusting us with your children. Your support makes this work possible

Thank you,

Danica Escobar

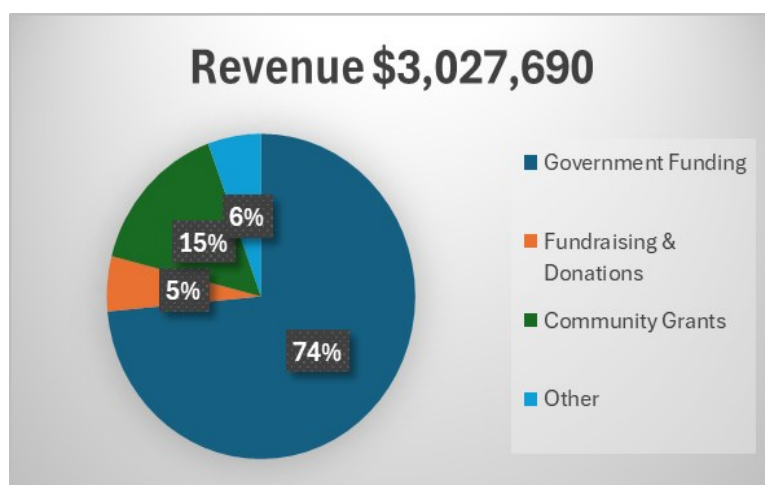
Strategic Priority Areas



Treasurers Report

Submitted to the membership are the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025. These statements were approved by the Board of Directors on January 8, 2026. The complete audited statements will be posted on the Centre's website: www.earlylearning.ca. Of note, in regard to the Audited Statements, this is considered a clean audit.

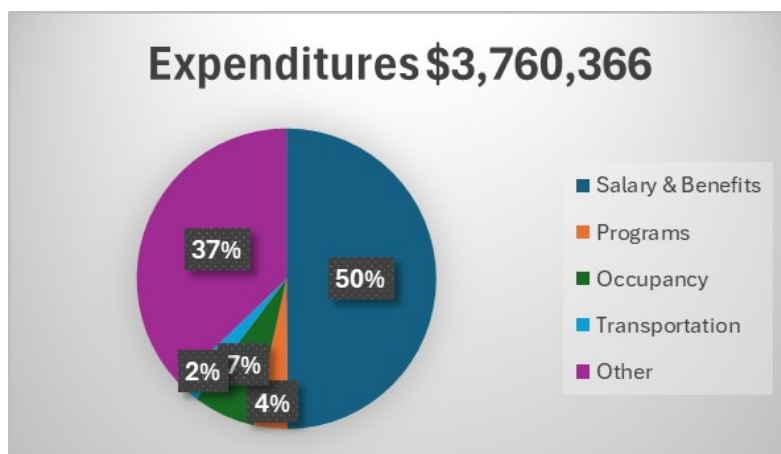
Some key highlights from our financial statements are:



Revenue: Revenue increased due to larger community grants and community donations. In the 2024-2025 year, we entered year 2 of a 3 year grant agreement through Anonymous Donor funding providing \$165,000 in funds. RELC was also successful in obtaining a grant through Anonymous Donor to set up an Operational Reserve for the organization. This amount totalled \$250,000. There was a decrease in fundraising revenue, with only one major fundraising event taking place this year – Lip Sync Showdown. The prior year we held 2 fundraising events – India Nights and Small Hands, Big Dreams.

Expenses: There were moderate increase in expenses this year. We saw higher occupancy costs related to minor repairs at Athol St. and work at Early Years Family Resource Centre on 5th Ave. We also incurred more mortgage interest related to the renovation mortgage for the 5th Ave Centre. There was an increase in Professional fees relating to HR contracting and fund development consulting. Increased costs related to Staff Education and Recruitment, as during this year our KidsFirst Homevisiting program was responsible for paying

for mandatory training materials for staff within the program and submitted for reimbursement through the Sask. Health Authority. In previous years, these costs were directly covered through SHA. The increase in transportation is related to entering into a lease agreement to lease one of our Preschool transport vans, as we unfortunately needed to replace one early on in the year.



