What is StrongStart?

StrongStart Early Learning Centres are free drop-in centres for pre-school children age 0 to 5 and their parents or caregiver.

Qualified early childhood educators facilitate learning activities such as story time, music and art to help children get ready for kindergarten.

Parents and caregivers are provided with an opportunity to discover new ways to support their children's learning at home, and make valuable connections to both the school and community.

New Westminster Schools currently has **three StrongStart centres**, located at Queensborough Middle School in Queensborough, Richard McBride Elementary School in Sapperton and Connaught Heights Elementary School in the west end.

The overall goal of **StrongStart Early Learning Centres** is to support the development of young children by providing opportunities for their parents and/or caregivers to be involved in and learn about effective strategies that support early learning.

Locations

Richard McBride Elementary School
331 Richmond Street, New Westminster
Phone: 604.517.6090
Program hours:
Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

StrongStart Facilitator: Ms. Marian

Queensborough Middle School
833 Salter St. in Queensborough
Phone: 604.517.6040
Program hours:
Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

StrongStart Facilitator: Ms. Irina

Connaught Heights Elementary School
2201 London Street, New Westminster
Phone: 604.517.6010
Program Hours:
Monday to Friday 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

StrongStart Facilitator: Ms. Laura

New Westminster Schools

New Westminster Schools recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional nad unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

New Westminster School District
School Board Office School District No 40
811 Ontario Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 0J7

604 417 6240 | info@sd40.bc.ca | newwestschools.ca

Program Guide

StrongStart

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Program Benefits

The years between birth and school age are an important time in your child's life. The experiences that children have in the early years influence their future health, well-being and life-long learning. Children will be more likely to have success in school if they have:

- Opportunities to develop their language skills;
- Time to play; and
- The support of loving and responsive relationships.

Play is a child's work. Studies show children learn best through play-based environments. Play is important to young children's daily lives and promotes their healthy physical and intellectual development in ways that cannot be achieved by focusing only on skills, such as counting to 10 or learning the alphabet. When playing, children express, explore, combine, and extend what they have learned.

What is the learning structure?

The Centres have many materials and stimulating activities for children and their parents/caregivers to interact with.

You and your child will be able to:

- explore with sand, water, and other materials children can touch and hold;
- play with natural and real materials;
- explore art through a variety of activities;
- play dress-up;
- build with blocks and other materials.

Strong Start Facilitators will introduce songs, finger plays, and stories.

More Information

Parking: Please DO NOT park in staff parking lots.

Stroller Parking: Please park strollers in the designated stroller parking area outside of the school.

Sign-in Sheet: Please sign IN and OUT every day that you attend. This is used for record

keeping and for emergency purposes. If your child's name is not on the list, please speak to the facilitator as you may need to fill out a registration form.

Cell Phones: Please DO NOT use your cell phone while in the Centre. This is your child's time with you.

Photography: Please only photograph or video your own child or other children with the expressed permission of their caregiver.

If your child accidentally brings a toy home from StrongStart, please return it on your next visit.

How to apply

To register for StrongStart, go to our website at: https://newwestschools.ca/programs-services/early-learning/strongstart/

Download and complete our 2019-2020 registration form and bring it to the Strong Start Program you wish to attend.

Original documentation is required to verify identity of the child and parent/caregiver.

Documents include:

1. Proof of birth date for the student
2. Proof of guardianship
3. Canadian citizenship or immigration status for both the parent and the student
4. Proof of address

Detailed information can be found on our website.