



## STRONGSTART

**LOCATION:** 6 Sites

**FACILITATED BY:** StrongStart Educators (ECE trained)

**WHEN:** September to June - 3 Hours/Day, 5 Days/Week

**PURPOSE:** StrongStart is a free drop in program for parents/ caregivers and their children aged birth to five years. Children and families participate in rich learning experiences that are designed to support early learning development – language, physical, cognitive, social and emotional. Qualified early childhood educators lead play based activities where children find opportunities to make friends, interact with others of similar ages and get information about community programs and services. Sites are funded and approved by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. An Outdoor StrongStart program is offered once per week at Centennial Park.



## READY, SET, LEARN

**LOCATION:** All Schools

**FACILITATED BY:** School Staff

**WHEN:** Throughout the School Year

**PURPOSE:** Ready, Set, Learn is an early learning initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Intended for families and their three- to five-year-old children, Ready, Set, Learn is all about fostering positive connections between families, the school system and local community agencies. Elementary schools that enroll Kindergarten classes hold Ready, Set, Learn events in their schools or communities. These events provide a fun, family-oriented atmosphere with the intent of supporting children's transitions into

## IPALS

### Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters

**LOCATION:** 1 Site for specific language groups

**FACILITATED BY:** Early Years Navigators, Settlement Workers

**WHEN:** 8 week program

**PURPOSE:** IPALS is a culturally responsive family literacy program designed to help immigrant and refugee families and their young children (age 3 and 4) flourish in their new community. These programs provide new strategies for families to support preschool and kindergarten-aged children's learning in fun and interactive ways. They focus on learning through play. Sessions include adult alone time for parents and caregivers to talk with a facilitator and time for adults and children to learn, play and have fun together. The programs respond to the cultural and linguistic needs of families and aim to provide a positive transition from home and other early care settings to school.



# AGE 4 AND 5 YEARS

## CHILDREN REGISTERED FOR KINDERGARTEN

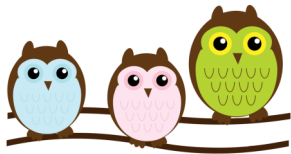
### WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

**LOCATION:** All schools

**FACILITATED BY:** School Staff

**WHEN:** May/Early June

**PURPOSE:** Welcome to Kindergarten is a program developed by Canadian Education Warehouse that supports families to “Talk, Read, Create and Play Every Day”. The school district purchases bags filled with resources for each Kindergarten student. In the Spring, families receive the materials to take home when they attend a Welcome to Kindergarten event at the school they will be attending in September. Stations are set up where children and families interact with the materials and get ideas on how to use the resources at home. Canadian Education Warehouse provides regular newsletters that are sent to families throughout the year as a way to encourage families to stay engaged.



### PLAY INTO KINDERGARTEN

**LOCATION:** For interested school

**FACILITATED BY:** Kindergarten teachers, Administrators, and other school staff

**WHEN:** Late May/Early June

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of Play Into K is for children to participate in play based activities in a Kindergarten classroom. This gives them opportunities to meet the staff and other children who will be in their class in September and helps them to become comfortable with the sounds and sights of the school setting.

### TRANSITION TO K FOR FAMILIES WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR DIVERSE LEARNING NEEDS

**LOCATION:** All Schools

**FACILITATED BY:** Director of Instruction, Student Services

**WHEN:** Early Spring

**PURPOSE:** A parent information night is held with representatives from the school district. The purpose of this evening is to talk about transition as a journey; explain the process; and answer questions parents may have.



### KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

**LOCATION:** For interested Schools

**FACILITATED BY:** Kindergarten teachers, Administrators and other school staff

**WHEN:** Late May/Early June

**PURPOSE:** Some schools incorporate Kindergarten orientation to help children and parents/caregivers familiarize themselves with the school routines and to meet teachers. Families may receive information on the dress code, school supplies, codes of conduct, gradual entry schedules etc.



### SUMMER PLAYDATES

**LOCATION:** For interested schools

**FACILITATED BY:** Early Years Navigators

**WHEN:** First two weeks of July and last two weeks of August

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Summer Playdates is for children and families to meet one another on the playground. Led by Early Years Navigators, families will enjoy play based activities and games which will help them feel comfortable before the start of the school year.