



**VIRTUAL CHILDCARE
PARENT SUPPORT
SERVICES**

**SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER
CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!**

HELLO PARENTS,

This week, Canadians all over the country would be preparing for their annual Canada Day Celebration. Each year, **July 1st** is celebrated with outdoor public events all over the country, such as picnics, barbecues, musical concerts, festivals, shows, and fireworks. This year, we are in a different situation, and all parades, festivals, concerts, etc. are cancelled because of COVID-19. This newsletter will provide you with information about Canada's most important national holiday.

HISTORY OF CANADA DAY

- Canada Day is a **federal statutory holiday** and it is the national day of Canada, celebrating the anniversary of **July 1, 1867**, when Canada signed the Constitution Act and became a new federation with its own constitution.
- On this day, the British colonies of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and the Province of Canada were united into one dominion under the name of Canada, and the colonies became the nation's first provinces.
- The Province of Canada was divided in the process and renamed into Quebec and Ontario.
- On June 20, 1868, Canada's Governor General proclaimed that Canadians should celebrate the anniversary of the confederation.
- The holiday **became a statutory holiday in 1879**, and was originally known as Dominion Day.
- On **October 27, 1982**, **Dominion Day became Canada Day**, and the new name symbolized a step away from Canada's colonial past.
- "**O Canada**" **officially became Canada's national anthem on July 1, 1980**, as part of that year's Dominion Day celebrations, even though it had been around since the 1880 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day ceremony.

CANADA DAY FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Canada day is celebrated during one of the warmest months of the year. Here are some unique activities, which celebrate our heritage and summer. These activities can be conducted as a family.

FIREWORK PAINTING

MATERIALS:

- Various colours of paint
- Small empty containers (like yogurt or baby food)
- Water, straws
- White paper, newspaper or plastic to cover table

DIRECTIONS:

- Put a few drops of paint in each container and add water to make a very liquidy paint.
- Dip the straws in the paint and show your child how to blow through the straw to splatter the paint across the paper.
- (You can also dip the straw in water, cover it with your thumb to hold some paint in, and then release it over the paper).
- Show your child how to tilt the straw and blow the paint that is already on the paper to make it stretch out and colour the paper in streaks that look like fireworks.
- Let your child add more paint and blow to make watery streaks.
- Remember not to sip up the paint, rather blow out.

NATIONAL VIRTUAL CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

O CANADA! LET US CELEBRATE CANADA DAY IN A DIFFERENT WAY THIS YEAR.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO GET TOGETHER VIRTUALLY AND SHARE OUR PRIDE IN BEING CANADIANS.

LEAF RUBBING FLAG

MATERIALS:

- One large maple leaf • White paper • Red crayon

DIRECTIONS:

- Lay the leaf under the paper so it is positioned in the middle.
- Using the side of the crayon, help your child rub over the spot where the leaf is to leave a rubbing print of the leaf on the paper.
- Have your child colour red on two sides of the paper to make the Canadian flag.

CANADA DAY WREATH

MATERIALS:

- White paper plate • Red tissue paper • Glue • Scissors
- Ribbon • Red crayon • Glitter

DIRECTIONS:

- Draw a maple leaf in the centre of a white paper plate. Colour the maple leaf using a red crayon.
- Outline the maple leaf with glue, pour on glitter and shake off the excess.
- Cut the tissue paper into one-inch squares, and use glue to apply it to the outer edge of the paper plate.
- Older children can wrap each square around the end of a pencil, dip it in glue and attach it to the plate.
- Younger children can just crumple the tissue paper, dip it in glue and attach it to the plate.
- Attach the ribbon to the paper plate and hang it to the door.

PAPER BAG BEAVER PUPPET

MATERIALS:

- One paper bag • White paper • Brown paper
- Child-safe scissors • Black marker or crayon • Glue stick

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child draw two eyes using the black marker or crayon on white paper and cut them out.
- Cut out a rectangle for the beaver teeth from the white paper.
- Cut out four ovals from the brown paper for the beaver's paws and one large oval for the beaver's tail.
- With the fold of the paper bag facing you, have your child glue the two eyes to the fold.
- Draw a black nose under the eyes on the fold of the paper bag.
- Glue the white teeth attached to the fold underneath it.
- Glue the beaver's oval paws to the sides of the paper bag.
- Glue the beaver's tail to the back of the paper bag hanging down past the opening of the bag.
- Let it dry, then use it as a puppet.

[Click here](#) for more Canada Day activities.

FACTS ABOUT CANADA

- The capital city of Canada is [Ottawa](#).
- Major cities include [Toronto](#), [Montreal](#), [Vancouver](#), [Edmonton](#), and [Calgary](#).
- The two main languages spoken in Canada are [English and French](#).
- Canada is the [second largest country in the world by total area](#) of 3.85 million square miles (Russia is the largest- 6.6 million square miles).
- Canada is made up of [10 provinces and 3 territories](#).
- The name Canada comes from the word "[Kanata](#)" which means "settlement" or "village" in the language of the indigenous St. Lawrence Iroquoians.
- The most popular sport in Canada is [ice hockey](#).
- The [maple leaf](#) is a Canadian symbol and features prominently on the national flag.
- The National Animal for Canada is a [beaver](#).
- The Canadian National Anthem is "[O Canada](#)" [Click here](#) for the history behind the song and to listen to the tune.