



# SD64 Early Learning Newsletter

## Welcome Back!

SD64 StrongStart (ELF) educators are currently in Kindergarten classrooms working alongside teachers in supporting students in the transition to the new school year. ECE's in the classroom during this time help students in adjusting to new routines, and support children's intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth – fostering a continuity of learning.

StrongStart programs across the district will be ready to welcome families the **week of October 2nd**. We look forward to engaging families of children aged birth to five, in this early learning family participation program. StrongStart is designed to improve children's social-emotional skills, enhance numeracy, language acquisition and improve transitions to school.

Additionally, in SD64, the Seamless Day program is up and running for another year at Fulford school and the SD64 early learning team is active supporting StrongStart, Seamless day, Kindergarten transitions and planning new programs and projects for the 2023/24 school year.

## Locations and Schedules

All programs run from 8:30-11:30am unless otherwise noted. Programs run from October - June in alignment with the SD64 Instructional Calendar.

Fernwood School: Mon/Tues/Wed	Salt Spring Elementary: Mon to Thurs	Fulford Elementary: Mon to Thurs
Pender School: Monday 9-12	Mayne Island School: Mon/Thurs	Galiano School: Mon/Tues
Saturna Elementary: Tues/Thurs 9-12		

### Things to know..

- If you are **new** to StrongStart, you will need to **register**. Please bring a piece of government issued ID for your child, such as a birth certificate or care card. All sites have registration forms available.
- Families are asked to sign in each day of **attendance**.
- Programs operate on a drop-in basis. Stay for as little or as long as you like. If you or your child are ill, please plan to attend another day.

# Accessibility Act

The Accessible British Columbia Act was passed into law on June 17, 2021 and aims to support the identification, prevention, and removal of barriers that people with disabilities face in their day-to-day lives. The goals of the act are to increase meaningful participation in communities (including schools) to develop standards; enhance service delivery; and create alignment with other jurisdictions. The legislation is designed to support people with disabilities, and to ensure a meaningful participation with accessibility and inclusion in their respective communities.

Our SD64 Accessibility Plan is now on our [district website](#) along with the feedback mechanism. To inform our work, the Accessibility Advisory Group is conducting a survey to gather baseline data on any barriers that may be currently experienced by members of the school district community. [Click here to complete the survey.](#) Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey and to support our work to make SD64 more accessible and inclusive for all individuals.

## Math game of the month:

# Fill the Cup

### How to Play:

Each player takes turn rolling a die. They then count out that amount of small objects and put them in their container. Play continues back and forth until one player's cup reaches the top! The first player to reach the top is the winner.

*If your child is able to recognize the dots on the die at a glance and easily count out the matching set of objects, try rolling two dice and encouraging them to 'count on' by saying the greater number aloud and "counting on" with the other die to find the total. For example, if a 4 and a 2 are rolled, this might sound like "4...5, 6. 4 and 2 more make 6!"*



### Materials:

- 1 cup per player
- collection of items (acorns, pom-poms, dried beans, etc)
- dice

1

2

3

## Learning through play and exploration in nature

It's the perfect time of year to harvest a few sunflowers and explore these beautiful giants! Cut a few sunflower heads for your child to investigate on the floor, on the grass, or in a sensory bin.

### Invitations to play & Learn



Encourage your child to pluck off the flower petals. They may enjoy adding them to a mud pie or soup!



When you have several petals, put them onto a piece of white paper or fabric and encourage your child to pound on them with a wooden mallet. The flower's colours will bleed onto the white background.



Let your child use their fingers, tongs, or tweezers to dig out the seeds. How can they be sorted? How many different ways can we count them?



If you're able, dig out the sunflower and compare your child's height with the stem. Examine the roots, stem, and leaves. Cut the stem and explore the inside. Ask, "what do you notice? What do you wonder?"



Roast the harvested seeds for a tasty snack.

### Books About Sunflowers

*Sunflower House* by Eve Bunting

*This Is the Sunflower* by Lola M. Schaefer

*Little Sunflower* by Igloo Books

*Beautiful Sunflowers Full-Colour Picture*

*Book* by Fabulous Book Press

### With Inspiration From:

*The Honeycomb Hypothesis: How Infants, Toddlers, and Two-Year-Olds Learn Through Nature Play*

Sandra Duncan, EdD, Sue Penix, and Sally Haughey