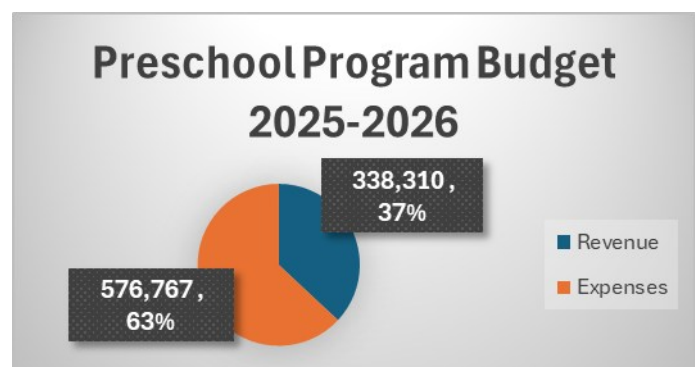
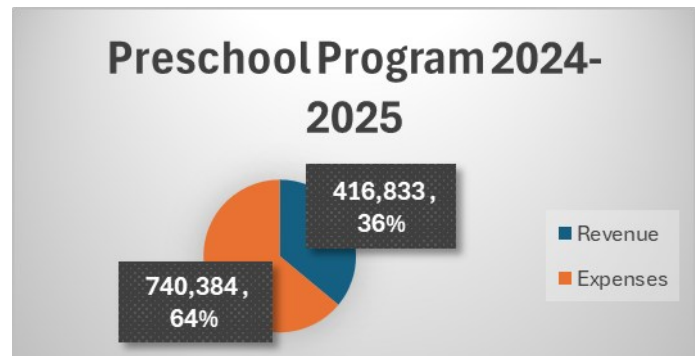
In the 2024-2025 year we completed renovations at the Early Years Family Resource Centre on 5th Ave. With the necessary renovations to the building, these costs were capitalized, increasing the book value for the 3079 5th Ave property. which exceeded its estimated current market value. This resulted in a significant portion of the building needing to be written down. The amount of the required write-down was \$891,711 which was recorded under other expenses. This amount would have typically been amortized over multiple years. By recording the impairment loss, we are now accurately reflecting the value of the property on our books, and no write-down should be necessary in future years.

Total assets: Assets have decreased from the previous year. This was primarily a result of recognizing the impairment loss on our property and equipment. There was an increase to our marketable securities. This year we had an investment withdrawal related to renovations – this was offset by transferring the Anonymous Donor funds for the Operational Reserve into our investments.

Total liabilities: Liabilities have increased from the previous year largely due to the mortgage payable for the renovations at 5th Ave. In the 2024 year end, we had utilized 44% of the available mortgage funds, and with the work being complete in this year, we have now recognized the full balance of the available mortgage.

Fund Balances: Fund Balances have decreased over-all. There was an increase to the Operational Reserve Fund and Contingency Fund. Due to the impairment loss of 5th Ave, we saw a decrease to the investment in Property and Equipment, as well as our Unrestricted fund.

Another factor in the overall fund decrease is a long-standing deficit within our Preschool program. The organization has been maintaining this deficit through utilizing one-time, unrestricted grants to cover the gaps in funding. Currently, with the dedicated program funding in place, the program operates at a roughly \$300,000 annual deficit. Management and the board realize this deficit is not sustainable, and with the predicted loss of some key community grants, are working to prioritize this growing issue and look for immediate solutions to ease the financial risk that the organization has been carrying.



Financial Highlights: Regina Early Learning Centre began a partnership with The Ministry of Health in 2025 for an annual funding agreement to help support the work of the Saskatchewan Perinatal Health Network. This also launched the re-brand of the program from The Regina Perinatal Health Network to The Saskatchewan Perinatal Health Network.

In 2025, Regina Early Learning Centre launched a new fundraiser, Lip Sync Showdown. We had a successful first year and look forward to the seeing the event grow.

The organization also received a significant community donation of \$50,000 from the estate of Frances Haug, a long-time supporter of The Regina Early Learning Centre.

Thank you to all of our stakeholders, staff, volunteers, sponsors, contributors and donors, for their part in making the Regina Early Learning Centre's programs successful. The programs offered by the Centre have had long-lasting positive impacts on youth, their parents and the community.

Lip Sync Showdown

In 2024-2025 the Regina Early Learning Centre rolled out the inaugural Lip Sync Showdown. This new event was an overwhelming success. A total of \$67,000 was raised and we believe this is an event that will continue to grow over time. Planning has already begun for Lip Sync 2026.

