

GUIDANCE FOR STRONGSTART PROGRAMS in September 2020

This is a living document and will be updated as required.

Staff Screening	<p>Before every shift, StrongStart Facilitators must assess themselves for symptoms of COVID-19. Self-Assessment Tool found at Thrive BC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you're ill, stay home. 	
Program Numbers	<p>StrongStart programs may operate in cohorts based on the size of the rooms involved. The suggested number below are the maximum allowed at any one time. StrongStart Facilitators may determine that lesser or greater numbers make more sense for your room configuration. This includes staff, and parents/caregivers.</p> <p>In larger centres, with 2 rooms, the expectation is that half the group will be in each room.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawson Creek StrongStart in the Hub 	6 adults
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tremblay StrongStart 	6 adults
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tumbler Ridge StrongStart 	6 adults
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Titus StrongStart 	6 adults
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkland StrongStart 	6 adults
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McLeod StrongStart 	TBD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devereaux StrongStart 	TBD
	<p>Childcare providers are discouraged from attending StrongStart during COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	
Scheduling	<p>Each StrongStart will be open with limited numbers and hours.</p> <p>Drop-in programming will not happen.</p> <p>Parents will connect with StrongStart Facilitators to book a one-hour session per day. SAMPLE: Programs will be open 9-10 AM for one set of families and closed for half an hour for cleaning. Programs will open again from 10:30 11:30 for a second set of families.</p> <p>Booking options will be up to each facilitator. Hours open have to coordinate with schools so StrongStart families have no or very little contact with school students or staff.</p>	
PPE, Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfecting	<p>StrongStart programs will be supplied with the following items for COVID-19 precautionary operations and cleaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spray Bottles 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reusable Masks for staff ○ Hand Sanitizer ○ Clear face shields and masks for staff during close contact with children <p>Soap and water are the best killer of the Coronavirus COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Put a small squirt of dishwashing soap in each spritz bottle and fill with water. Dishwater cleaning ratio. ● Spray surfaces with soapy water and wipe with the paper towel in dispensers provided by SD 59. ● Clean high touch surfaces regularly. ● In addition, staff only, can use E-23 to wipe high touch surfaces between all sessions. This product is safe for children once it has dried. Use E-23 diluted in water and avoid spraying it – wash and wipe. ● E-23 is to be used in place of PCS Micro Clean. ● Have parents / caregivers spray and clean toys, change tables or pads, and equipment behind their children. Soapy water is recommended. ● Discontinue use of shared items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected (natural materials such as acorns, sticks, cardboard; stuffed toys/dolls; carpets; rugs; puzzles; dress up clothes) ● Benefect is not needed during COVID-19 restrictions because is for non-washable surfaces and we are not using non-washable resources right now. ● Close all shared sensory tables that have hard materials like macaroni, rice, etc. ● Water tables, sand tables, and shared play dough are acceptable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Items such as books and puzzles that cannot be fully cleaned should not be used. Board books and washable books can be used if cleaned between families handling the book. <p>Masks are not recommended for young children.</p>
Shared Spaces	<p>Shared indoor spaces (i.e.: gyms), structures and toys that cannot be cleaned between groups should not be used.</p> <p>If more than one group will be using the same space, the entire space, toys, equipment, structures, and all surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected.</p>
Entering and Exiting the StrongStart Program	<p>Encourage families to practice social distancing when entering and exiting StrongStart.</p> <p>Adults in the program are asked to bring masks and wear them when travelling through any school space to access the StrongStart room. There is to be no interaction with school students and staff.</p>

	<p>Hand sanitizer must be placed at the entrance to all programs for use by staff, parents, caregivers and any visitors to the program.</p> <p>Have hand sanitizer dispensers out of reach of children to avoid accidental ingestion.</p> <p>Discourage families from bringing in non-essential personal items. Diaper bags and purses should be wiped down as families enter the program.</p> <p>Families should be encouraged to use the bathroom at home or elsewhere before arriving at StrongStart.</p> <p>Parents / caregivers and children must not enter StrongStart if they are ill or have any COVID-19 symptoms.</p>
<p>Safe Practices Onsite</p>	<p>When planning activities, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does the activity involve shared surfaces or objects frequently touched by hands? ▪ Can an activity be modified to increase opportunities for physical distancing? ▪ Setting up the room to avoid cluster or traffic jams. ▪ Space half the number of children at stations and tables (i.e. if normally 4 children sit at a table, have 2 children at the table). ▪ StrongStart will not consider social distancing of children. This is up to the parents. ▪ Adults in the program are expected to respect social distancing. ▪ Several signs will be supplied to inform families of COVID-19 precautions. Post these everywhere. <p>StrongStart will not provide snack to children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sharing. • Cease activities involving child participation in food preparation. • There should be no common food items. <p>Circle Time considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults are at high risk for spreading COVID-19. Children are not. • Parents are asked to wear masks for participating in circle time. • Parents holding children practice social distancing from other adults.