



EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS - COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The District has a range of programs to support our earliest learners. This document outlines some of the early learning programs offered in Surrey.

The programs have different, but complementary purposes.

FOR BIRTH TO 5 YEAR OLDS:

StrongStart

| Schools | Led By | Timing |
|----------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 24 sites | StrongStart Educators (ECE trained) | September - June, 3 hours/day, 5 days/week |

StrongStart is a free drop-in program for parents/caregivers and their children aged birth to five years old. Children and families participate in learning experiences that are designed to support early learning development – language, physical, cognitive, social and emotional. Parents and caregivers discover new ways to support children's learning, make valuable connections with others in the program, and get information about community programs and services. Sites are funded and approved by the Ministry.

Little Eaglets Early Learning

| Site | Led By | Timing |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Mary Jane Shannon | StrongStart Educator and AoC Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator | Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:30am |

This program is run in partnership with Avenues of Change and FRAFCA. It is a parent participation program for families with children ages birth – 5. The children will participate in play-based early learning activities with a focus on Indigenous teachings and shared cultural knowledge. All families are welcome. A light snack is provided.



ELF

| Site | Led By | Timing |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| City Central Mall (next to Winners) | StrongStart Educator and First Steps ECE | Every Wednesday from 12:30pm-2:30pm October - June |

A drop-in Early Learning program, focused on parent engagement, literacy, community connections, and fun in Central City Shopping Centre.

FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS:

Ready, Set, Learn

| Schools | Led By | Timing |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| All schools | School staff | October - May |

Ready, Set, Learn is an early learning initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Education. It is intended to facilitate partnerships between schools and local community agencies and early childhood providers. RSL events are intended for families of 3 and 4 year old children to develop positive connections with the school system and with participating community agencies. (Ministry of Education information paper)

Bannock & Books

| Schools | Led By | Timing |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| Various | School staff | Spring |

Bannock & Books is an early literacy and culturally focused session for young Aboriginal children and parents. The event includes Bannock, snacks, beverages, literacy related stations for children and parents, and a Literacy/Activity Book Bag for each student and parent to take home. The sessions may also include an Aboriginal author to engage children. Each school receives resource support for the session. Parents are encouraged to bring their child's siblings.

IPALS (PALS in Immigrant Communities)

| Schools | Led By | Timing |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 4 sites for specific language groups (2018-19 groups will be Somali, Punjabi and Arabic families) | StrongStart Educators; MCW / SWIS workers | October - March |

IPALS is a culturally responsive family literacy program designed to help immigrant and refugee families and their young children (age 3 & 4) flourish in their new communities. Families learn new strategies to support their young children's literacy development and the benefits extend to all family members. Opportunities to build social networks and become familiar with neighbourhood schools are additional benefits. (Decoda website)

PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters)

| Schools | Led By | Timing |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Various Elementary Schools | School staff | November-May |

PALS provides parents and caregivers strategies to support their preschool (age 3 & 4) children's learning. Each session focuses on learning through play, and includes time for parents and caregivers to work with a facilitator, and time for adults and children to learn, play and have fun together. The program responds to the cultural and linguistic needs of participating families and aims to provide a positive transition to school. (Decoda website)





FOR 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS (CHILDREN REGISTERED FOR K):

Welcome to Kindergarten (WTK)

| Schools | Led By | Timing |
|----------|--|---------------------|
| 55 sites | K teachers, administrators, other school staff | Late May/early June |

WTK is a program offered through The Learning Partnership. The main goal of WTK is to welcome families into the school and provide them with resources and experiences to best support their child at home. Another purpose is to highlight the significant role parents play in educating their child and partnering with the school team. Stations utilize the resources in the WTK bag rather than kindergarten classroom materials in order to support parents in using these resources at home with their child.



K Orientation

| Schools | Led By | Timing |
|-------------|--|---------------------|
| All schools | K teachers, administrators, other school staff | Late May/early June |

Many schools hold a Kindergarten orientation in the spring prior to children starting school in order to familiarize children and parents/caregivers with the school and classroom setting, meet the classroom teachers, engage with materials in the kindergarten classroom, and learn about the K program. This event is designed and implemented by the school to suit the needs of their specific community.



Little Eaglets

The purpose of the Little Eaglets program is to increase Aboriginal Kindergarten registration in Surrey (prior to September) and connect Aboriginal learners and their families with their catchment schools, before entering Kindergarten. The intent is to ensure that the transition from home to school is as smooth as possible for Aboriginal learners and their caregivers. This program serves to support our district's goal of increasing positive identity and sense of belonging for all Aboriginal learners. The district is partnering with Awahsuk Aboriginal Head Start Preschool, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) and Keginow Housing. In doing this, we hope to foster a relationship that will give Aboriginal families a sense of care and belonging and create a willingness to attend events such as Little Eaglets sessions, RSL, WTK and PCL: Little Eaglets summer learning program. These experiences will help to prepare children for Kindergarten and further support families in making connections with schools and other families.



Play, Connect, Learn (PCL); PCL: Little Eaglets (Aboriginal program) & PCL: First Steps K Readiness (Refugee program)

| Schools | Led By | Timing |
|------------------|---|---|
| 3 targeted sites | Early learning teachers, StrongStart Educators, Cultural Facilitators | 2 weeks in July (same dates as summer learning) |

The purpose of PCL is to familiarize children with K routines and structures and provide them with oral language, play-based group learning activities. PCL also provides an opportunity for children to get to know each other and helps them become more comfortable in the school setting. In addition, PCL: Little Eaglets is run in partnership with Awahsuk Headstart to provide culturally responsive learning opportunities for Aboriginal children transitioning to school. PCL: First Steps K Readiness is run in partnership with First Steps. It supports refugee children transitioning into Kindergarten.

