

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)

**STRONGSTART CONTACT NUMBERS**

Carmi Elementary School

Colleen Jaycna, Early Childhood Educator—250-770-7697 ext. 6059

Sharon Sola, Principal, 250-770-7697

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Columbia Elementary School

Jennifer Bennett, Early Childhood Educator— 250-770-7676 ext. 6001

Jan Ramsay, Principal, 250-770-7676

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Queen's Park Elementary School

Brenda Barber, Early Childhood Educator—250-770—7680 ext. 6611

Rob Zoppi, Principal, 250-770-7680

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Giant's Head Elementary School

Louise Watt Early Childhood Educator—250-770-7671 ext. 6185

Darcy Mullin, Principal, 250-770-7671



School District Website

[www.sd67.bc.ca](http://www.sd67.bc.ca)

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)

**STRONGSTART  
CENTRE**

**PARENT HANDBOOK**



**A SCHOOL BASED EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM**



**StrongStartBC**



**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**  
The Best Place on Earth



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
The Best Place on Earth

**StrongStartBC**

**COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS**

	Penticton	Summerland
Communities for Kids	250-496-5511	250-494-7289
Public Health	250-770-3434	250-404-8050
Child Care Resource & Referral (CRCC)	250-492-2926	250-492-2926
Ministry of Children and Families (Penticton)	250-770-2200	250-404-3000
OSNS Child Development Centre	250-492-0295	250-492-0295
Community Centre Pool	250-490-2426	250-494-0447
Public Library	250-770-7781	250-494-5591
City Hall	250-490-2400	250-494-6451
Nutrition	250-770-3532	250-404-8050
Speech/Language	250-770-3430	250-404-8050
Dental	250-770-3434	250-404-8050
Penticton & District Community	250-492-5814	250-492-5814
Boys & Girls Club	250-493-0512	250-404-0440
Child & Youth Mental Health	250-487-4422	250-487-4422
Youth Crisis Hotline	1-800-668-6868	
Crisis Hotline	250-493-6622	250-493-6622

**WELCOME TO**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 STRONGSTART**  
**CENTRES**

The early learning program is designed to work in partnership with parents/caregivers, their children, an Early Childhood Educator, and community partners. Community partners include School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha), Communities for Kids, Child Care Resource and Referral, Interior Health, Speech and Language, Supported Child Development, Success by Six, and other community agencies. This program, for parents and their children ages 0 to 5, is funded by the Ministry of Education and sponsored by School District No. 67. It is in cooperation with Carmi Elementary School, Columbia Elementary School, Queen's Park Elementary School and Giant's Head Elementary School. School District No. 67 gratefully acknowledges the financial contribution of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education.

The program is planned with the understanding that children learn through PLAY! We understand that the years between birth and school age is a critical time in a child's life and that the experiences that children have in the early years influence their future health, well-being, and life-long learning. Carefully selected materials and activities will promote the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and early literacy development in each child. Opportunities will be provided to practice skills and develop concepts that will lay a foundation for a life time of learning. Parents will share in their child's early learning experiences, connect with other parents, and receive valuable child development information.



STRONGSTART CENTRE



STRONGSTART CENTRE

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**



**The program runs:  
Monday – Friday from 8:45 – 11:45 a.m.  
when school is in session.**

The StrongStart Centres will operate in accordance to the school year calendar. A district calendar is available upon request.

During the 3 hour program, please feel free to drop in whenever it is convenient for you and your family. A variety of centres and activities will be offered daily to promote language, physical, cognitive and social-emotional development through such activities as painting, water play, puzzles, dramatic play, crafts, music, reading, circle time, and play dough. A nutritious snack will also be provided.

### **PARENT/CAREGIVERS ROLE**

- Parent/caregivers must be in attendance with their own child at all times.
- Parents/caregivers are expected to be an active participant in all activities with the children. Join in their play rather than watching them play.
- Encourage sharing, taking turns, and being kind to one another.
- Encourage your child to join circle (even if it is only for a few minutes). If your child doesn't want to come to circle, help them find something quiet to do.
- Encourage your child to put toys away before moving to something else.
- Encourage your child to use an inside voice and walking feet in the classroom and hallways.
- Please keep purses and personal belongings out of reach of children.
- Please come prepared to play, laugh, and have fun with your child/children.

If you have any suggestions or concerns please feel free to contact our Early Childhood Educators or School Principals indicated on the back of this booklet..

