

Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten

Sunshine Coast

2021-2022

SEY2K Early Years Collaborative

Core Planning Team:

Community Partners: Early Intervention Collaborative

- Vancouver Coastal Health Team Leads
 - Public Health
 - Speech & Language
 - Occupational Therapy
- Community Services – Physiotherapist
- Community Services – Supported Child Dev.
- Sechelt Nation Mem7iman Child Dev. Centre

School District

- Director of Instruction
- Early Years Team – StrongStart
- Social Worker - Family Navigator
- Community Schools – Navigator

Early Advocacy (MCFD); Early Years Council; Literacy, etc.

Leading Relationally & Self-Leadership

Meet Regularly –

- Committed to Check-Ins & Mindful listening & speaking; Mindful practices

Through Generative Conversations we

Co-Developed Collective:

- Norms
- Vision
- Action plans

Vision for 2021-22

A community united so that all children thrive. A strong, inclusive, connected and inspired team – with the family and the child at the centre. We strive to support and work respectfully with families and partners.

We also used ‘systems thinking’ Compassionate Systems Leadership strategies such as...

Desired outcome/Vision:

That families can easily and seamlessly connect with the support they need in a timely way.

The EIT, shishah nation and SD#46, wrap around families, with families at the centre.

Families are supported in understanding all resources in the community, information is delivered in inclusive ways.

Family strengths, resiliency and self-advocacy are celebrated.

The "attachment baton" is passed seamlessly between partners.

Community partners have adequate resources to meet the needs of families.

We have continued passion, respect, and energy to do our work together.

We connect using an agreed upon annual cycle to ensure efficiency, re-evaluation and co-planning.

We look for opportunities to connect in-person, for meetings and our work with families.

The discrepancy between the vision and the reality will lead to a structural tension that will seek resolution and compel action.

The Current Reality:

We are a committed, passionate group who advocate for the early years and who work well with respect for each other's roles.

Families and community partners often feel like we are 'scrambling' to provide supports.

Support for families is often limited due to inadequate resources and a fragmented system.

Access for funding and resources can be limited due to historical or systemic structures.

Partners and families can feel frustrated with the lack of streamlined communication between partners and a lack of clear processes and how to navigate through the system.

We are dealing with a growing population of families.

Lack of childcare and ECEs is a significant barrier for families.

Staff turnover has an impact.

While we acknowledge relationships are important, our initial meetings tend to be 'business' focused.

We miss opportunities to help families move forward in an efficient way during transition to school.

Duplication and inefficiency can deplete resources and means families must re-tell their stories.

Creative Tension Chart

The Problem:

The Challenge:

- Fragmentation
- Different 'languages' between teacher/child care providers/ECEs
- Lack of shared philosophy
- Lack of coherence
- Lack of opportunities to work together to build relationship, shared vision, philosophy & actions.

What Patterns and trends do we see?

- Disconnect that continues over decades
- Continued inability to appreciate a variety of professional roles
- Replication of services
- Siloed work

What perpetuates the problem?

- Competition between systems for funding
- Pre-conceived identities and generalized assumptions
- Government ministries are perpetuating
- Hierarchical systems that differ
- Relationships
- Lack of leadership and support of team

What ways of thinking are keeping us in reaction mode?

- Scarcity
- Competition
- Fear of liability – legal; blame perpetuates= FEAR
- Fear of change (or of learning and doing things differently)
- Lack of passion/energy
- Educated in different systems or in different areas
- Mindset of individuality – OTHERNESS - dehumanizing

&
The Iceberg

'The Problem'



The Iceberg:

'The Dream'

Dream:

- A connected, collaborative with child care centre professionals in reciprocal, meaningful relationship within a community united.

Predicting:

- A community that has mutual respect of professional roles
- That communicates well
- Has structures to support ongoing learning & shared language and vision
- Multiple opportunities for interacting and communicating
- Curious; Joyful; Optimistic
- Open to system transformation
- Wraps around the families on the coast
- Coherent from the families perspective
- Listens to and is responsive to the family's voice
- Indigenous cultures; diversity celebrated! Inclusive
- A sense of 'oneness' of community
- A shared and positive image of the child as a capable and natural learner

Design:

Personal Connections with Child Centers – focused on partnership (with WonderFull Me) & Deepening relationship
Strategies: See if they have time for conversations/email ahead so its not a cold call (set up a good time to visit)

WonderFull Me Poster

Strategies Fair – This is one idea to support relationship between Kindergarten & Child Care
Ask them when could this take place? Second Week of September?
Can we add a consent box to the K registration form?

Asking for their ideas.

