

StrongStart generally follows the school calendar on our website-www.sd27.bc.ca –take note of closures for Pro-D days, holidays and not-in-service days. Click on Early Learning Programs the SD27 website for days and times for each of the centers listed below.

North Cariboo

- Cataline Elementary
- Horsefly Elementary/Junior Secondary
- Marie Sharpe Elementary
- Mountview Elementary
- 150 Mile Elementary



South Cariboo

- Forest Grove Elementary
- Horse Lake Elementary
- Lac la Hache Elementary
- 100 Mile House Elementary
- Mile 108 Elementary



StrongStartBC

For more information on early learning programs visit our website www.sd27.bc.ca or contact

School District 27

Early Learning Coordinator:

Beulah Smith

call: 250-398-3867

email: beulah.smith@sd27.bc.ca

Facebook: sd27 early learning

School District No. 27 StrongStart

Parent Handbook



Welcome!

**Learning, growing and
belonging together!**

Welcome

StrongStart is a FREE, drop-in, parent/caregiver participation program. We warmly welcome all children ages 5 & under and their families to join us. StrongStart programs offer inviting and comfortable environments for children to explore and learn with the support and guidance of their parent or caregiver.



Please drop-in to your local school or visit www.sd27.bc.ca to learn how to register! See the back of this handbook for contact details.

Funded and supported by the Ministry of Education and School District No. 27.

Your child's birth certificate is required for registration.



StrongStartBC

Wellness/Illness Policy

It is our collective responsibility to protect the children that are attending the StrongStart Centre. Please keep your child home if any of these symptoms are present:

- Flu like symptoms such as: vomiting, diarrhea, fever, chills, etc.
- Pink eye or head lice and have not had proper treatment.
- Any communicable disease such as chicken pox. Call your Public Health Office for further information.
- Coughing, sneezing or runny nose
- Not feeling well enough to participate actively in the program.

Your child may return when no longer contagious and is well enough to participate. Please inform the StrongStart Educator of any diagnosis of a communicable disease in either the child or a member of the child's family.

Everyone must wash their hands when they arrive at the program, before and after snack and/or any food preparation, after toileting, and after sneezing or coughing.

Encourage children to sneeze and cough into their elbow– this can significantly reduce the spread of germs.



Child Guidance

At StrongStart we practice positive guidance strategies which...

- help children develop the skills to understand their feelings and express them appropriately
- builds respect between children, parents, and StrongStart Educators
- creates a positive atmosphere and encourages desirable behaviour

Positive guidance strategies include:

- Establishing clear, consistent, and simple limits in a positive way.
- Offering straightforward explanations for limits
- Reinforcing appropriate behaviour with words and gestures
- Gaining a child's attention in a respectful way using proximity or touch, before reminding of expectations
- Redirecting
- Observe and note children's interests, moods, hunger, thirst and things that are challenging/not challenging to effectively meet their needs
- Acknowledging children's feelings, and supporting healthy expression
- Modelling problem solving skills.
- Offering age appropriate choices.

Guidelines at StrongStart

Attendance: Sign in and out everyday.



Screens: Cell phones must be silent and used only for emergencies.



Clothing: Paint smocks are available and we try to use washable materials but clothes may get dirty. Outdoor clothing is needed for fresh air adventures.



Hallways: When in the hallway, please be quiet and show respect for others in the school.



Inside shoes: Please remove outside footwear at the entrance when the weather is wet or snowy. Bring inside shoes or slippers in case of a safety drill.



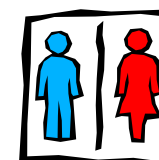
Snack time: Healthy snack is an important part of StrongStart every day. Adults and children must wash their hands before eating and handling food.



No smoking on school grounds or on any StrongStart activities off site.



Washrooms: Parents and caregivers must supervise their children in the washroom.



Role of Participant and Educator

Research shows that parent/caregiver involvement in early childhood settings supports positive outcomes for children.

Role of the Parents/Caregivers

- Participate in all activities with your child(ren)– circle time, play activities, clean up and serving a healthy snack.
- Guide your child(ren) to– be kind, patient and curious; put toys away and tidy up before moving to something else; take turns and share; listen to others and use a quiet indoor voice.
- Come prepared to play, laugh, and have fun with your child



Role of the Early Childhood Educator

- Encourage adult and child participation.
- Create learning environments and activities that positively influence children's learning.
- Model strategies that can be used by parents and caregivers to support children's learning.
- Provide information to foster adults' understanding of children's development and learning.
- Maintain a welcoming, kind, inclusive atmosphere that is safe and nurturing.
- Connect families to other community supports and services.

The Importance of Play

Play is a child's way of exploring, discovering and learning about the world.

StrongStart provides age appropriate materials and activities to promote learning.

Programs are designed to support each child's emotional, social, physical, cognitive and early literacy development.

Some of the play activities that you may enjoy at StrongStart include:

- Building– blocks, Duplo, trains etc.
- Story time and books
- Singing and music
- Science exploration
- Arts and crafts
- Hands-on with water, sand, dough and other sensory materials
- Role play– kitchen centre, doll house and dress-up...
- Puzzles and Games
- Gym and outdoor adventures

