

GRANDVIEW, MANITOBA

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Tiny Treasures Children's Centre Inc.

CED initiatives often emerge when the status quo simply will not meet the needs of local people. CED leaders then work with community residents to identify the need and create a solution. The story of Tiny Treasures Children's Centre in Grandview is one of these stories.

The process began when a local mother on maternity leave realized that there would be nowhere to send her child when she returned to work. The community came together, conducted a needs survey, and with great dedication and determination worked to build a licensed child care program. The community opened their child care centre six months later.

Tiny Treasures is the only licensed child care centre in Grandview and is an important community resource. Tiny Treasures offers parents a safe place to leave their children while they go to work, a place that gives them peace-of-mind and gives children a quality, developmentally appropriate play-based learning environment which supports their holistic

development. Tiny Treasures has space for 30 children. The children can be preschoolers, school-age or infants over 18 months.

Tiny Treasures is a non-profit corporation managed by a volunteer board of directors. The Province of Manitoba sets the fees, with subsidies available for qualifying parents. Tiny Treasures supports more than children and families in Grandview. Tiny Treasures has created jobs and training opportunities in this small, rural community and currently employs 5 full-time as well as casual staff.

The Province of Manitoba requires that 2/3 of the staff have their Early Childhood Education II (2 years at a community college) and the director has an Early Childhood Education III (college certificate plus a specialization such as management, infant care etc). However, meeting the proper educational requirements can be a challenge in rural Manitoba. Staff can be hired as Childcare Assistants but they are required to submit an educational plan (to receive their ECE II) if they want to keep their position in the child care program. Tiny Treasures has a volunteer program which allows high school students work in the program. This program has several advantages. Young adults get to learn first-hand what is involved in the child care →