What is a Lip Sync Showdown?

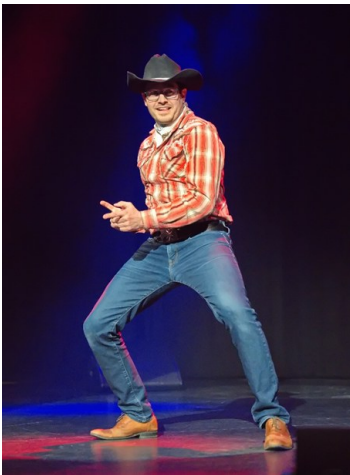
Remember when you were a kid, blasting your favourite tunes in your bedroom and singing into your hair brush/hockey stick/microphone? Just like that but with local celebrities who have big personalities performing on stage to a large audience and raising funds to support the important work of RELC.

This event was inspired by the TV show, Lip Sync Battle.

Many thanks to the 2025 performers: Adam Hicks, Tracey and Tyler McMurchy, Todd Dixon, Jeph Maystruck, Joe and Andrea Neustaeter and Jodi Robson. Thanks also to our Judges and MC's.

Thank you to our presenting sponsors Doug and Gloria Archer, Welldone Mechanical, South Sask. Community Foundation, Puroclean, Floors By Design, Casino Regina/Sask. Gaming, A Good Life, Stripe Shop, Kiwanis Club of Regina, Knight Archer Insurance, Affinity Credit Union, Campbell and Haliburton, Dixon Surkan Advisory Group/Wood Gundy/CIBC Private Wealth, Capital Automotive Group, MicroAge Regina, SaskTel Cares, Colliers, Tymark, 1080 Architecture Planning and Interiors, Abadoo Promotion Group, Berger Cavan Group LLP, P3A Architecture, Tracy Youck Foundation, SVC Construction, Strategy Lab Marketing, Harvard Media, CTV.

Also thank you to our many Silent Auction donors and volunteers.



Preschool

Each year 96 children from low-income homes receive a high-quality, play-based, culturally sensitive program that fosters holistic development and builds foundations for language and learning skills. The program is supported by low staff-to-child ratios. Children leave the program more prepared for kindergarten and success in school but also with greater self-confidence, social skills and a love of learning.

Saskatchewan's Early Learning and Child Care Quality Key Indicator Instrument (SK Quality Tool) Scoring Summary

In the 2023-2024 School Year, the preschool was assessed with all the Early Learning and Childcare centers in the province of Saskatchewan. We scored a total score of **35**.

"The centre offers quality programming. Educators are intentional in planning and carrying out their plan. The environment is a reflection of Play & Exploration – natural materials, invitations, independence, family. Educators use observations for planning and documentation is evident. Children are engaged in play with interesting materials and they have the choice of what they would like to interact with. Independence is encouraged. High-quality language interactions and higher level of thinking language are consistently evident. The educators demonstrate following children's lead consistently. Many quality practices evident."

Quality Level	Preschool (No Infant/Toddler Groups) 9 indicators assessed
High	Score of 32 or higher
Medium-High	Score of 26-31
Medium-Low	Score of 16-25
Low	Score of 15 or less

The Preschool worked in partnership with the University of Regina and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to collaborate on a research project called "Imagination and World Building with Children". This project was a 3 week federally funded storytelling project using imagination, fantastical storytelling, community engagement, and arts materials to explore children's big "what if?" questions.

Children, along with Whitney Blaisdell (U of R) Emily Ashton (UNB) and Brittany Tomin (U of R) explored big what if questions through walks, imaginative play, story time, and art exploration. Children showed us their curiosity about their community and imagined the possibilities in the future through arts based play and creation. Our Creations were shared during the Cathedral Arts Festival with a celebration of food and creative representation, welcoming the community into the lantern space to explore the children's discoveries.





In the fall of 2025 we were given the opportunity to apply for the Kal Tire Re-play grant. We were selected from a large range of applicants in Saskatchewan to install a continued loop of the bike path in the back playground area of the playground space at Athol Street. A plan was created with CVS Rubber Paving to install a recycled rubber path that looped around the back playground. In spring of 2026 a grand opening will be planned

Caregiver Comments:

How has preschool made a difference for your child?

