**Information for parents attending a StrongStart BC Program**

Use these suggestions to get the most out of your experience in a StrongStart BC program:

* Introduce yourself to the StrongStart BC facilitator and help your child introduce themselves.
* Sign in and out every day that you attend.
* Allow your child to observe an activity or group experience before participating.
* Help your child learn by experience – teach them to help themselves, interact with others independently and create using their own ideas. Only offer assistance or instruction when necessary, like when your child uses something for the first time or needs help resolving a conflict.
* Offer to write down your child’s words to describe the pictures they create.
* Ask your child open ended questions about their experiences.
* Acknowledge your child’s effort and offer encouragement frequently – especially after a disappointment.
* Relax, learn and have fun with your child and other families.

Registration

Before you register, [learn more about the StrongStart BC program](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/learn/strongstart-bc&title=StrongStart%20BC) and [find a location near you](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/early-learning/learn/strong_start_contacts.pdf).

Complete a registration form when you first attend the program with your child. Please also be prepared to provide legal proof of identification for your child – this includes:

* Any type of vital statistics document like a birth certificate
* Identification issued by Immigration Canada (e.g. passport, visa, permanent resident card)
* An Aboriginal Status card

Be sure to check in with the facilitator as soon as you arrive at the StrongStart BC program – they can assist with this process and answer any questions you might have.

Your child’s initial registration into a StrongStart BC program will also mark the beginning of their educational record in B.C. and they will receive a [Personal Education Number (PEN)](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/personal-education-number-pen&title=Personal%20Education%20Number%20%28PEN%29).

* Read more about [StrongStart BC data collection](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/early-learning/support/pdfs/parent_factsheet_dc.pdf) (PDF, 32KB)

From the Ministry of Education website