**INTERVENTION**

The following intervention methods will be used:

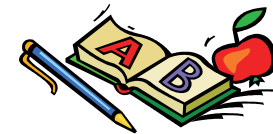
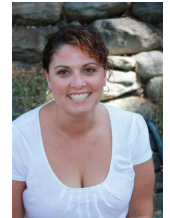
- Gain a child's attention in a respectful way
- Use proximity and touch
- Remind the child of the expectations
- Acknowledge the child's feeling before setting limits
- Distract or divert when appropriate
- Model problem-solving skills
- Offer appropriate choices
- Use actual and logical consequences
- Redirect or limit use of equipment when not being used properly
- Play by self (in situations where other children are at risk – only to be used with extreme forms of aggression or destructive behaviour).

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS**

Welcome to your StrongStart Early Learning Centres.

**CARMI:**

My name is Colleen Jacyna and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to play and learn along side you and your children. I began my career as an Early Childhood Educator in 1992 in North Vancouver. I have enjoyed working in preschools, daycares and early intervention programs . I was born and raised in Penticton. My husband & I returned home to be close to our families and to raise our two children. feel privileged to be part of this wonderful early learning program.



**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS**

**GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE**

**COLUMBIA:**

My name is Jennifer Bennett. I am so happy to be a part of this wonderful early learning, play-based program. I have my Diploma in Early Childhood Education with many years of experience working in a variety of early childhood settings. I feel this program provides activities that promote social, emotional, cognitive and physical development as well as providing a wonderful opportunity for parents and caregivers to meet and make connections with other families. Personally, I was born and raised here in the Okanagan Valley. I moved to New Zealand in 2001 and met my lovely husband and made that our home for 5 years. We moved back to the Okanagan 4 years ago. I look forward to meeting you and providing a positive learning experience for your child.



**PREVENTION**

Prevention methods help create a positive atmosphere and encourage desirable behavior. The following strategies are prevention methods:

- Establish clear, consistent, and simple limits
- Offer straightforward explanations for limits
- State limits in a positive way, rather than in a negative one
- State what is expected, rather than pose questions

Reinforce appropriate behaviors with words and gestures



**POLICIES**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS**

**HEALTH/ILLNESS**

Program participants may not attend the StrongStart Centre if they are ill or have a communicable disease/condition. A program participant may return to the program once the disease or condition is no longer contagious and/or with approval of a family physician or the medical health officer.

Please keep your child/children home if:

- They have, or have recently had, flu-like symptoms i.e. vomiting, diarrhea, fever or chills;
- They have pink eye and have not had treatment;
- They have any communicable disease/condition i.e. chicken pox. A list of communicable diseases will be posted on the parent bulletin board;
- They are continually coughing and sneezing on other children and toys;
- They have head lice and have not had treatment;
- They are not feeling well enough to play.

This policy is set in consideration of others at the centre and we appreciate your cooperation. Please call your public health nurse at (250) 770-3434 for further information regarding communicable diseases.

**SMOKING POLICY**

No smoking is permitted on any school grounds.

**QUEEN'S PARK:**

My name is Brenda Barber and I am very excited to be a part of this very important learning opportunity for children, families and our community. I am an Early Childhood Educator with a 2-year diploma in Early Childhood Education and have over 25 years experience in this rewarding field as a Preschool Teacher and as an ECE College Instructor. I was born and raised in Penticton and decided to return home to this beautiful area to raise my son in a smaller community. I look forward to enriching and promoting all areas of development with you and your children in a very positive, fun and stimulating environment.

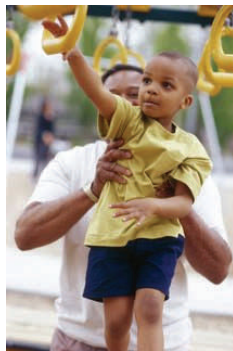


**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS**

**PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

**GIANT'S HEAD:**

Hello, my name is Louise Watt. I am the Strong Start coordinator at Giant's Head Elementary School in Summerland. I was born and raised in England where I received college training in child care. To see some of the world, I moved to Canada as a nanny in 1988, where I met my husband and settled. I obtained my Ontario ECE and continued to work in the field as well as having four wonderful children. We moved west in 2006, and I have worked as an Early Childhood Educator since shortly after my arrival here. Having spent my entire career of over 25 years in early childhood education, I am thrilled to be part of such a valuable community program that I wish had been available when my own children were younger.



At the StrongStart Centre, we understand that:

- Each child/family is unique and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity;
- All children will be included and made to feel a valuable member of the group;
- Parents are an integral part of their child's early learning, and will be included in all aspects of the program;
- It is important that the program and environment be designed to promote each child's emotional, social, physical, cognitive, and early literacy development – all areas are of equal importance;
- Children need a variety of opportunities to explore and express themselves creatively;
- Involvement from community partners will enhance the program and the learning that takes place;
- Parents are interested in keeping informed of child development issues;
- Children and families deserve to be in an environment that is safe, positive and promotes a healthy lifestyle;
- Children will learn to be respectful of themselves, others and their environment.