"As a newcomer, she faced a language barrier before joining preschool. Now she is fluent in English. She has become more social and maintains a friendly relationship with other kids."

What is your favourite thing about the Early Learning Centre?

"I like everything about it. The teachers and employees are so friendly and cooperative. Their classroom activities are designed to be beneficial for the mental and physical development of every child."

How has preschool made a difference to your family?

"All of my kids have gone to the preschool, and it has benefited them all. Their independence and being comfortable with social situations and playing well with others. I love this program. I am grateful it has been such a big part of my life and the lives of my children."

Food Experiences Curriculum

The teachers had some plans that they had intended to explore with the children, but as things go, the children often show interests in different ways, and so the curriculum changed in new ways in the different classrooms. Some of the foods we explored were: citrus, beans, avocado, berries, breads, ice cream, and apples.

We combined various activities with each of the foods. Trying to incorporate art experiences, mathematical concepts, literacy, science. We sorted things, mashed things, juiced things. We cooked using the foods. We dried some of the foods. We used the internet to research the foods. Some of the foods we tried to grow, and we found out so many things along the way.



Dried Citrus Sensory
experiences



Discovering avocados



Chemical reactions with citrus and paint

KidsFirst

KidsFirst is a home-visiting program designed to support children and families by enhancing parenting knowledge, providing support, and building on family strengths.

KidsFirst realizes everyone wants to be a good parent and every parent wants to have healthy children. We provide support for families to reach these goals.

Our program works with families and their children from pregnancy through to 3 years old. We focus on child development, parent-child relationships, and parenting skills.

Program results

- 109 families served
- 1465 home visits completed
- 68% of participants reported the program has been helpful
- 100% of participants report their parenting skills have improved as a result of participation
- 100% of participants like the structure of the program

Caregiver Comments:

What I like about Kids First:

- “supportive, educational, interesting, I feel seen, helpful, understanding, heartwarming, validating, good bonding, good reminders”
- “I am glad I found this program and my home visitor she is so nice and kind person she explains all the things in detail and she help to problem solve and every stage of child growth she explains very well”
- “Really very helpful. Sometimes I thought I am not able to take care of my baby, I am not a good Mom but she tells me everything is going good. I am good Mom – really very appreciate.”



Family Outreach

We offer a wide range of group parenting programs and one-to-one support to a small number of families facing very significant challenges.

Program Impact:

631 Adults and 747 Children Attended Programs through the year

Programs:

- Women's Group
- Spirit of Peace
- Make the connection
- Circle of Security
- Triple P Fearless
- Baby and Toddler nutrition
- Fathers Group

Circle of Security is a visual map of attachment. It is used in parent education and intervention programs to help parents better understand and meet their children's attachment needs. It depicts the interplay between a child's need for exploration (going out), and their need for comfort and safety (coming in), with parent acting as both a Secure Base and Safe Haven.



Father's Group decided to take on the Moose Hide Campaign. This campaign recognizes that all forms of violence is unacceptable, regardless of gender. It is easy to see the disproportionate number of women who are victims and the importance of engaging men and boys in addressing this issue. We know that shame and blame are not the answer. Our first year we held a pipe ceremony and community walk. Last year we were able to host a round dance; it was a rainy day, but we were able to have a fire, feast and dance in the rain. This is one project that we will look at offering every year.



5th Ave Women's Group. This is the second year for this group. It is an important group for our families who are part of RELC, but also we opened it up to the community. We keep growing in numbers. We have several women who were part of the preschool community years ago. They have shared how grateful they are for the support they received and for the meaningful connections they are now rebuilding.

Women's Group Evening. This group has been running for many years and has grown into a strong, supportive community. The women have formed meaningful connections with members at different stages, some whose children have moved on from preschool, some with children currently enrolled, and others waiting for their children to be old enough to attend. The group is guided by the needs expressed by the women, with self-care being a consistent focus. Through shared activities, conversations naturally develop, creating a safe space for connection and support. When a specific need is identified, we work alongside the women to help them connect with family outreach workers or access appropriate supports. We have been working on beading, doing various crafts for the holiday seasons like gingerbread house making, making snow globes, pampering ourselves with facials, Smoothies and a movie night.