SPARK! Community Connection

- Invite and include participation and co-creation of the SPARK! program – by inviting participation of community: ECEs; Child Care Providers; Public Health; Different Roles; Early Intervention Team
- Providing professional PD hours &/or ~~opportunities~~
- Providing opportunities for co-creation and learning together

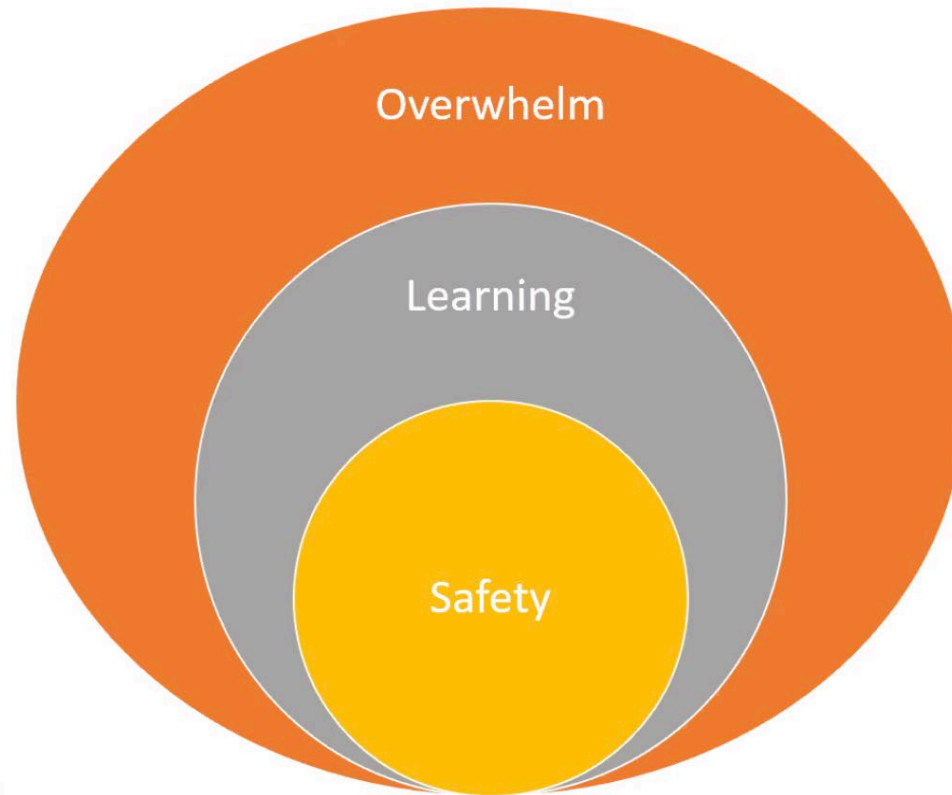
Wonder Children

- Working with community partners & families by supporting children through shared goals & wrap-around supports.
- Value and create a strength-based lens
- The team to learn strategies; language; ideas together from each other– Feeling of team/connection

Underpinnings:

- Shared Images of the child and our ourselves as capable with strengths and competencies to contribute
- Willingness to unlearn and be disrupted.
- Language we use and the stories we tell – reveal what we value!
- Deep listening to and appreciating the (other)'s RESPECT

