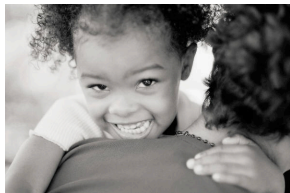


## **Considerations and general guidelines:**

- We will be using the 2nd Street entrance by the Canadian flag at Mountain View School.
- Strollers and bikes are to be left outside and undercover by the set of stairs.
- Toys from home need to stay home to avoid confusion and jealousy.
- Please be respectful of school students in classrooms by keeping noise and loud conversation to minimum while out in the hallways.
- Please keep purses and personal belongings on top of the cubbies and out of reach of children.
- For safety reasons, please do not bring hot drinks into the centre.
- Please come prepared to PLAY and PLAY can be messy....paint...glue... sand...water...!!!

***Above all, laugh, enjoy, and have fun with your little ones!***



*We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education.*



**School District 19**  
(Revelstoke)

# **StrongStart Early Learning Centre**

## **Parent Handbook**

A School Based  
Early Learning Program



Ministry of  
Education

## **Welcome to the StrongStart Early Learning centre:**

This early learning program is designed to work in partnership with parents/caregivers, their children, an Early Childhood Educator, and community partners. Community partners include School District No. 19, Child Care Resource and Referral, Interior Health, Speech and Language, Supported Child Development, Infant Development, Family Literacy, a Mother Goose facilitator, and community agencies. This program is fully funded by the Ministry of Education, for parents and their children, 5 years of age and under.

The program is planned with the understanding that children learn through **PLAY!** Carefully selected materials and activities will promote the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and early literacy development in each child. Opportunities will be provided to practice skills and develop concepts that will lay a foundation for a lifetime of learning. Parents will share in their child's early learning experiences, connect with other parents, and receive valuable child development information.



## **Guidance and Discipline Policy:**

- Strategies used for guiding children's behavior are:
  1. distraction
  2. re-direction (direct to another area)

Adults will be role-modeling taking turns, and showing compassion and empathy towards others. Please feel free to talk to Tabatha about possible strategies to use when handling challenging behavior.

## **Parent role:**

- Parent/caregiver must escort own child to and from washrooms.
- Parent/caregiver must be in attendance with own child at all times.
- Parents/caregivers are expected to be an active participant in all activities with the children.

## Policies:

### **Health/Illness Policy:**

Please keep your child/children home if:

- they have, or have recently had, flu like symptoms i.e. vomiting, diarrhea, fever, chills.
- they have pink eye, and have not had treatment
- they have any infectious diseases i.e. chickenpox.
- they are continually coughing and sneezing on other children and toys.
- they have head lice, and have not had treatment
- they are not feeling well enough to play.

This policy is set in consideration of others at the centre, and we appreciate your cooperation. Please call public health at 814-2244 or your doctor at 837-9321 for further information regarding communicable diseases.

### **Smoking Policy:**

- No smoking is permitted on any school grounds

### Operation of program:



The program runs:

Monday to Friday,  
9:00am -12:00pm

throughout the school year. The centre will close for statutory holidays and two weeks at Christmas. We will be open for all school district professional development days.

Registering your child is required but you are welcome to drop-in at what ever time works best for you. Nutritious snacks are provided.

## Early Childhood Educator:

My name is Tabatha Jones and I am really excited about this program.

This program is for you and your child/children. I know together we can make this a very positive early learning experience for your family.

I have a diploma in Early Childhood Education, a B. C. License to Practice, over thirteen years experience and a valid first aid certificate. I have had the pleasure of *playing* in preschools, group childcare and ran my own multi-aged in-home family childcare. The reason I am excited about this program is I feel it is a wonderful opportunity for parents/caregivers and children to share in early learning experiences outside of their home environment. This program will provide a natural link between home and school.

Personally, I came to Revelstoke in 2001 and quickly fell in love with the people and the city and now can't remember living anywhere else. I am married to Roy who has lived in Revelstoke his whole life. I have one child with my husband and three grown step-children, with children of their own, which earns me the title of Gramma Tabs. Luckily, I have been involved in Revelstoke's Child Care Community since moving here and look forward to continuing to do so.

## Program Philosophy:

At the StrongStart Early Learning centre, we understand that:

- each child/family is unique and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.
- all children will be included and made to feel a valuable member of the group.
- children learn best through play that includes all their senses.
- parents are an integral part of their child's early learning, and will be included in all aspects of the program.
- it is important the program and environment be designed to promote each child's emotional, social, physical, cognitive, and early literacy development. All areas are of equal importance.
- children need a variety of opportunities to explore and express themselves creatively.
- involvement from community partners will enhance the program and the learning that takes place.
- parents are interested in keeping informed of child development issues.
- children and families deserve to be in an environment that is safe and positive, and promotes a healthy lifestyle.
- children respond to routine. Routine provides a sense of security and comfort that will enhance a child's self-esteem and feelings of self-worth.
- children will make mistakes and need plenty of opportunities to practice skills that will be useful later on.
- children will learn to be respectful of themselves, others, and their environment.