



STRONGSTART

A little saying I like to remind myself when things are busy and we worry about life.

One hundred years from now it will not matter
what kind of car I drove,
what kind of house I lived in,
how much money I had in the bank.
but the world maybe a little better
because I was important in the life of a CHILD.

And to all my families I cherish the impact you have on my life and your children's lives, you are an incredible group of families and I cherish the all that you bring to the group and this program.

Gentle Reminders:

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, this program is for you, and I am open to suggestions and definitely open to feedback. If something has concerned or made you uncomfortable it is important for me to hear so that I can make changes if need be or help you feel heard.

As our numbers are increasing the room becomes smaller and I am trying not to turn people away so if we could remember, when all our bodies are standing the room becomes smaller and often our voices become louder. If we sit close to our children and speak beside them often the room feels calmer and more open (shadowing your child). I definitely do not want to discourage communication between families, however often we are talking over children and talking across the room. Which can make other children feel uncomfortable and over powered. Lastly, I know I keep reminding people, Please discourage your child from playing with the toys during circle time as well as parent conversations, it makes it very difficult to keep parents and children's attention. If your child does not want to be part of circle time that is just fine. I do not mind if they come in and out, with your assistance. It is also a great time to sit quietly and read a book with them. I thank you for your continued support.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Often we think children are just playing and not learning, however an incredible amount of learning happens while they play. Play enhances every aspect of a child's development and learning. It is a child's window to the world. Play nourishes every aspect of a child's development; it forms the foundation of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional skills necessary for success in school and in life. Play "paves the way for learning.

WATER PLAY

When it comes to play materials, children don't mind getting messy or wet (most, LOL) that is why water play is both enjoyable and educational. Water play can be an all year experience; it helps to develop eye hand coordination and math and science concepts. It also enhances social and emotional skills and encourages cooperation. It can also create fun fantasy play. There is no right or wrong way to play with this familiar inexpensive "toy" that comes not from a package but from our very own environment. We as parents can encourage language development by using descriptive language (cold, wet, soft drippy etc.) Pose open ended questions and give children the opportunity to evaluate and tell others about what they did and learned through their play. I think one of the greatest things about water play is it creates a sense of calm and relaxation. So if a child or parent (ha ha) seem agitated or frustrated it can be a great tool to bring out to help settle those busier times. It can also be a good time to connect and talk. Remember just because they are not looking at you doesn't mean they are not interacting and taking in what you have to say.

I will continue to talk more about other areas of development, strategies. Please feel free, Let me know if there topics you would like to discuss in a news letter or possible parent night.

TEACH ME AND I'LL REMEMBER TODAY
SHOW ME AND I'LL REMEMBER TOMORROW
ALLOW ME TO DISCOVER AND I'LL REMEMBER FOREVER.

My goal for the program is that we are all co-creators in each other's learning focusing on:

- Well being and belonging
- Exploration and creativity
- Language and literacy
- Social responsibility and diversity

The more culturally rich our program the more enriched we become. Each one of us is unique! Celebrate diversity, this is our program please feel free to contribute and share your thoughts, traditions, talents, ideas/resources and suggestions. Thank you everyone for making our space so caring, friendly, supportive and enjoyable.

Our school will be having a Scholastic book fair and I have asked for books that would be relevant to our age groups, times and dates will be determined soon if you would like to buy books.

We will be offering another Mother Goose Program with Brianna at View Royal StrongStart starting Friday April 1st, 2016. Times yet to be determined..

I am always looking for piece to castles, houses and toys you may be getting rid of; always keep us in mind when cleaning out. I am also looking for creative junk for art. I am the biggest junk collector it would amaze you what we can do with junk for art...

I am looking forward to the next few months ending our 9th year of StrongStart with lots of fun and laughter. READY SET GO....



ATTENTION PARENTS OF 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS READY, SET, LEARN OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 6TH, 9AM – 10:30 SCHOOL LIBRARY

Helping your preschooler to get ready for school and finding resources in your community.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.

Here is the Ready, Set, Learn Handbook (great resource and ideas)

[file:///C:/Users/Donna-Lynn%20Thorpe/Downloads/rs1_english09%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Donna-Lynn%20Thorpe/Downloads/rs1_english09%20(2).pdf)

COOKED PLAY DOUGH

1 ½ CUP FLOUR

1 ½ CUP OF WATER

¾ CUP OF SALT

1 ½ TLBS OIL

3 TSP CREAM OF TARTER

COLOR WITH FOOD COLOR , JELLO or KOOLAID

* Cook over medium heat until stiff and dry

* Drop in to lightly floured surface to cool and knead

Or if you don't want to cook and make it easier, you can just add boiling water and mix, but very hot please be careful. (Then you don't have to cook)

PLAY IS VITAL TO CHILDREN'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING.

THANK YOU AND IF THERE IS MORE INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEWS LETTERS PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

DONNA-LYNN

<https://youtu.be/SOYOa4FIj-Y>

Right click, open hyperlink

