



Early Learning Ed-ventures

StrongStart | Kindergarten | Community Collaborative

What's new?

Kindergarten registration is just around the corner!

Please see the district website comoxvalleyschools.ca for more information about how to register and to learn about the various Kindergarten programs available to you in our district.

We strongly encourage parents to register their child promptly so your child's space is secure and we have a good idea of numbers in each school to prepare for the year ahead.

SEY₂KT

At both Cumberland Community School and Courtenay Elementary Community School, stakeholders are excited to be thinking about moving forward with building relationships with families in anticipation of Kindergarten. Stay tuned for some shifts to how Welcome to Kindergarten is rolled out in those schools.

"Treat a child as though he already is the person he's capable of becoming."

-Haim Ginott

Communities of storytellers

Story workshop is becoming a common way in our district for our early primary teachers to foster a community of storytellers and authors. We understand that everyone has stories in them—memoir stories, exciting stories, make-believe stories, ho-hum stories—and that sharing these helps us build connection with each other and builds our identities as authors.



What to do, when the mechanics of writing and reading are still challenging for many of our young learners?

This is the power of Story Workshop! Using loose parts, (pinecones, shells, buttons, bits of wood, and maybe some sparkly items) children use their imaginations to show and then tell a story. And of course, the reciprocal nature of stories requires that they also need to be heard! In this way, children practice the foundational skills of speaking clearly, putting story elements in a coherent order as well as practicing their social competency as they listen to a friend's story. When we hear these

Did you know?

The LRC has several kits of beautiful loose parts to choose from. To order in Destiny, search with the key words: "*Invitations to Play*".

CR4YC

In our Changing Results for Young Children project we are using the Early Learning Framework from the Ministry of Education to inform our conversations and thinking about our wonder children. Consider this statement:

“Images of children and understandings about learning and education are not universal but vary in different histories and in response to people’s experiences, beliefs and aspirations. ...With that in mind, educators need to challenge accepted mainstream knowledge to explore different understandings and world views.” (p. 49 ELF)

How have your ideas of children and learning changed over the years?

These are the kinds of quotes that provoke good discussion in these sessions and are transforming the ways we listen and learn from children, parents and our colleagues.

For more information about any of these projects please contact: **Jacqueline Anderson**
Early Years Lead Teacher

stories as a class, and then ask questions of the storyteller, we are acting as editors, so the author can make their story clearer and more interesting to the listeners.

In addition to these valuable opportunities for the development of oral language, story concepts and social competencies that Story Workshop provides, as children learn to attribute meaning to items *which are standing in for something else* (using a rock for an owl, or a shell for a boat) they are building their capacity for symbolic representation, which lies at the very foundation of learning to read and write. It is in this way that c-a-t (for example), which looks nothing like a cat, comes in time to be fully understood as *standing in for* a real cat with all its attributes.



As children build this symbolic understanding of the world, letters and print become more meaningful to them.



Time after time, when story workshop is in action, we see children engaged and curious and attentive to each other. It is a powerful tool for establishing a community of authors as we launch into future forays learning to write our stories.

If you would like to learn more about Story Workshop and how it unfolds in the classroom, please contact jacqueline.anderson@sd71.bc.ca

SD71 Mission Statement:

To inspire engaged, compassionate, resilient lifelong learners and cultivate a collaborative community together

As a 0 to Grade 12 district, we understand that learning begins in the earliest weeks and months of life, and continues for life. We are pleased to collaborate with families, provincial educator networks and community agencies to help all our learners experience connection and success.