

Considerations and general guidelines:

- We will be using the yellow entrance by the roundabout at Begbie View Elementary.
- Strollers and bikes are to be left outside and undercover.
- 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 out of reach of children.
- For safety reasons, please do not bring hot drinks into the centre.
- Please come prepared to PLAY and remember PLAY can be messy!

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 Naoko 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 also be closed for all school district professional development days and Spring Break.

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 Naoko Swift and I have been in Revelstoke since January 1999. I was born and raised in Japan, studied sociology in my university.

Soon after I moved here I started to receive numerous phone calls that people asking me to look after their children. I felt the demands in childcare in this community and decided to take Early Childhood Education Certificate course by correspondence through Northern Lights College.

I had completed the course and received the Early Childhood Education Certificate in 2011. Throughout those years I was working on my course, I had many opportunities to work in many different centres in Revelstoke. I have my B.C. License to Practice, an up to date First Aid certificate and attending many workshops.

I love being a part of the StrongStart program and truly believe in the benefits such a program provides. I look forward to working with you and your children to play and learn together!

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.