



StrongStart Centres

StrongStart is an early learning, parent participation program for children from birth to school aged, who are not yet eligible for kindergarten, along with a parent, grandparent or caregiver.

School District 51 operates six StrongStart Centres. Centres are FREE for all families with children not yet in kindergarten. A one-time registration is required when starting the program. Programs run as per the current school calendar and are open on those days when school is in session. Program schedules will vary at each location, but all programs will include a nutritious snack, circle time and free play time. Families will also have access to the school library and the gym (at most locations).

The Centre's educators are qualified Early Childhood Educators who lead the learning activities where children learn through PLAY! Carefully selected materials and activities will promote the social, emotional, physical, cognitive and early literacy development in each child. The time participating in a StrongStart program is a wonderful way to begin introducing your child to your neighborhood school community.

StrongStart BC – Province of British Columbia

Program Philosophy

- Parents and caregivers are children's first and most important teachers.
- Everyone is special and unique and has a lot of knowledge to share with others.
- The experiences of the first five years in a child's life set the stage for success in life.
- Children learn through discovery, exploration, and play.

Registration forms for StrongStart can be found on the school website or ask your StrongStart educator for a copy.

Please note that all children participating in StrongStart must be registered with the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Families can complete and print the registration form

online or they can fill out a hardcopy available from your educator at each location. In addition to the registration form, families will need to provide the following information:

- Child's BC Health Care Card (or proof of application if new to the province of BC).
- Proof of child's age and citizenship (Birth Certificate or Passport).

Once a child is registered in StrongStart, they are not required to re-register each year. However, a consent and emergency form is required yearly and will be distributed through the school each fall. Once registered for Strongstart, each child will be assigned a Personal Education Number that will be used when they enter Kindergarten.

Program Details

- First and foremost – **ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME** in a StrongStart facility.
- All Boundary StrongStarts programs are drop-in.
- You will be required to sign-in and wash hands when you enter the classroom.
- **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD IS SICK.**
- The ministry has mandated **NO CELL PHONE USE** in any school buildings except for emergencies.
- Indoor shoes are required for safety.
- There is a sign located at each centre with **GO – WE HAVE SPACE** or **STOP – WE ARE FULL.**

On behalf of our StrongStart Early Childhood Educators in School District 51, welcome to our StrongStart community.

"We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education"