

February Newsletter *Thank you for inviting us into your inbox*

STRONGSTART BC

Early Learning Centers

StrongStart
Closures

Feb 13 for CP4YC

Feb 14 Pro D Day

Feb 17 Family Day

Read, speak, sing and play! Early Literacy

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Early literacy skills are the roots of reading success -- and it is never too early to plant the seed! There is so much you can do to help build reading readiness. **Talk, sing, read, scribble and make marks, talk about the drawings and play with your child. Share books together every day and have fun reading!**

Try this: Enjoying a book isn't only about reading! Let your child hold the book or even put it in their mouth. Point at the pictures and talk about them. Ask questions like:

- "Can you turn the page?"
- "Show me the red slide."
- "What would you do if you went to the park and it started to rain, like in the book?"
- "Why was the child surprised in the story?"

Your child is always listening, watching and learning from you! Research shows that when they hear lots of words from a loving caregiver, children learn language. This helps them learn to read once they start school.

Happening

THIS MONTH

Connaught Heights StrongStart

Feb 4 Dental visit

Feb 12 CCRR consultant

Feb 18 Kinsight consultant

Queensborough StrongStart

Feb 7 Kinsight consultant

Feb 10 SFU Child language lab

Feb 19 Librarian visit

Feb 25 Dental Clinic (open for appointments only)

Skwo: wech StrongStart

Feb 10 CCRR consultant

Feb 12 SFU Child language lab

Feb 24 NWPL Librarian visit

Every Wednesday Story time with Ms. Su



Respond to your child's sounds, smiles and interests
Why? Lots of "back-and-forth" words and actions with your little one helps them to learn language.

Try this: Show interest and talk about what your child is doing. For example, when your child picks up a leaf on the ground, look at it together, talk about colours, textures, count the leaves collected and what can the child do with a leaf.

Sing songs and nursery rhymes

Why? Songs and nursery rhymes are usually slow and repeat the same words and rhythm. This helps children focus on the sounds and words they hear.

Talk about letters and numbers (once your child turns four)

Why? Around age four, children start to recognize that letters of the alphabet look different from pictures, and that they make certain sounds.

Try this: Point to and name letters and the sounds they make or numbers.

Draw and explore making marks on paper

Before children begin learning to form letters, they need to develop the ability to make different lines, shapes. Allow the drawing to be free, not adult directed, original to the child and ask your child about their marks on paper. When children make marks through play, the focus is on the process rather than the end product. It allows children to be self-motivated, engaged, and free from the fear of making mistakes (Howard, 2002). For younger children, ideas and thoughts are best expressed through drawings rather than words.

Uplifting quote + song that illuminates:



"All meaningful, organic, and foundational learning is at heart playful and ludic." Marcelo Suárez-Orozco