

Dear Chilliwack StrongStart families - we are excited to be writing to you with news about our reopening plans!

Our first day will be Monday October 5th (Cultus Lake Tuesday October 6th). Our programming has been designed in accordance with provincial health and safety guidelines and as you can imagine, things will look different this year due to COVID-19.

StrongStart programs will be reduced to two shorter sessions to accommodate cleaning and disinfecting protocols. The number of families that can attend has been reduced in order to help maintain safe physical distancing. Drop-in attendance will change to an online sign-up system and pre-registration will be required. **Handwashing procedures will be in place, as well as mandatory mask wearing for adults.**

Our online hub for registration, sign-up links and information can be found here: <https://sd33.bc.ca/strong-start>.

How will the program look? You can still expect fun ‘learning through play’ experiences, art explorations, story-time and community connection in the following set-up:

- 1hr 15min sessions (times/days vary by site)
- 4 families per session (a family = one adult with up to 3 children (from the same family bubble))
- open to pre-registered children
- online sign-up
- 1 session per day, 2 sessions per week per family
- snacks will not be provided at this time and no outside food allowed
- at this time library and gym time will not be available
- outside programming may be an option in the future at some locations

How will the booking process work?

***Step 1 - Register**

Please register all children, returning participants will not need to re-register. If you are unsure if your child is registered, please contact your facilitator. If you wish to cross-register so you can attend a different location, please contact your facilitator. The first week will be open to

returning participants; online registration for new participants will be available beginning Oct. 5th.

***Step 2 - Sign-up for a session**

Follow the links provided on our webpage to sign-up for a session. Should you need to cancel please do so online so another family might access your spot.

***Step 3 - Familiarize yourself with our Health & Safety Protocols that are posted on our webpage.**

Again everything you will need to complete these steps can be found at <https://sd33.bc.ca/strong-start>.

How can we make the most of our time? A few tips:

-eat before you come

-use washroom before you come

-dress for play (comfy clothes that you don't mind paint spilling on are always best)

-limit belongings that you bring into the centre

-arrive on time and plan to stay for the full session (we need to enter and exit the building as a group so it's not feasible for facilitators to accommodate different times)

-please note that school playgrounds will not be available for use so it is a good idea to scope out the nearest public park if you plan to extend your outing.

We may face a few bumps as we get up and running and get used to this different way of doing things. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated. We are all excited to welcome our young learners back to school and look forward to meeting new families!