

Program of the Month - StrongStart at Alexander and T.A Swift Elementary

This month, we are excited to highlight the StrongStart programs at Alexander and Dr. T.A. Swift Elementary. StrongStart is a FREE, drop-in early learning program for children aged 0-5 years, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. The program offers enriching activities such as stories, music, and art, fostering early development in language, physical, cognitive, social, and emotional skills. Qualified early childhood educators lead these sessions, providing a supportive environment where children can make friends and parents can learn new ways to support their child's growth. Join StrongStart at Alexander Elementary and Dr. T.A. Swift Elementary - Monday to Friday from 8:30-11:30 am.

More info: <https://earlyyears.abbyschools.ca/strongstart-early-years>



Barb Hassel - Early Childhood Educator at Alexander Elementary StrongStart Program

"From the moment I discovered the ECE program, I knew working with young children was my destiny. Over 44 years, I've enjoyed every moment, from Preschool to daycare, out-of-school care, and home daycare. Adding StrongStart 16 years ago brought new challenges and rewards, especially working with adults. I feel privileged to have connected with so many wonderful families. Now, with grandchildren, my joy continues to grow!"

Lisa Price - Early Childhood Educator at Dr.T.A.Swift Elementary StrongStart Program

"After many years in Early Learning, it is always a great pleasure to watch a child grow and learn by being brave and curious. Helping a child find who they are, how they belong and discover and what they love is always rewarding. So many things have changed through the years, but a child's ability to play and learn never does."

Event of the Month Nature Thursday

A weekly event where all StrongStart sessions occur in local parks. We invite you to deepen your connection with nature by exploring the diverse landscapes and hidden treasures of Abbotsford's parks. Together with your children, we will discover various habitats, engage our senses, and embrace the wonders of the outdoors through play and exploration.

More info: <https://earlyyears.abbyschools.ca/calendar-drop-in>

Partner of the Month Abbotsford School District

Summer StrongStart

We are thrilled to announce the opening StrongStart locations this summer! Starting July 7 and running until August 21, the programs will be held Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Locations to be announced.

More info: earlyyears.abbyschools.ca/summer-programming

Parenting Tip of the Month Early Years Development Stages

Social Development

12 months

- Hands you a book when he wants to hear a story
- Puts out arms or legs to help with dressing
- Play simple games like “pat a cake”, “peek-a-boo” and wave “bye-bye”.

2 years

- Shows ownership of possessions and has difficulty sharing
- Copy others, especially adults and older children

3 years

- Show affection with words and actions, and recognize and respond to other children’s feelings
- Takes turns in games and would rather play with other children than by herself

4 years

- Talks about what they like and interests them
- May show concern and sympathy for younger children when they are upset

5 years

- Can follow directions and routines
- Beginning to understand what ‘next week’, ‘next month’, and ‘next year’ mean. Can print some letters or numbers

Snack

Homemade Banana Icecream



Ingredients: 2 frozen bananas, 1-2 tablespoons unsweetened almond milk (or any milk you prefer), 1-2 teaspoons maple syrup, honey, or other preferred sweetener, Decoration of your choice

Instructions:

- Pop bananas into a blender or food processor and blend until the bananas have a smooth and creamy consistency.
- Add the milk along with the maple syrup. Blend until thick and creamy.
- Decorate as you wish.

Télexw (to find something out, to learn) with the Sweeney Centre



Seasons of the Moon

Temqoqo: High Water Time

June 18 - July 17


The ninth month, around June, is **Temqoqo**: - high water time, when the rivers are high with melted snow water. Another common name is **Temt'á:mxw** - gooseberry time. The Stó:lō people relied on nature to tell them what time of the year it was. Each transition changed when the earth and the animals physically showed the Stó:lō people, it is time!

More Info: <https://indigenous.abbyschools.ca/node/54612>

Abbotsford Early Years Centre at The Sweeney Neighbourhood Centre

33355 Beven Ave. Abbotsford, BC

 <https://earlyyears.abbyschools.ca>

 **778.880.8554**

 earlylearning@abbyschools.ca