



## **Our History**

ABC Head Start Society has been a vibrant part of Edmonton communities for over 30 years.

ABC Head Start Society began in response to public health nurses identifying a significant number of children whose social and academic development was delayed as a result of having limited financial and other resources. The projects originated in an effort to both remedy gaps in the children's learning experiences and in the parents' parenting skills. The project was initiated by Aleda Patterson in January 1985 and was called ABC, Accessing for Better Care.

In one year's time, the program expanded to serve 30 families who attend class two to four times per week. The multidisciplinary team was also growing including the addition of a part-time Teacher, Speech Language Pathologist, and Home Educators. In 1987 a second site was opened in the northwest and the first Education assistants were hired. In 1991, ABC Head Start became a society and grew to a staff of 14 from various disciplines.

Since that time ABC Head Start Society has grown from a single location serving 10 children and families to a comprehensive early learning, family support and community program working with over 430 children and their families each year at different locations throughout the Capital Region.

Video of Aleda Patterson School (Afton)