

September Newsletter

Thank you for inviting us into your inbox

STRONGSTART BC Early Learning Centers

Vision: Respectfully living and learning together



Early Learning Framework Principles

- Children are strong, capable in their uniqueness, and full of potential.
- Families have the most important role in contributing to children's wellbeing and learning.
- Educators are researchers and collaborators.
- Early years spaces are inclusive.
- People build connection and reconnection to land, culture, community, and place.
- Environments are integral to wellbeing and learning.
- Play is integral to wellbeing and learning.
- Relationships are the context for wellbeing and learning.
- Learning is holistic.

B.C. Ministry of Education, 2019

First Peoples Principles of Learning

- Learning ultimately supports the wellbeing of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.
- Learning is holistic, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).
- Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.
- Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.
- Learning recognizes the role of Indigenous knowledge.
- Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.
- Learning involves patience and time.
- Learning requires exploration of one's identity.
- Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.

First Nations Education Steering Committee, 2012



www.gov.bc.ca/earlylearning

Uplifting quote + song that illuminates:

"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and autumn awakened" – Raquel Franco



Inspiring song: *September Grass* by James Taylor (2001)

StrongStart Opens on September 19, 2023

Connaught StrongStart

Monday to Friday ... 9:00 – 11:30

Queensborough StrongStart

Monday to Friday ... 8:45 – 11:15

Skwo: wech StrongStart

Monday to Friday ... 9:15 – 11:45

Come play!

Play is the work of children, and we know that *"the qualities developed through play are the same [qualities] required to succeed at school.*

Children who [have] strong oral communication skills, are confident, able to make friends, are persistent and creative in completing tasks and solving problems and are excited to learn, have pathways set for academic success." (McCain, Mustard & Shanker 2007, p. 49)

For new Families:

If it is your first time at StrongStart, you will need to register your child. Registration forms are available online and at the centres. Click [here](#) to download an electronic version. You can either complete the forms before your first session or on your first day, at the centre. Families registering for the first time note to bring a piece of ID for their child, such as a birth certificate or passport.

For returning families:

Welcome back!

We will need to confirm your information on the registration forms on file, please see the educator on your first day back. We are delighted to inviting you back into our classrooms and play.



Your feedback informs our programming.

We want to thank all of you who took time to share your thoughts and feedback with us through the survey we sent out in June. It is given our staff great feedback to build on, with some really touching reflections on the connections many of you have built.

All about our 2023- 2024 year:

- We will continue with the **drop-in** model for StrongStart sessions, as that option worked best for most families.
- Welcoming **twenty (20) children** for each session together with one caregiver.
- Skwo:wech's weekly "Explore Outdoors" sessions will continue every Thursday at Queen's Park. Enter the park near 1st street and 5th Ave, to join us at the learning circle.
- We will layer additional partnerships and parent sessions, that you will see featured in the monthly newsletters.

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