

## Operation of Program

The centres are open throughout the school year, closed for statutory holidays, for professional development and school breaks. Closures will be posted at the school, on the district website as well as on the district's mobile app.

Children are registered into the program online. PDF copies are available.

<https://www.sd68.bc.ca/programs/early-years/strong-start/strongstart-registration/>

Your child's birth certificate is required.

Once you've registered, you can attend any StrongStart in Nanaimo, Ladysmith, or any centre in the province. Nutritious snacks are provided.

### Bayview Elementary

9:15 am to 12:15 pm

140 View St., Nanaimo  
250 754-3231

### Cedar Elementary

9:15 am to 12:15 pm

2215 Gould Rd., Nanaimo  
250 722-2722

### Fairview Community

9:15 am to 12:15 pm

205 Howard Ave., Nanaimo  
250 753-3418

### Georgia Avenue Community

9:15 am to 12:15 pm

625 Georgia Ave., Nanaimo  
250 753-1044

### Ladysmith Primary

9:15 am to 12:15 pm

510 Sixth Ave., Ladysmith  
250 245-3912

### McGirr Elementary

9:15 am to 12:15 pm

6199 McGirr Rd., Nanaimo  
250 758-8946

### Quarterway Elementary

9:15 am to 12:15 pm

1632 Bowen Rd., Nanaimo  
250 754-6845

### Frank J. Ney Elementary

9:15 am to 12:15 pm

5301 Williamson Rd., Nanaimo  
250 729-8045



Thanks to the financial support from the Ministry of Education, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools is supporting families to become involved in early learning and providing opportunities where they can spend time learning through PLAY! with their children.



## Parent Guide

Revised Fall 2021

A School-Based Parent-Child  
Early Learning Program

## 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 such as:

- Ministry of Education
- Island Health
- Ministry of Children and Family Development

The program is planned with the understanding that children learn through PLAY!

### Program Philosophy

Each child/family is unique and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity in an environment that is safe, positive and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Each child will be included and made to feel a valuable member of the group.

Parents are an integral part of their child's early learning and are included in all aspects of the program.

Carefully selected materials and activities will promote the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and early literacy development of 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.

Children learn best through PLAY and need a variety of opportunities to explore and express themselves creatively. Children respond to routine which provides a sense of security and comfort that will enhance their self-esteem and feelings of self-worth.

Children need plenty of opportunities to practice skills that will be useful later on. Facilitators will model behaviour that is respectful of others and their environment.

## Policies

### Health/Illness Policy

Please keep your child/children home if they:

- Have, or recently had flu-like symptoms i.e. vomiting, diarrhea, fever, chills;
- Have untreated pink eye;
- Have infectious diseases like chicken-pox;
- Are continually coughing and sneezing;
- 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 250 755-3342 or your doctor for further information regarding communicable diseases.

### Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted on any school district property.

### Parent/Caregiver Role

- Attend with your own child at all times.
- Participate actively in all activities with children.
- Escort your own child to and from wash-rooms.

## Considerations and General Guidelines

Strollers and bicycles are to be left outside. Toys from home need to stay home to avoid confusion and jealousy. Please be respectful of classroom students by minimizing noise and loud conversation while out in the hallways.

Please keep purses and personal belongings on top of the cubbies and out of the reach of children. For safety reasons, please do not bring hot drinks into the centre.

## Guidance and Discipline Policy

### Prevention

- Establish clear, consistent and simple limits.
- Offer straightforward explanations for limits.
- State what is expected, rather than pose questions.
- Reinforce appropriate behaviours with words and gestures.

### Intervention

- Gain a child's attention in a respectful way.
- Use proximity and touch.
- Remind child of the expectations.
- Acknowledge feelings before setting limits.
- Distract or divert where appropriate/re-direct.
- Model problem solving skills.
- Offer appropriate choices.

Please come prepared to PLAY! It can be messy, with paint...glue...sand ...water...!!!

Parents and caregivers (foster parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and adult-aged siblings) may attend with the children in their care. If you are a paid childcare provider, you are welcome to attend but we ask that you bring no more than two children.

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

