



WELCOME TO STRONGSTART

It is wonderful to meet all our new families. We are large community of people full of great diversity and ages. I am really looking forward to an exciting year. It has been a great start with lots of new faces and great excitement. I am so thankful to all our returning families for there continued support and welcoming smiles and kind words to all the new families. We have an incredible group with so much to give and share.

I want all families to feel comfortable and supported here in the program, so if there is any concerns, suggestion or thing you want to offer or change in our program please feel free to approach me. This is your program and I am here to help create a fun, exciting and stimulating space. If at any point you feel you can't connect with me or the Principle of our school please refer to our StrongStart email strongstart@sd61.bc.ca .

COVID-19 Protocols

Families need to book a time to attend a StrongStart program. Use the booking app to reserve a time to visit. Each family can book two session per week. You will be able to book up to two weeks in advance. Our booking app is available starting September 6th.

- Everyone (children and adults) attending the StrongStart program needs to complete a [Daily Health Assessment](#) BEFORE they arrive at the StrongStart Centre.
- Masks for adults are required, and families are encouraged to bring their own masks.
- Adults and children are encouraged to respect personal space for other adults and children in the program.

New Online Registration

- Families who are accessing in-person programming need to register their child using our [online registration form](#). To register, you will need to upload a photo of proof of your child's age (e.g. birth certificate, passport, landed immigrant authorization, or INAC status card). Please complete a separate registration form for each child under 5 years of age.
- <https://studentregistration.sd61.bc.ca/registration/strongstart> Registration (purple)
- <https://strongstartbooking.sd61.bc.ca/> Booking App (Orange)

StrongStart and Learning through Play

Often we think children are just playing and not learning, however and incredible amount of learning happens while they are at play. Play enhances every aspect of a child's development and learning. Play nourishes every aspect of a child's development. It forms the foundation of

intellectual, social, physical, spiritual well-being and emotional skills necessary for success in school and in life. Play “paves the way for learning. “

StrongStarts framework outlines four areas of early learning; these are Well-being and Belonging, Exploration and Creativity, Language and Literacies and Social Responsibility and Diversity. Helping children to recognize accept and express a wide range of emotions, thoughts and views. Providing an environment where children can build, create, and design using different materials and techniques. StrongStart wants to encourage children to be curious about vocabulary, concepts and the written language through exploration. Within the context of their individual and cultural identities, children will be thinkers, doers and players who are curious, creative, explorative and self-confident. Helping children to feel pride in their linguistic and cultural heritage, exercise social responsibility while being active participants in their community.

StrongStart values families as the primary caregivers of children and have their most important role in promoting their children’s well-being, learning, and development in the context of supportive communities.

Our Early learning programs and activities value and support the important contributions of families in all their diversity. Regardless of their circumstances, every family has a unique social and cultural resources and strengths that contribute to early learning. By promoting open, honest and respectful partnerships with families, we believe we are supporting the best interest of children.

GENTLE REMINDERS:

- * We ask that all families Register for the program and Sign in everyday.
- * Please sit with your child (a long side) as best as possible. I am here as a support to you and your child but am not always able to be close. Being close also helps to facilitate safe play, socialization, language development and lots of creative play.
- * I would like to remind all families if we sit low to the ground with our children the room becomes larger and we do not have towering bodies over top of the children.
- *Lastly, if you must use your cell phones in StrongStart , please make calls quickly and quietly. It is so important to engage with your child during this short visit, we encourage cell phone be put away.

Here are a few resources to help find things to do in our City



www.southislandchild.ca

EVENTS IN VICTORIA CALLANDER



Island parent on line



Playground buddy App

Thank you ;StrongStart Educator

