



Winter is here and the snow has arrived! This is such an exciting time for children. It is filled with joy and wonder, along with all the excitement of various festive celebrations happening around us.



The Playroom was bustling with activity as the children made a variety of wintery crafts. Who can resist making a gingerbread person? The children loved designing their own versions using tape, markers, googly eyes, and all sorts of fun add-ons. And of course, we needed a gingerbread house for our little cookies. Decorating a Kleenex box and turning it into a cozy house can be so much fun!

And you should see the adorable reindeer many of the children made. Some of them looked just like Rudolf.

Can you spot his bright red nose?



We also had lots of pinecones in our collection, so we decided to turn them into something special.

When you put them upside-down, they make charming, decorated evergreen trees.



All you need is to set them on a base to stand up, paint them green, and then add your decorations.



# Introductions

Hello AFP community,

I'm Matt MacRae, the new Caring Dad's Facilitator here at Acorn Family Place. I have 10+ years of experience facilitating groups at various organizations throughout the city and province.

In my spare time I enjoy creative writing. I absolutely love people, and I look forward to meeting you all in the Caring Dads program.

Sincerely,  
Matt MacRae



## Manager of Programs



My name is Ellen Gahigi (she/her)

I am a passionate, dedicated community leader and non profit strategist with many years experience working in the non profit sector. My academic background is in Peace and Conflict Studies. I was born, but not raised in the Great Lakes Regions of Africa.

I am a feminist, (being raised by a feminist mother) and a strong advocate for women/ gender diverse folks and children's rights.

I have program management experience, such as leading the Newcomer/Settlement initiatives at the North End Women's Centre for a number of years. When I'm not working you can find me volunteering in organizations that support women and children.



A big thank-you to  
Birchwood  
Automotive Group  
for sponsoring us in  
December and  
generously matching  
\$2,000 in donations.

Thanks to the  
incredible generosity  
of our donors, we  
received amazing  
donations and  
exceeded our goal.



**Birchwood**



## Stories to Grow By

*Join us as we share stories and explore how they shape the way you raise your children with the values that matter most to your family and culture.*

**Wednesdays 1:15-2:45  
Playroom & Program Room  
January 14- February 25, 2026**

For more information or to register, email:  
[parenting@acornfamilyplace.ca](mailto:parenting@acornfamilyplace.ca)

Suited for caregivers with children ages 1-4,  
families with school-aged children are welcome

Facilitators will share stories and provide fun ideas on how to  
promote early literacy

Children and caregivers will begin in the Playroom,  
the adults will move to the Program Room for the remaining time

**Active participation is optional -  
listening is participating!**

**Come as you are! Come as you can!**



**Communities  
4 FAMILIES**

**Leah  
Gazan** 

Member of Parliament  
Winnipeg Centre

Constituency Office:  
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 204-984-1675

 [leah.gazan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:leah.gazan@parl.gc.ca)

 [leahgazan.ca](http://leahgazan.ca)

 @leahgazanMP  /LeahGazanMP  @leahgazan







# *THE KIDS CLOSET*

## Donation Steps:

1

### **Contact Marisolle:**

Call 431-792-5117 or email  
[welcomedesk@acornfamilyplace.ca](mailto:welcomedesk@acornfamilyplace.ca)

2

### **Book your appointment**

Schedule a drop-off time that  
works for you

3

### **Drop off your donation**

Visit the centre at your  
scheduled time

THANK  
YOU!







# MUFFINS & TOT'S

Join us Tuesday mornings from

September 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 - June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026

This welcoming and informal group is for caregivers and moms who identify as female, caring for little ones aged 0-4 years, especially those with limited or no support.

Come connect, share, and grow in a supportive, confidential, and trauma-informed space.

Each week, we focus on building friendships, exchanging stories and ideas, and creating a strong community together. Whether it's a planned topic or a spontaneous chat, your voice matters here.

Let's support one another through conversation, laughter, and learning, one Tuesday at a time!



# Creativity for Caregivers with Art City

Parents and Caregivers,  
Join us Monday mornings and  
start your week off with some  
creativity and self-care!

Mondays in the Program Room  
From 9:30am to 11:30AM

September 8th, 2025  
to March 30th, 2026



Snacks and Childcare are provided!

## Questions?

Contact Deja at 204-979-2833 or  
[wellnessoutreach@acornfamilyplace.ca](mailto:wellnessoutreach@acornfamilyplace.ca)



# CARING DADS

## What is Caring Dads?

Caring Dads is an important initiative that recognizes the interconnectedness of violence against women and children. By involving fathers in efforts to enhance the safety & well-being of their children, the program aims to address both gender-based violence and child safety simultaneously.

This holistic approach ensures that both issues are tackled together, promoting a safer and healthier environment for families.

When: Tuesdays. Starting  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Location: Acorn Family Place  
202-222 Furby Street



For more information & intake process,  
please contact Matt at: **431-791-4466** or  
email [caringdads@acornfamilyplace.ca](mailto:caringdads@acornfamilyplace.ca)



# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____








# January



**acorn**  
Family Place

## Programming Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 CENTRE CLOSED	2 CENTRE CLOSED
5 Creativity For Caregivers 9:30-11:30am  <b>WELCOME BACK!</b>	6 Muffins and Tots 9:30-11:30am	7 CENTRE CLOSED 9AM-1 PM	8 	9 Breakfast Club 9:30-11:00am  Music Circle 10:30-11:00am
12 Creativity For Caregivers 9:30-11:30am  WrapAround Drop-In 1:30-3:30pm	13 Muffins and Tots 9:30-11:30am  	14 CENTRE CLOSED 9AM-1 PM  Stories to Grow By 1:15-2:45pm	15 Cooking Class 1:30-3:30pm	16 Breakfast Club 9:30-11:00am  
19 Creativity For Caregivers 9:30-11:30am	20 Muffins and Tots 9:30-11:30am	21 CENTRE CLOSED 9AM-1 PM  Stories to Grow By 1:15-2:45pm	22 	23 Breakfast Club 9:30-11:00am  Music Circle 10:30-11:00am
26 Creativity For Caregivers 9:30-11:30am  WrapAround Drop-In 1:30-3:30pm	27 Muffins and Tots 9:30-11:30am  FAMILY LITERACY DAY  	28 CENTRE CLOSED 9AM-1 PM  Stories to Grow By 1:15-2:45pm	29 Cooking Class 1:30-3:30pm	30 Breakfast Club 9:30-11:00am

- WrapAround programming connects parents & caregivers who are involved with CFS. Please contact Margot for info: 204-560-3153 or [wraparound@acornfamilyplace.ca](mailto:wraparound@acornfamilyplace.ca)
- The sign-up sheet for Breakfast Club & Cooking Class will be in the Drop-In a half hour before the program starts
- Please call Joanne for info & to place your name on our Food Bank waiting list at: 204-560-3146

**ACORN FAMILY PLACE**  
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Email: [admin@acornfamilyplace.ca](mailto:admin@acornfamilyplace.ca)  
[www.acornfamilyplace.ca](http://www.acornfamilyplace.ca)