

StrongStart DO

StrongStart Discover Online
Virtual Inspiration for Families at Home



SPRING IS HERE

Spring is an exciting time! We hope this publication excites and inspires you.

If you have a child starting kindergarten in September 2022 have a look on page 2-A

The end of the 2021/2022 school year is fast approaching. The last day of StrongStart is Thursday June 23, 2022.

From: Kate, Paula,
Danielle, Kristal and Rita

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and learn on the traditional territories of the Tla'amin (łəʔamən) Nation

MAY, 2022 | PUB. #6, 21/22

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THIS MONTH'S THEME IS: Exploring Spring

To contact SD47 Early Learning:
send email to
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**SD47 Childhood Educators are offering
A TWO-WEEK PRE-K PROGRAM**

The PRE-K program is offered to children starting kindergarten in September 2022. It is a licensed program where children attend without their parents. It runs for two weeks, twice per week, for two hours in the afternoon.

This play-based program provides an opportunity for children to:

- experience a group setting like they would experience in kindergarten
- experience routines like they would experience in kindergarten
- experience independence within a group
- advocate for self within a group

TWO LOCATIONS: Henderson and Westview Elementary Schools, from 12:45PM-2:45PM

Henderson:

KATE BOYD AND PAULA VANDEVERT
Program runs Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
May 17, 19, 24, 26.

Westview:

DANIELLE CAZES AND KRISTAL GORDON
Program runs Monday and Wednesday afternoons
May 16, 18, (not Victoria Day) 25, 30

Register at the School Board Office: 4351 Ontario Avenue.



Next StrongStart GO dates:

May 3, 2022

D.A. EVANS Park

June 21, 2022

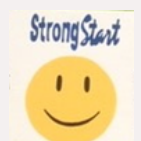
**SD47 Outdoor Learning
Centre**



ADULTS SET THE TONE FOR CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

When adults are dressed for and enjoy the outdoors, children are more likely to look forward to spending time outside.

Last year we placed a "StrongStart Smile" around Powell River, and posted the location on Instagram. This year we will put a picture of the StrongStart smile in our publications, for families to find.



Find the SMILE in this publication

EARLY LEARNING INFORMATION

SD47 ORCA (On THE Road WITH Children's Activities) NEIGHBORHOOD STRONGSTART

SD47 ORCA SCHEDULES:

MAY 2022				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 2 11:30am-2:00pm TEXADA	May 3 NO PROGRAM	May 4 9:30am-11:30am TIMBERLANE	May 5 NO PROGRAM	May 6 9:30am-11:30am WILLINGDON BEACH
May 9 9:30am-11:30am JAMES THOMSON	May 10 NO PROGRAM	May 11 9:30am-11:30am MUSIC ACADEMY	May 12 9:30am-11:30am MYRTLE POINT GOLF COURSE	May 13 9:30am-11:30am LARRY GOUTHRO PARK
May 16 10:00am-12:00pm LUND	May 17 NO PROGRAM	May 18 9:30am-11:30am TIMBERLANE	May 19 9:30am-11:30am LANG BAY FISH HATCHERY	May 20 PRO-D DAY NO PROGRAM
May 23 VICTORIA DAY NO PROGRAM	May 24 NO PROGRAM	May 25 NO PROGRAM	May 26 9:30am-11:30am MYRTLE POINT GOLF COURSE	May 27 9:30am-11:30am WILLINGDON BEACH
9:30am-11:30am JAMES THOMSON	May 31 NO PROGRAM			

JUNE 2022				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		June 1 9:30am-11:30am MUSIC ACADEMY	June 2 9:30am-11:30am LANG BAY FISH HATCHERY	June 3 9:30am-11:30am LARRY GOUTHRO PARK
June 6 PRO-D DAY NO PROGRAM	June 7 NO PROGRAM	June 8 9:30am-11:30am TIMBERLANE	June 9 9:30am-11:30am MYRTLE POINT GOLF COURSE	June 10 9:30am-11:30am WILLINGDON BEACH
June 13 11:30am-2:00pm TEXADA	June 14 NO PROGRAM	June 15 9:30am-11:30am MUSIC ACADEMY	June 16 NO PROGRAM	June 17 9:30am-11:30am LARRY GOUTHRO PARK
June 20 10:00am-12:00pm LUND	June 21 NO PROGRAM	June 22 9:30am-11:30am TIMBERLANE	June 23 9:30am-11:30am LANG BAY FISH HATCHERY	June 24 NO PROGRAM
June 27 SUMMER BREAK NO PROGRAM	June 28 SUMMER BREAK NO PROGRAM	June 29 SUMMER BREAK NO PROGRAM	June 30 SUMMER BREAK NO PROGRAM	

**StrongStart programs expected to reopen September 12, 2022
HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL!**

SD47 ORCA HIGHLIGHTS:



As we explore local spaces during the **SD47 ORCA Neighbourhood StrongStart programme**, we are joyfully connecting to these spaces and seeing them as "ours". One of the joys of playing in spaces over time, is that we see familiar outdoor spaces change with the seasons. Willingdon Beach gives us a beautiful example of really knowing a place and understanding the way that it changes from day to day and season to season.

