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## STRONGSTART Q&A

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### WHAT IS STRONGSTART?

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StrongStart BC programs provide rich learning environments designed for early learning development – language, physical, cognitive, social and emotional. Qualified early childhood educators lead learning activities where children find opportunities to make friends and interact with others of similar ages.

Caregivers attend with your young child (aged birth to five) and participate in play-based early learning activities – including stories, music and art. At no cost to families, this early learning program helps prepare children for success in Kindergarten.



### IS STRONGSTART IN EVERY SCHOOL IN SURREY?

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No. StrongStart in Surrey is available in 24 of our Elementary schools. To find a StrongStart school near you, please click [here](#).



### AT WHAT AGE CAN MY CHILD START TO ATTEND STRONGSTART?

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StrongStart is open to children along with their caregiver from birth until age five (or when they enter Kindergarten)

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### HOW DO I REGISTER?

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Before you click the registration link you will need to know the following information:

1. Name of StrongStart location you would like to attend. To see all Surrey locations, click [here](#).
2. Important Identification documents ready to upload. To see identification needed, click [here](#).
3. The registration form is the same as if you were registering your child for school but in the drop-down menu for which school you would like to register for, you will click on the StrongStart centre location rather than the school. In the grade drop-down menu, you will need to click on '**StrongStart**' for your grade choice.

Once you have all of the above information ready, click [here](#) to start the registration form.

\*\*You will be asked to click on the StrongStart Centre in the drop-down menu, not the elementary school.



### IS STRONGSTART AN INCLUSIVE PROGRAM?

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Yes. All children are welcome to attend StrongStart programs before they enter Kindergarten. StrongStart Educators will encourage caregivers to follow a child's lead for all children to be successful in the learning environment.

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### **HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ONCE I HAVE REGISTERED BEFORE I CAN VISIT A STRONGSTART SESSION?**

Once your registration form is complete, it will be directed to the StrongStart Educator at that location. Depending on the number of registrations, it may take up to two weeks during the school year for the StrongStart Educator to respond. Please be advised that there tends to be a high volume of registrations in September/October, January and March/April of each school year. The StrongStart Educator will reach out to the family to help set up a date for their first session.

\*Please note StrongStart Centres are closed in the summer and therefore cannot respond to registrations until the third week in September each school year.



### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM THE STRONGSTART EDUCATOR WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF REGISTRATION?**

Look up the contact information (email or phone number) of the StrongStart Educator at the site you want to attend by clicking [here](#), and reach out to the StrongStart Educator to let them know you have registered online but have not heard from them as to how you can start sessions.



### **ANY OTHER RECOMMENDED RESOURCES?**

Please refer to the [Early Learning Framework Reference List](#) to access further resources

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### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STRONGSTART AND PRESCHOOL?**

Preschool programs the child attends the program without the caregiver and can vary in philosophies on how children learn. StrongStart requires a caregiver to attend with the child and is a play-based learning philosophy that follows the [BC Early Learning Framework](#)



### **DOES STRONGSTART RUN ALL YEAR LONG?**

No. StrongStart follows the calendar of the school year. Please keep in mind that StrongStart closes throughout the year for holidays, non-instructional days as well as professional Development days. Please click [here](#) to see the schedule for this school year.



### **WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM MY STRONGSTART EDUCATOR?**

StrongStart Educators are certified Early Childhood Educators and can support your child in all areas of development throughout their preschool years as well as assist you in assessing whether your child may need extra supports in any developmental area. They also support families with resources for parenting, understanding the Early Learning Framework, as well as other resources within the community to support all aspect of family life.

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