

Best Practice

Primary Daycare

CONTACT

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THE PRACTICE

In 1992, the Village of Vibank took over an old three storey building due to unpaid taxes. As the municipality was unable to sell such a large building in a small community, council decided to turn it into a village office and rent out the remaining space to other businesses.

With a large portion of Vibank's residents commuting to Regina on a daily basis, safe, qualified childcare became a major need in the community. When an individual who attempted to open a daycare in the community experienced licensing issues, it was brought to the attention of the municipality that we could operate a licensed daycare facility.

THE PROCESS

Due to the difficulty in obtaining licensing for the daycare, the individual welcomed the assistance of the municipality in making this project become reality. Council felt that the daycare provided huge potential for economic development in our area. The daycare would be a great incentive for families looking at relocating to Vibank in addition to providing quality childcare so more parents could work resting assured that their children were being well cared for. The daycare provided training to all staff to ensure the requirements were met for the facility to be licensed.

THE RESULTS

Our centre has grown from an initial size of 12 spaces and 2 fulltime staff to present day capacity of 40 spaces and 9 fulltime staff. The centre now provides subsidized childcare, special needs assistance and preschool services. Other businesses have followed suit and rented out office space from the municipality in the once vacant building.

The centre was part of a study done by the Federal Ministry of Social Services to examine opportunities for a national child care program. The centre hosted the South East Regional Childcare Conference and has been host to many other existing individuals and organization from across the country interested in opening a similar facility.

LESSONS LEARNED

The most important lesson that the Village of Vibank learned was that new and innovative ideas are not just for the private sector. The municipal daycare was the first of its kind in Saskatchewan and provided quality childcare in addition to an opportunity for those who wanted to work but couldn't because they had children at home.