



EMU (Early Learning Mobile Unit) unveiled for Edmonton Catholic Schools

Edmonton Catholic Schools has launched a new and innovative program designed to create positive learning experiences for children and parents outside of an Early Learning classroom.

The first of its kind in western Canada, the EMU (Early Learning Mobile Unit), meets families in their communities and connects families together while providing a link for these families to existing resources and agencies, in their neighbourhoods. The EMU travels to communities throughout Edmonton and inside the 39' mobile unit is a cozy classroom where a two hour program includes circle and story time, play centres and physical activities.

“Working with our families is always a priority because it is through the family that we can have a significant impact on a child’s growth,” said Debbie Engel, Board Chair. “The EMU enables us to take family programming further into communities and provides language and social rich programming for parents and their children within a play context,” Engel went on to say.

Families visiting the EMU will have access to services of a multi-disciplinary team including: Speech-Language Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist and Family School Liaison Workers. In addition, the EMU is working with numerous agencies such as Alberta Health Services, The City of Edmonton, ParentLink Alberta, Capital Region Housing and the Welcome Centre for Immigrants.

“Helping parents and other caregivers better understand what and how young children learn helps set the course for intellectual, social, and emotional success,” said Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Education. “The Early Learning Mobile Unit illustrates the important position that School Boards are in to be able to recognize and respond to the educational needs of their local community.”

This program supports parents in their role while families engage in the world of children’s play. “The Early Learning Mobile Unit is really an extension of our Family Programming in Early Learning,” said Superintendent Joan Carr. “Our goal is to work together with families while building partnerships with community to better align services and help parents and children make connections close to home,” Carr added.

In the next two months, the EMU will visit four communities and offer a total of 28 sessions throughout Edmonton.

For more information call:

LORI NAGY

- Manager of Media & Community Relations
- 780 441-6189 (office)
- 780 991-6363 (cell)