Spirit of Peace (SOP). Spirit of Peace was created in response to a growing need identified within our women's group, as many were experiencing the impacts of domestic violence, past or present. The group provides a safe, supportive space where women can share openly and be heard, recognizing that even when violence has ended, its effects can remain. We begin with smudging and, when needed, close with it as well, honoring the emotional weight of the space. Through trust-building and shared stories, we support one another while ensuring each gathering is closed with care, safety, and respect for the women involved.

Father's Group. Two years ago, we started a father's group with the support of one of our family outreach worker's husbands, as our organization is made up entirely of women. We began in a good way, with prayers from an Elder, and opened the group to include partners if they wished. This helped men feel more comfortable and willing to attend. We share meals together and create space for men to lead the group in the way that feels right for them. Conversations have been honest and meaningful, touching on topics like addiction, anxiety, grief, parenting, reunification, and finding connection with their children. We offer two gatherings: one evening group with childcare for open discussion, and a Saturday group focused on play and connection with children. We have done many things with this group such as, feeding the community, enjoying the parks/spray pads in the summer, attending a Roughrider game, carving pumpkins, making Christmas cookies, easter egg hunts, and painting a mural, to name a few.



Parents As Teachers

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) program supports parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher. It is available to families expecting a child and with children up to age three. Families receive regular visits from a qualified parent educator. During visits, parents learn about their child's development and are introduced to play and literacy activities to support their child's development.

Program Impact:

- 58 Families Served
- 271 home visits completed
- 30.4 average number per month of families in the program
- 100% of participants reported the program provides helpful resources
- 85% very satisfied and 15% satisfied that the program motivates them to try new parenting strategies
- 85% very satisfied and 15% satisfied that the program has helped increase understanding their child's development.
- 100% would recommend the PAT program to a friend



Caregiver Comments:

What about this program has been most helpful to you or your family?

"My PAT visitor is showing me how to support my child's social skills. She is so much happier now that she has friends."

"PAT helped me get a lot of good connections for my parenting, food and my mental health."

"Before I started PAT I was pretty much alone. Now I feel connected with people who I know really care about my kids and me." "As a new Mom I was pretty overwhelmed when I had my baby. My PAT visitor helped me see that I needed more support for my mental health and reassured me that I was giving my baby what he needed and his development was on track. We are doing so good now. I am very grateful."



"They (PAT visitor) helped my child start school. We were really scared and his behaviour is hard sometimes. But now he's happy to come to school and we know how to support him on bad days."

Saskatchewan Perinatal Health Network (SPHN)

The SPHN aims to be a single point of referral that provides support services to perinatal families with a special focus on mental health. The SPHN focuses on providing education and empowerment to improve the health of new parents and reduce stigma surrounding Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADS). We also have an outreach program to very vulnerable pregnant individuals who are at risk of having their babies apprehended at birth.

SPHN Annual Report

September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

In Spring 2025 we received annualized funding from the Ministry of Health to increase our peer support programming province wide. We rebranded from Regina Perinatal Health Network to Saskatchewan Perinatal Health Network in September 2025 and have since ensured our information is available in public health offices, Obstetrical offices, and Early Years Family Resource Centres across the province. We continue to build relationships within the healthcare system and community partners to raise awareness of perinatal mental health, bridge service gaps, and provide educational presentations.

Highlights:

- 56 individual peer support sessions
- 327 group registrations and drop-in attendances
- 154 total clients served; 76% client retention rate
- 64 of referrals from physicians/specialists, public health, and counsellors
- 469 of members in our private Facebook support group
- Increased group and drop-in offerings to provide at least one daily connection opportunity in-person or virtually Monday to Friday.
- Building a NICU Parents community with a biweekly virtual group offering. We have connected with NICU and Mother-Baby units in hospital to ensure information and referral forms are available for staff to provide parents.
- Participate in multiple perinatal committees such as Baby Friendly Spaces Regina, Sask Maternal & Infant Health Interest Group, Canadian Premature Babies Foundation, and Community Connect Regina. These reciprocal relationships keep us connected to other perinatal healthcare practitioners throughout Saskatchewan and up to date on current research.

