

OUR MISSION

The GPFC Aboriginal Head Start will encourage and foster Indigenous families by providing a culturally based program through which the children and their families will receive knowledge, skills, support and encouragement to help them succeed in life. The holistic child-centred approach will encompass the cultural, linguistic, spiritual, social, emotional, mental, and physical development of each child.



CONTACT

US



JOIN THE WAITLIST!



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EST 1965

ABORIGINAL

HEAD START

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM



**GRANDE PRAIRIE
FRIENDSHIP CENTRE**

Aboriginal Head Start Program

PROGRAM DETAILS

- FREE OF CHARGE
- 2 full days of programming
- Mon/Wed and Tues/Thurs
- 9:00am – 3:30pm
- Breakfast, lunch & snack
- Trained and qualified staff
- Full-time educational assistant
- Bussing available within city limits



Minister's Award of Excellence in
Child Development in 2019 & 2022

Louise Houle Community Leader
Centre for Family Literacy in 2024

HEAD START COMPONENTS

The Public Health Agency of Canada provides the primary funding for the Aboriginal Head Start program.

The mandate for PHAC focuses on the following 6 components and is reflected in the program delivery:

- 1) CULTURE & LANGUAGE
- 2) EDUCATION
- 3) HEALTH PROMOTION
- 4) NUTRITION
- 5) SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS
- 6) PARENTAL & FAMILY INVOLVEMENT



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Head Start provides Indigenous children ages 3-5 years old with daily cultural learning opportunities, through smudging, drumming, singing, dancing, and introduction to the Cree language.

The space is a nurturing learning environment built for child-led play. In addition to two classrooms, there is an outdoor space, a rock-climbing wall and a registered Snoezelen room.

Children have the opportunity to participate in field trips for land-based learning, community events, and skill-building activities such as swimming and gymnastics lessons.

Families are invited to participate in a variety of ways, including volunteering in the classroom, joining community events, taking parent classes, and the opportunity to learn how to make cultural wear.

The program instills readiness for kindergarten and a healthy life overall by providing speech assessments, dental and vision check-ups, and a variety of literacy and nutrition programs.