



NR

Thursday, August 15th
2019

“Building Brains Opens 150 New Early Childhood Child Care Spots in Saskatoon.”

SASKATOON, SK – Building Brains officially opens in the Airport district in Saskatoon. Building Brains Early Learning Centre is a federal not-for-profit corporation registered in the province of Saskatchewan operating as an early learning institute, providing high-quality early childhood education to families with children ranging in age from 0 months to 6 years. The corporation was developed to provide exemplary early childhood education by offering a program modeled around the Left Brain Montessori method of teaching, the Right Brain Reggio Emilia-inspired philosophy, and an internally-developed movement curriculum so each experience builds the child's foundation for future learning.

Building Brains was awarded funding for 150 students through the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. 60 new infant and toddler spaces and 90 preschool child care spaces will be available in Saskatoon. “Our government remains committed to improving the lives of families through access to affordable, quality child care,” Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Gordon Wyant said. “Congratulations to the Building Brains Early Learning Center on the opening of its’ two new facilities, where 150 new child care spaces will now be available to Saskatoon area children.”

Building Brains Early Learning Centre Inc was founded in 2018. Organization founders Anil Karim and Faisal Alimohd share a genuine passion for early childhood learning and are founders of Kids U. “In the last 7 years we built an award winning early education program for over 1000 children in Calgary. We decided to replicate the program in Saskatoon, providing parents here with that perfect balance of high quality and affordable child care.”

Building Brains is the organization that can look at the needs of the community and build spaces that can be shared and used to grow the capacity to meet the needs of the community. These centers not only meet the needs of the new dual household working families, they also provide exceptional early childhood education. The programs are licensed by the Ministry and provide subsidy for lower income families. The objective of the organization is to build programs that everyone can use. “Families shouldn’t have to make the difficult choice between working and staying home to care for their children. The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure more children have access to the high-quality early learning and child care they need to get the best start in life.” - The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

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PHOTO credit – Danger Dynamite

Representatives from left:

Mandy Pravda, Media Liaison Mane Productions

Honorable Gordon Wyant, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education

Anil Karim , Executive Director of Building Brains, Founder of “Kids U Canada” and Building Brains

Faisal Alimohd, Chairman Building Brains, Founder of “Kids U Canada” and Building Brains

His Worship Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon

Celeste McIlhargey, Program Director Building Brains “Kids U Canada”

Registration opens Thursday August 15th at 2:00pm.

“Parents are invited to visit the center Thursday August 15th and Friday August 16th 2:00pm-8:00pm or Saturday August 17th and Sunday August 18th 10:00am-4:00pm” for a tour of the facilities.

www.buildingbrainselc.org

2313 Hanselman Place, Sask SK

Call 306-952-2796 for further information

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#childhooddevelopment #nonprofit #earlydevelopment

<https://www.facebook.com/buildingbrains>

Then #GoPlay!

BACKGROUNDER:

Building Brains was created on the proven Montessori and Reggio Inspired philosophies and methods designed by Kids U, an award winning Calgary preschool and child care program that has built strong executive functions in over 2000 children using right brain, left brain, and movement environments. Kids U inspires open collaboration, through a focus on brain development systems, to create a student-centered, inquiry-based learning environment that cultivates enthusiastic, and globally-minded individuals. Kids U children are more likely to have greater academic success, enhanced self-esteem, and increased self-control.

The unique system offers loving child care while delivering an enriching and outstanding education program in alignment with provincial standards. Building Brains strongly believes in keeping up with the latest research in early childhood development and adhering to core values of knowledge and innovation. Building Brains will share it’s values and educational philosophy in areas that have been traditionally underserved and under-represented in the field of early childhood education. This will reshape the expectations and emphasize the importance of early childhood experiences within the community.

Building Brains was founded in 2018. Company founders Anil Karim and Faisal Alimohd share a genuine passion for early childhood learning. Anil Karim holds a Masters of Education and is currently working on his PhD. His extensive background in the field of education and brain development research, as well as



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Faisal Alimohd's CA-CPA, and CIA certifications allowed them to develop an award winning high quality early learning and care program in Calgary that services over 1000 children a year.

In seven short years Kids U has built a strong reputation for early childhood education, received multiple awards for providing quality education and care programs, and has hundreds of five star reviews from parents. The two co-founders wanted to focus on the challenges experienced by parents in Saskatchewan and formed the concepts of Building Brains.

In Spring of 2018, the founders shared this vision with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and showed how they could significantly impact the landscape of early childhood education. Their goals were to create a center of learning for children, parents, and other educators across the province. They chose Saskatoon to pilot this project and build it as a model centre for the entire country.

The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan signed a three-year Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement which will provide the Saskatchewan government with over \$41 million for investments towards accessibility, inclusivity, and quality. Government officials said the three-year bilateral agreement re-affirms their support and commitment to the unique early learning and child care needs of Saskatchewan families as it will increase demand for affordable and quality child care spaces, and provide opportunities for children with disabilities, including newcomers to Canada and francophone families.

Building Brains pilot project in Saskatoon will turn a commercial / industrial building into a hub of knowledge for early learning and care organizations. Saskatoon residents who live in the area, as well as commuters who work in the airport and north industrial area have an option for high quality child care. Most families prefer to have their children either near their home or their work. The airport campus is a perfect option for both neighboring families and commuter families. The goal of the program is to offer scholarships and special programming for families who are raising young children.

The Airport Jr. Preschool Campus will have programming for children birth to 3 years of age. The Jr. Preschool will have all three curriculum areas (right brain, left brain, and movement) using the Montessori and Reggio inspired philosophies. The children will have 2 dedicated developmentally appropriate play areas

- A children's art room
- Lighted stage for play
- 2 large classrooms with open windows and ample lighting
- 2 dedicated developmentally appropriate outdoor play areas
- 1 large gymnasium
- Child size toilets and sinks for potty training
- Observation windows for parents

The Airport Preschool Campus, will have programming for children 2.5 years to 6 years of age. The Preschool program will utilize the Brain Metrics curriculum to assess Executive Functions and develop individualized curriculum to accelerate brain development for children. The Preschool will have all three

curriculum areas (right brain, left brain, and movement) using the Montessori and Reggio inspired philosophies. The preschool campus has unique features such as:

- A children's art studio,
- A light and shadow room
- A large built in water play table
- Lighted stage for play and presentations
- 2 large classrooms with open windows and ample lighting
- 2 dedicated developmentally appropriate outdoor play areas
- 1 large gymnasium

The Airport Campus features an amazing outdoor play forest on nearly an acre of land with rolling hills and large trees. This is a unique opportunity for children in an urban child care program to have natural play opportunities in the summer and winter.

The Airport Campus will also be host to a large commercial kitchen. Kids U has planned to build a commissary to provide healthy nutritional meals to children in various early childhood programs throughout the city. Many programs have smaller campuses and struggle with staffing and purchasing for the individual needs of their students.

NEWS LINKS ON FUNDING, GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND GOALS:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4152681/sask-government-announces-funding-for-nearly-600-child-care-spaces/>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/5030831/child-care-centre-spaces-saskatchewan/>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4740259/150-childcare-spaces-allocated-through-sask-federal-partnership/>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4088056/3-year-41m-bilateral-agreement-to-improve-early-learning-and-childcare-in-saskatchewan/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/early-learning-child-care-saskatchewan-canada-agreement-1.4582010>