One of our Fridays at Willingdon Beach provided the chance to talk about how, because of the lower tide, the beach was bigger than we remembered it. How interesting to think about walking on sand that had previously been underwater! It was fascinating to realize that we could play on the beach in that moment, but that the ocean would later cover our traces of play. Even the chill in the air did not deter us, because sometimes you just need to take off your mittens to really feel the sand between your fingers.

Catkins, dandelions, and the sounds of water caught our attention in our outdoor program this month. Acts of noticing include:

Where do the catkins fall from? Dandelions open and close. We ask when do they open, and when do they close? We search for the water and stop to listen to its sounds. Is the water loud, is it quiet?

Each time we walk together we create new experiences and build connections to our community, home, and strengthen our well-being and belonging. Creating a space where "adults and children interact in reciprocal relationships where knowledge is co constructed, and outcomes cannot be predicted" (British Columbia early learning framework, 2019, p.75). Together the possibilities unfold.

LUND

DATES:

May 16
June 20

TEXADA

DATES:

May 2
June 13



FRUIT SNACKS

BUTTERFLY

Ingredients: Apple, raisins, celery sticks, pretzel sticks

Directions:

- Wash your apple & celery sticks and cut them into slices.
- Place one celery stick on a plate. Lay out four apple slices around it to be the butterfly's wings.
- Add raisins to the apple slices. Add pretzel sticks to the top of the celery to be the butterfly's antennae.



FLOWERS

Ingredients: Mandarin Oranges, Blueberries, Kiwis, Pretzel Sticks

Directions:

- Peel your oranges and kiwi and wash your blueberries.
- Lay out your oranges around one blueberry to look like the petals of a flower.
- Add a pretzel stick for the stem.
- Cut your kiwi slices in half and add one half to either side of the pretzel sticks to look like the leaves.



SUNS

Ingredients: Mandarin Oranges, Cheese Slices, Optional: Ritz Crackers

Directions:

- Peel your oranges.
- Use a circle cookie-cutter to cut out circle shapes from your slices of cheese.
- Lay out the cheese on a plate. Then put the oranges around the cheese to look like the sun's rays.
- Optional: Add a Ritz Cracker underneath your cheese slice.



FRUIT SPRING ROLLS

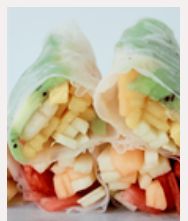
Ingredients:

- 15 rice paper wrappers
- 5 cups of fruits cut into matchsticks
- 5 strawberries cut into slices (use any fruit you would like to show through the wrapper)
- 1/3 cup hot water

Directions:

1. Slice the strawberries (or fruit that you are using that will show through the wrapper)
2. Cut the remaining fruit into matchsticks that are about 6 inches in length
3. Pour the hot water into a plate.
4. Place one rice paper wrapper into the hot water for 10 seconds. Make sure the entire wrapper gets wet.
5. Place the wet wrapper on a plate or cutting board
6. In the middle of the wrapper, place several slices of fruit that you would like to show through.
7. Place the matchstick fruit on top of the fruit slices. Add as much or as little as you would like. The more you add, the thicker the roll will be.
8. Fold one corner of the rice paper over the fruit. Tuck in the sides and continue rolling.

Serve and Enjoy!



LET'S CREATE TOGETHER

Art Experimentation



In the Context of the **Early Learning Framework** (2019), “being open to something new, a way of thinking and doing that did not previously exist [is to experiment]. To experiment with pedagogy means to go beyond the normative practices to create and tell different stories of knowing and being in our common world” (p.102).

What happens when we paint on different papers with watercolor?

The Powell River Historical Museum and Archives has posted this information on how to make paper. Follow the link to learn how to make your own paper for painting: [CLICK HERE](#)

Making connections between the indoor and outdoor environment creates different stories of knowing and being in our world together.

What happens when we take our watercolor paints outdoors and let the spring colors inspire our work?

