

## Program of the Month - Fall Programs 2025 Opening Dates

- **Sweeney StrongStart** - Monday, September 8th, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- **Parent and Tot Prince Charles** - Tuesday, September 9th, 9:00 am -11:00 am
- **Lil' Bears** - Tuesday, September 9th, 12:15 pm-2:15 pm
- **Pj's and Storytime** - Tuesday, September 9th, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm
- **Saturday Family Fun** - Saturday, September 13th, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- **All other StrongStarts**-Wednesday, October 1st, Times Vary

More info: [earlyyears.abbschools.ca](https://earlyyears.abbschools.ca)



## Welcome from the Manager of Early Learning and Childcare

Dear Families,

Welcome to a brand-new school year! We are excited to embark on another joyful journey of learning, play, and connection with our youngest learners and their families. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning for more fun, we can't wait to see your bright smiles and curious minds exploring all that our programs have to offer.

This year, we're thrilled to offer a variety of engaging opportunities for children ages 0–6, including Mother Goose, Strong Start, Parent and Tot Drop-ins, and our flexible Evening and Weekend programs. These experiences are designed to spark imagination, build early learning skills, and create meaningful moments for both children and caregivers. Our welcoming spaces are filled with stories, songs, hands-on activities, and caring educators who are here to support your child's growth every step of the way.

Thank you for being part of our Early Learning community. Your involvement and encouragement make all the difference in creating a nurturing and inspiring environment. We look forward to a year filled with laughter, learning, and lasting memories.

Welcome to the Abbotsford School District's Early Learning programs—we're so glad you're here!

Warmly,

Andrea Senft, Manager, Early Learning & Child Care

## Event of the Month National Day For Truth and Reconciliation

**Orange Shirt Day** is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters". The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

On September 30, we encourage all Canadians to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.

[National-day-truth-reconciliation](https://national-day-truth-reconciliation.ca)



## Partner of the Month Archway Family Centre

The Family Centre is a warm, friendly place where families can spend time together, meet new people, and feel supported. Whether you're joining a program or just stopping by, there's always something fun and meaningful to do. Strong families build strong communities—and everyone is welcome to join.

Location: 33780 Laurel Street, Abbotsford, BC,  
Phone: 604-859-7681

<https://archway.ca/program/family-centre>

## Parenting Tip of the Month Early Years Development Stages

**Communication** development is learning to express ourselves to communicate with others. We learn to express ourselves by learning sounds, combining those sounds into meaningful words, and putting words together into sentences to communicate our thoughts.

### 12 months

- Begin to say two to three words
- Responds to simple spoken requests
- Says “mama” and “dada” and exclamations like “uh-oh!”

### 2 years

- Use many, even hundreds of words and gestures
- Ask many questions, “What’s this? Where’s my?” Ask for drinks and food
- Says sentences with 2 to 4 words

### 3 years

- Children can follow simple directions, for example, “Put your shoes ‘under’ the table or ‘beside’ the door, or ‘on’ the mat
- Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences
- Says first name, age, and sex

### 4 years

- Sing a song or says a poem from memory such as the “Itsy Bitsy Spider”
- Can say first and last name
- Tells stories

### 5 years

- Children’s words are clearly understood
- Says name and address

Tells a simple story using full sentences

## Craft

### Handprint Tree



#### Materials:

- brown and white craft paper
- leaves from outside
- pen for tracing
- glue
- scissors

#### Instructions:

- Go outside and pick up leaves
- Trace your child’s hand and forearm on the brown paper and cut it out.
- Glue the brown paper and leaves to the white paper.

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



### Seasons of the Moon

Temthéqi August 16 - September 14

#### **Sockeye salmon time**

The eleventh month, around August, is called Temthéqi - sockeye salmon time because of the run of sockeye salmon bound for the Adams River which passes the Upper Stó:lō area in August. The word sockeye comes from the Halq'emeylem word for sockeye salmon, stheqi, or the Halq'emeylem word for fish, sth'oqwi.

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](mailto:earlylearning@abbyschools.ca)

Abbotsford School District is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Semá:th First Nation and Mathxwí First Nation. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.