

Strong Start Reports

SZOutreach Year End Report

The SZOutreach was slow to get started, I believe the last week of October was our first week in session. Most families were very excited to have a place to come together and play; a few are still holding out until COVID is further in the rear-view...

We have 19 families enrolled and/or accessing the program. For now, families are only to attend in their home community, this has helped avoid turning any families away. I have noticed that families are seeking contact and support even more than usual, cooped up with young siblings is a big challenge. I am very happy to be the frontline person welcoming in our isolated early years students and their families in the Southern Zone.

New Denver StrongStart Year End Report

Here's a short recap of the program:

- The Google Sign Up system worked well, and families have been consistently signing up throughout the school year.
- I found that knowing who was coming ahead of time enabled me to plan specifically around children's interests and development.
- Parents and Caregivers were very open to wearing masks to every indoor session and overall were very supportive to the changes necessary due to COVID.
- We have enjoyed having our Wild Safe Coordinator to facilitate a presentation on Bears as well as a Den building experience at Bigelow Bay.
- Monday & Fridays have been our gym days throughout the year and have been well attended. Families really appreciated having an indoor space for children to run and play. A typical session includes free play time with balls, plasma cars, big & small blocks etc. Next, we have a small snack and then a socially distanced large motor game. Finally, we end with a story and circle. Now that the weather is so beautiful, we are going outside for the last half of the session.
- Wednesdays are now an outdoor day with activities based around gardening and outdoor art.
- Thursdays are now being held at Bigelow Bay with a focus on nature activities and scavenger hunts.
- Finally, a big shout out to Nick for all his help this year – Thanks Nick!

Take Care,
Bean

Nakusp StrongStart Year End Report

- As of June 10th, 2021 I have 68 students enrolled. I see our enrollment increasing, with new babies being born this fall and there are around 5 moms expecting and due in October and November....so exciting.
- NES StrongStart hours are: Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9:00 – 11:00 am Tuesday from 1 – 3 pm.
- We are having 4 families per session. The classes average on 4 -9 children per session (depending on how many children are per family) and 4 adults. On outreach days I speak to families on the phone and by text and messenger and I also prepare 43 theme bags that go out bi-weekly. A weekly theme bag consists of: 2 crafts I put together, a story the family can read and do together, coloring sheets, and information for science/songs/physical activities/recipes etc. (The last bag they will receive they will each get a beautiful book.) I am hoping to continue doing these bags in September because they are really well received.
- Our daily schedule consists of free play, arts and craft, clean up, snack, and circle time. We're hoping we can go back to a 3 hour program in the fall, it's hard to squish everything in two hour span.
- The online booking system is going well. If families can't navigate it, I will book them in. More families are wanting to come in person, so families are booking every second week now, so everyone can have a chance to come. Parents register on their own. If they need to cancel, they do it, then it opens up a spot, that another family can register for. I feel if we ever get back to normal, I will still use the online booking system, so then we don't go over our limit.
- On Friday June 25th, were hoping to meet in the park and have a fun two hours outside, with some special treats, games and crafts. We will keep the number under 50 and follow all covid protocol.

Respectfully written by Nancy Bone
June 10th, 2021