Here we notice bubbles indoors while painting with watercolors, excitement follows when we find bubbles forming naturally in our outdoor spaces. We connect these experiences and are curious of how the bubbles got there. We try to create bubbles and share our findings.

Each time we look, we notice something that excites us, that ignites wonder and curiosity. We slow down to spend time with this wonder in our outdoor world.





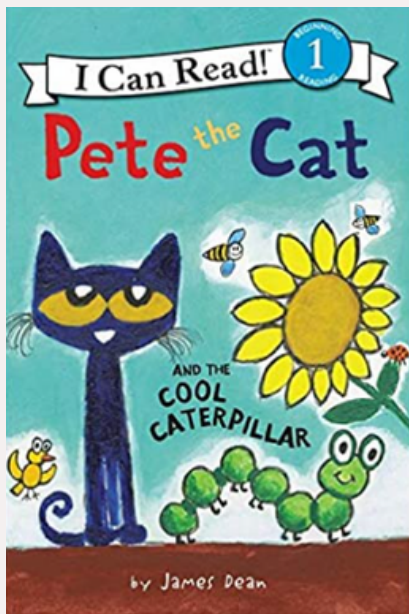
HEAR STORY
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HEAR STORY
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HEAR STORY
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ONE LITTLE BUG

Sung to: One Elephant (Sharon. Lois and Bram)

One little bug went out to play,
(children sit in a circle, one child walks around the inside of the circle)
On a spider's web one day.
He had ever so much fun,
He called for another bug to come.
(first child chooses a send child to join them walking around inside the circle)

Two little bugs went out to play
(Repeat for bugs 2, 3 and 4)

Four little bugs went out to play,
On a spider's web one day.
They got stuck, all in a bunch.
Along came spider, in time for lunch!
(fifth child pretends to be the spider, coming to eat the bugs)

HERE IS THE BEEHIVE

Here is the beehive,
(make a fist)
Where are the bees?
Hiding inside where nobody sees.
Watch them come creeping out of the hive,
One, two, three, four, five.
(release one finger at a time from the fist/hive)
BUZZ-ZZZ
(wiggle fingers all around)

FIVE LITTLE SPECKLED FROGS

Five green and speckled frogs,
(hold up five fingers)
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating the most delicious bugs,
Yum, yum!
(rub tummy with other hand)
One jumped into the pool,
(tuck one finger down)
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four green speckled frogs,
Glub, glub!

Four green and speckled frogs...
(Continue until there are no speckled frogs on the log)



RAIN

Rain on the rooftops,
Rain on the trees,
Rain on the green grass,
But not on me!

ONE POTATO, TWO POTATO

As you sing, form hands into fists and stack them one on top of the other, taking the bottom fist and stacking it onto the top fist.

One potato, two potato
Three potato, four,
Five potato, six potato,
Seven potato, more!

PLANTING FLOWERS

Sung to: Frere Jacques

Planting flowers, planting flowers,
(pretend to plant flowers into the ground)
In the ground, in the ground,
Water them and they will grow,
(pretend to water plants with a watering can)
Water them and they will grow,
All around, all around.



HAMMERING PETALS

YOU WILL NEED:

- Paper, card stock works the best because its thicker.
- Fresh flower petals
- Hammers – if you are doing this activity with toddlers, try using wooden toys hammers instead of real ones.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Collect your flowers, or petals. Try and pick a variety of colors.
2. Place the petals onto the paper and hammer away.

OPTIONAL:

- Sandwich the paper with flowers between pieces of cardboard. Making a flower sandwich.
- Give your child a hammer and let them hammer the cardboard, smashing the flowers. Make sure they hammer all over the cardboard but don't overdo it, to avoid poking holes in the paper.

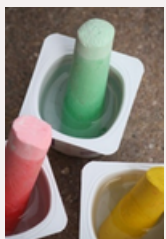


SIDEWALK CHALK GAMES

Once you open the sidewalk chalk the options are endless.

Here are a few suggestions.

- follow the line, paw prints, rainbows or anything you can think of
- jump the puddles (draw a bunch of puddles)
- draw your very own road and town map
- make a color nature hunt
- practice numbers, shapes and letters



Try dipping the chalk in water and enjoy the bright colors



Insight Psychological

15 Reasons Why Spring is the Best Season

Ah Spring!

The warmer weather seems to finally be pushing back the chilliness and it is starting to feel more and more like spring. As we move into longer, warmer days with more outdoor time, we have the chance to discover and rediscover the season and the outdoor spaces that we are connected to.

Have you ever wondered how and why spring has such an impact on us psychologically?