Early Years Family Resource Centre

Comprehensive Attendance & Program Report

Reporting Period: September 2024 – August 2025

Site: miyo-ohpikinawasowin Centre, 3079 5th Avenue

Executive Summary

Between September 2024 and August 2025, the miyo-ohpikinawasowin Centre delivered a wide range of Early Years Family Resource Centre programming, serving 1,453 children and 1,840 adults, with engagement from 252 supporting professionals. Programming included early learning opportunities, parenting education, family wellness supports, information and referrals, and culturally responsive community and Elder-led experiences. Programming was offered through in-person, virtual, and community partnership models, supporting families in a holistic and inclusive manner.

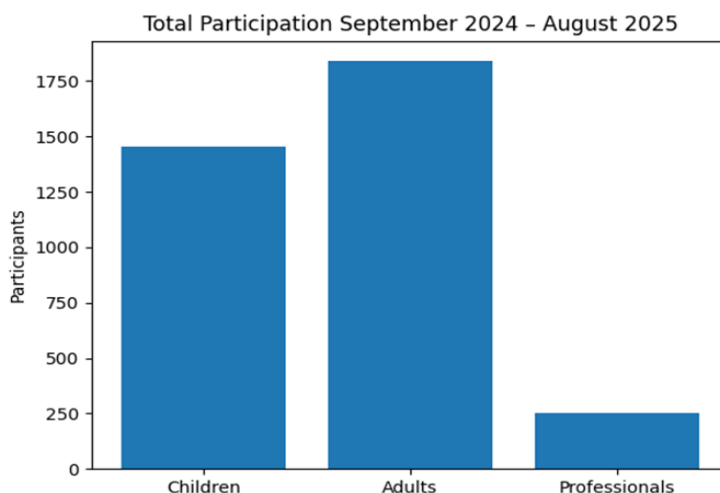
Attendance Summary

Reporting Period	Children	Adults	Supporting Professionals
September 2024 – March 2025	723	935	149
April 2025 – August 2025	730	905	103
Total	1,453	1,840	252

Program Inventory (Including Special Events)

Early Learning & Play-Based Programs

- Literacy At Play (library-based and centre-based)
- Messy Play
- Mighty Movers / Mini Movers
- Baby Circle Time
- Sing Along Songs
- Little Einsteins / Young Scientists
- Art Adventures / Preschool Picasso
- Playful Development (ASQ-aligned programming)
- SUNTEP Student-Led Invitations
- Student-Led Story Times



Parenting Education & Skill Building

- Feeding Baby Solids
- Preparing Your Family for Childcare
- ABC's of Child Care
- Choosing Quality Child Care
- Preparing Your Child for Child Care

Triple P – Positive Parenting (Virtual Series)

- Tantrums
- Managing Big Emotions
- Screen Time
- Toilet Readiness / Potty Training
- Bedtime Routines
- Mealtime Routines
- Building Self-Esteem
- Anxiety in Young Children
- ADHD
- Success at School

Family Wellness & Peer Support

- Women's Group
- Fathers Group
- Postpartum & Perinatal Peer Support Groups
- NICU Peer Support Group



Professional Access & Information Sessions

- Ask a Dietitian
- Ask a Speech and Language Pathologist
- Public Health Nurse Consultations
- Ask Allie – Autism Navigation
- Regina Perinatal Health Network Consultations

Cultural, Elder & Community Events / Special Programming

- Elder and Knowledge Keeper Visits
- Métis Artist Program
- Jigging Performance and Cultural Learning
- African Culture & Learning Activities (Black History Month)
- Chinese New Year Celebration and Cultural Learning
- Family Literacy Day Book Swap
- Trash the Centre Literacy & Recycling Event
- Pizza Day (Literacy and Nutrition Focus)
- Community Guest-Led Learning Activities
- Seasonal and Centre-Wide Family Celebrations

Thank you to our many Supporters:



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Healthy Food for
Healthy Communities



A COMMUNITY
PROGRAM OF
KALTIRE

We sincerely thank our many community partners including: Regina Public School Division; Regina Catholic School Division; Saskatchewan Health Authority; Regina Public Library; Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership; Regina Police Service; Salvation Army; Regina and Area Early Childhood Network; Canadian Association of Young Children-Regina Chapter, Kiwanis, Rotary and many Anonymous Donors.





Photo Courtesy: Amanda Krenbrink

Former RELC Parent

REGINA EARLY LEARNING CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

The First Years Last Forever.



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