



SD83 Early Learning Update



Jennifer Findlay

Director of Instruction
Early Years & Elementary

Allison de Boer

District Vice Principal
Early Learning & Child Care

**SD83 Board Presentation
March 10, 2026**

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SD83 Early Learning Initiatives

StrongStart	ECE in Kindergarten	Ready, Set, Learn
Kindergarten Transitions	Roots of Empathy	Community Early Years Partnerships
Seamless Day Pilot Program	Just B4 Pilot Program	ECE Dual Credit Program



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SD83 Early Years Programs & Supports 2025-26

Area	School	Strong Start	Ready, Set, Learn	Roots of Empathy	K Orientation	ECE Kindergarten Support	Seamless Day	JUST B4	Child Care (District & Third-Party Partnerships)	School-Age Child Care Notes & Opportunities	Community Supports
Salmon Arm & Area	BAS		✓		✓	✓			Multiple third-party school-age care providers pick-up from school	Supported with third-party pick-up.	
	DESC	✓									
	HIL		✓		✓	✓			Multiple third-party school-age care providers pick-up from school	Supported with third-party pick-up.	
	NCA		✓	✓	✓	✓			Canoe Kids Adventure Club- Before & After School Care (opened Jan 2024) Preschool planned to open 2026-27	Supported with current on-site third-party provider.	
	RAN		✓		✓					Explore third-party pick-up. 2027-28 will move from K-8 to K-7, space for on-site third-party may be available.	
	SAW		✓		✓	✓				Explore third-party pick-up. 2027-28 will move from K-5 to K-7, space for on-site third-party unlikely.	
	SBR	✓	✓		✓	✓			Multiple third-party school-age care providers pick-up from school	Supported with third-party pick-up.	
	SCA		✓	✓	✓	✓				2027-28 will move from K-8 to K-7 & space for on-site third-party may be available.	
	SCR		✓		✓	✓	✓		Seamless Day Before & After School Care	Last year for SDK. Explore third-party for 2026-27.	
SMS											
North & South Shuswap	CAR		✓		✓	✓				2027-28 will move from middle school to French K-7 & space for on-site third-party likely will be available.	
	NSH		✓		✓				North Shuswap Childcare Society- Before & After School Care & Preschool. New Spaces Application submitted (IT & 3-5) was not accepted (2024-25), will re-submit when applications re-open.	Supported with current on-site third-party provider.	
	SOR		✓		✓	✓			Shuswap Explorers After School Child Care	Supported with current on-site third-party provider.	SEY2KT table (ongoing despite end of Ministry funding)
Sicamous & Area	PAR	✓	✓ Parkview & Malakwa	✓	✓	✓			Malakwa Preschool in former Malakwa School. Kids Kingdom third-party school-age care provider picks up from school.	Supported with third-party pick-up.	Sicamous & Malakwa Interagency Committee Early Childhood Development Committee Early Years Fair
Enderby & Area	GRI				✓	✓				Currently no available space. Explore third-party pick-up.	Enderby & Area Early Years Committee
	MVB	✓	✓		✓	✓			Enderby Preschool Society (school age care, group child care: IT, 3-5, multi-age) Additional third-party school-age care providers pick-up from school (Thrive, Roots & Wings)	Supported with current on-site third-party provider & pick-up from other providers.	Enderby Early Years Fair
Armstrong & Area	AES		✓		✓	✓			Armstrong Play School Association (preschool) Additional third-party school-age care providers pick-up from school (BGCO, Kidspace). Submitted New Spaces Application. No response.	Supported with third-party pick-up & expansion of Kidspace school-age care program.	North Okanagan Early Years Council Armstrong Falkland Early Years Community Engagement Group
	FAL	✓	✓		✓	✓				Currently no available space. Explore third-party pick-up.	North Okanagan Early Years Fair
	HPE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		JUSTB4; Little Seedlings Daycare (school age care, group child care, IT, 3-5, multi-age). BGCO third-party school-age care provider picks up from school (located in SD83 former Gateway Building). Kidspace third-party school-age care provider also picks-up from school.	Supported with current on-site third-party provider, pick-up from other providers & expansion of Kidspace school-age care program.	

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Early Learning & Child Care (ELCC)

- We are extremely grateful for the Ministry of Education and Child Care's funding to support a District Vice Principal of Early Learning & Child Care



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

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StrongStart

- We currently have full-time StrongStart programs in the following locations: DESC, SBR, PAR, MVB, HPE, and FAL
- We are grateful to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for the \$2,000/program top-up in 2025-26
- Despite the top-up, we still need to supplement the funding needed for StrongStart programs from other Early Learning Special Purpose funds (which means a reduction in service levels for some other Early Learning initiatives)



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Early Childhood Educators (ECE) 2025-26



Program/Initiative	Schools	Hours per Week
StrongStart	DESC, SBR, PAR, MVB, HPE, FAL	120
Seamless Day	SCR	60
JUSTB4	HPE	8
ECE in K (StrongStart Educator top-up)	SCA, PAR, HPE, FAL	40
ECE in K (3 educators)	BAS & HIL, SOR & CAR, AES & HPE	90
Indigenous ECE in K (3 educators)	NCA & GRI, SBR & SAW, MVB	60

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ECE in Kindergarten



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Seamless Day Pilot Program

Silver Creek Elementary

2022-23 (first year of pilot)

2023-24

2024-25

2025-26 (final year of pilot)

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Just B4 Pilot Program 2025-26

Highland Park Elementary



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Roots of Empathy

Mission is to build caring, peaceful, and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults.

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Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten

Ready, Set, Learn

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Gradual Entry

Community Connections



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Community Early Years Partnerships

SEY2KT Sorrento

Early Years Tables

Early Years Fairs

Collaborative Professional Learning

Third-Party Child Care Partners



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ECE Dual Credit Program



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM- FAQ



What is dual credit?

- Students can take post-secondary courses while still in high school
- They earn the post-secondary credits AND elective credits at the Grade 12 level
- It's free! Includes courses and textbooks
*\$30 Okanagan College (OC) application fee not included; contact your career centre for questions and support

What courses will I take?

- Through our partnership with Okanagan College (OC), students enroll in 3 ECE courses:
 - ECDE 113- Child Development (60 hrs)
 - ECDE 122- Health, Safety & Nutrition (60 hrs)
 - ECDE 124- Guiding & Caring (60 hrs)

Format for course delivery?

- Students complete one course at a time
- Online, synchronous, Tuesday & Thursday evenings
- In-person every other Saturday (Salmon Arm / Revelstoke with potential virtual option)

How do I enroll?

- Contact your career coordinator
- Course selection, including selection for the ECE Dual Credit program, begins in late February/early March for September program start

Entry requirements?

- Current grade 11 or 12⁺ student
- Completion of English 12, or registered for English 12 in fall 2024

*age restrictions may apply, talk to your career coordinator for details

Supports Available?

- Career Education Coordinator
- School Counsellor

- School District Early Learning Lead

- Okanagan College instructor (for course-specific support)

- For students who have IEPs, support is available through Okanagan College's Accessibility Services Department <https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/accessibility-services>



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Priorities for 2026-27

- Review Ready, Set, Learn model to enhance engagement; particular focus on our rural communities & those without StrongStart programs
- Explore underutilized spaces & opportunities for child care partnerships with third-party providers
- Work collaboratively with communities and schools to explore new opportunities to strengthen relationships and transition between early years and school years
- Partner with our Indigenous Education Department to create a Kwsalktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw Kindergarten welcome book
- Explore ways to continue and increase ECE in Kindergarten support



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Questions?