FOR SOME INSIGHT: [CLICK HERE](#)

Ontario Parks- Parks Blog

5 Kid Friendly Signs of Spring

It has been a particularly stormy and wet spring so far, here in the qathet Regional District, and if you are looking for a little bit of encouragement to get out and explore in nature, check out this website from Ontario Parks.

LINK TO WEBSITE: [CLICK HERE](#)



Kristin Moon Science; Love to Know

The Science of Spring

As you are enjoying in the great outdoors, you may be curious about the things that you are discovering. Here are a couple of resources to help you better understand the science of spring.

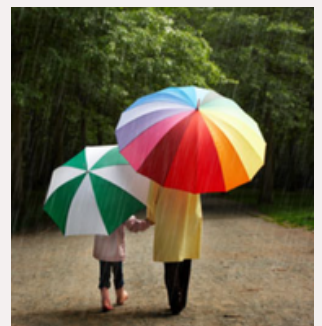
LINK TO WEBSITES: [CLICK HERE](#) AND [CLICK HERE](#)

Natural Child Magazine

Wind and Rain and Toddlers

"April showers, bring May flowers." This adage seems to ring true this year (at least the "April showers" part). Being in the wind and rain, however, provides a wonderful opportunity to see and understand how wind works and to observe physics and gravity in the movement of rainwater. Here are two articles that really illustrate the learning that takes place from experiencing nature and having the chance to explore, connect to and be curious about the world around us.

LINK TO ARTICLES: [CLICK HERE](#)



NAEYC

(National Association for the Education of Young Children)

Considering the Teacher's Role in Children's Discoveries

This page contains a story and teacher reflections. You can use the Reflective Questions at the bottom of this article to deepen your thinking about your role as your child's teacher.

LINK TO WEBSITE: [CLICK HERE](#)



LET'S PLAY



Currently we have lots of road construction happening in our community.

What does it do to our play when we introduce these machines such as dump trucks, steam rollers, excavators, and cranes to our play space?

What dialogue does it create?

Children are living in the world as active participants. Watching out the car window as they pass by the road crew. This opens many opportunities to talk about what you see, hear, even smell while sitting waiting in the car. These conversations build the future of our children's learning as we practice becoming aware of our surroundings through real life events.

The **Early Learning Framework** (2019) upholds the image of the “child as strong, capable in their uniqueness, and full of potential” (p.15).

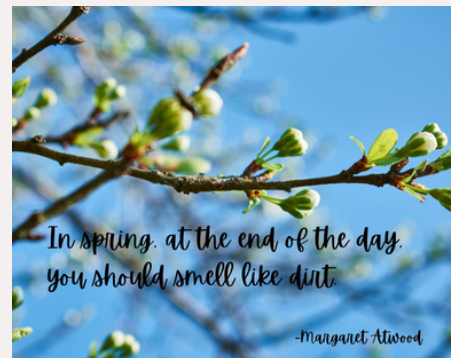
When we listen to children and take their theories about the world seriously, we begin to make sense of the world around us together and become inquisitive to what is happening in our surroundings.



What is so great about the GREAT OUTDOORS?

Spring has sprung! The first day of spring in the western hemisphere is marked by the Spring Equinox, which was on March 20th this year. Spring is a wonderful time to be outdoors and observe the changes that the warmer weather bring. The sounds, smells and sights of spring are all around us, and the longer days give us more time to get out and explore.

Here are a couple of resources with information to inspire you in your spring discoveries.



ALMANAC

First Day of Spring 2022: The Spring Equinox



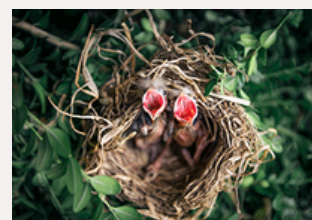
Spring 2022 begins on Sunday, March 20!

This date marks the spring equinox and the astronomical first day of spring around the Northern Hemisphere. What IS the spring equinox and what happens on this day?

LINK TO WEBSITE: [CLICK HERE](#)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

Signs of Spring: Facts for Kids



After a long winter there is nothing like noticing the first signs of spring. New life takes many forms in spring. Insects are waking up. blossoms appear on trees.

LINK TO WEBSITE: [CLICK HERE](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

According to Discover the Forest, a website for tweens (kids 10 to 14), developed through a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council, "The average American child can recognize 1,000 corporate logos, but can't identify 10 plants or animals native to his or her own region."

CHALLENGE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF NATURE!

School District 47 Indigenous Education Department's publication, "**Spring: In My Backyard**", is a great way to begin to recognize and learn the names of many of the plants that grow in the gathet Regional District.

FOR A LINK TO THIS RESOURCE: [CLICK HERE](#)