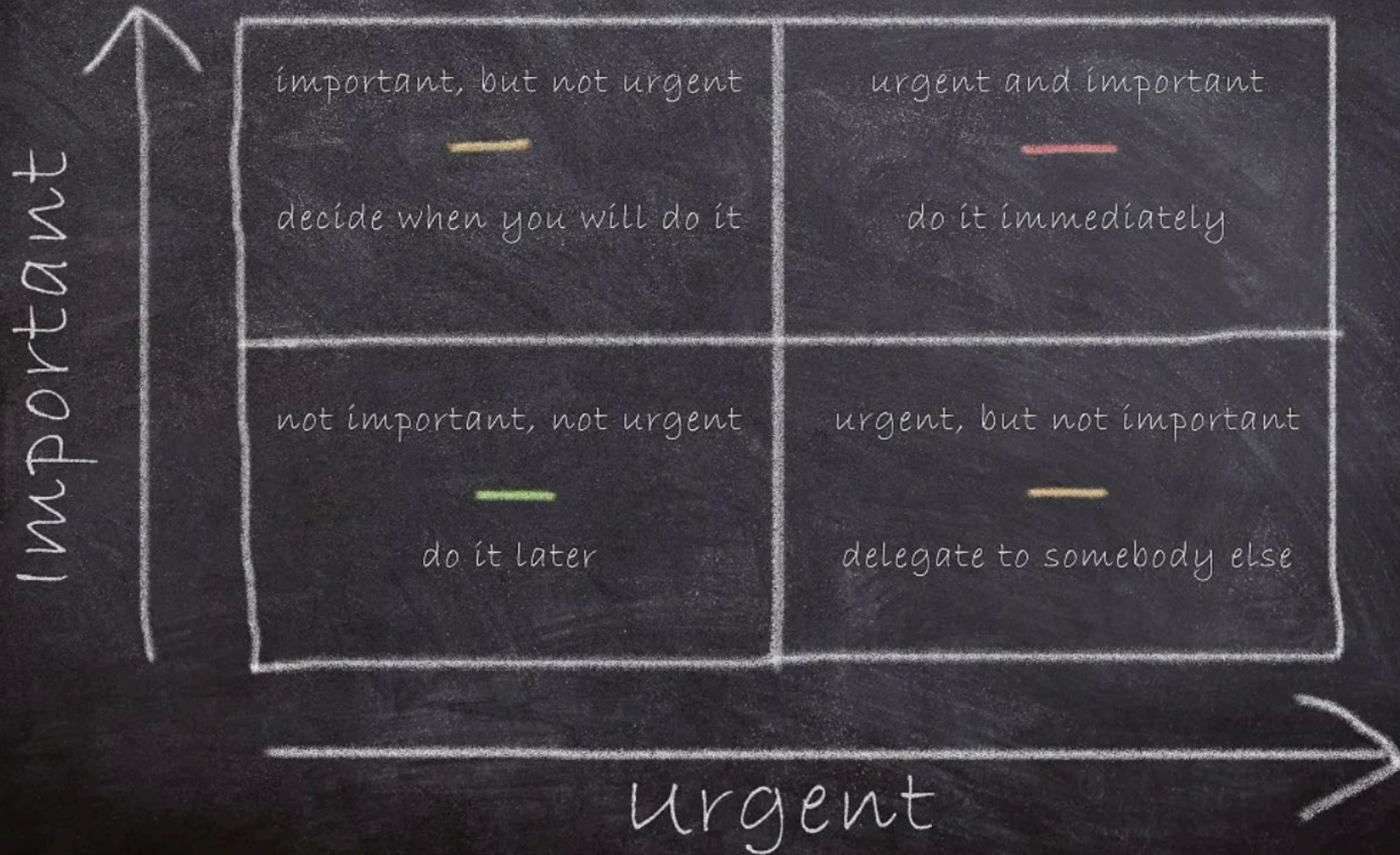
Zones of Learning



Helped us Focus our Work
Reinforced the importance of:

- Planning together in order to be proactive and not reactive.
- Meeting regularly
- Functioning in the domain of 'important but not urgent'

The Eisenhower Matrix



**Four Quadrants
of Time
Management**

Systems Mapping Integrating Communities

Sarah Stenzel - Sechelt SS & Supported Child Dev.

Andrea – Madeira Park SS & Child Care

Kelli – Speech Language Pathologist & SLP Team Lead

Lauri – Halfmoon Bay SS & Child Care

Alison – Vancouver Coastal Team Lead

Jen – Sechelt SS

Mel – EI Occupational Therapist

Rachel – Early Years Centre

Liz – Infant Development Team Lead

Marilyn - Sechelt SS

Holly – EI Physiotherapist

Marie – Roberts Creek SS

Sara - Sechelt Nation

Kippy – Roberts Creek SS

Jane - Sechelt Nation

Jane – Gibsons SS

Christa – Inclusion Services

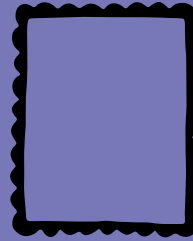
Sarah – Family Support Navigator

Sue – Family Support Navigator



Sharing our Personal Journeys Strengthening Our Connections

- Sharing
- Listening
- Leads to Compassion Cultivation & Safe Spaces...
- Supported Generative Conversations, which led to developing Action Plans



WONDER-FULL ME

Keep fit & healthy are:

Function & Activities - I can:

Friends - My friends are:

Future - My hopes & dream are:

My people are:

I am: (i.e. friendly? funny?)

My Name
(child)

ACTION PLANS

1. Community Connections Series

To support on-going connections between child care, school district EYT & teachers & community partners

2. Professional Learning Series – Story Workshop

To provide opportunities to be together, learn together, develop shared language and shared inspiration.

3. Seamless Community Approach - WonderFull Me Strategy

To strengthen our connection with families & Child Care Centres & create continuity, ‘shared language’ and ‘shared strategies’ with families

4. Strengthen Annual Cycle Supports

Strengthen ‘lever points’ in the year to gather, co-create and co-facilitate interactions with families.

5. Strengthen ‘Ages & Stages’ Supports

Goal is for children & families to experience coherent support – from birth through the early years.

1. Community Connections Series

To support on-going connections between child care, school district EYT & teachers & community partners

- Reviewed Data
- Reflected on Community Programming – SPARK! Program; Child Development Programs
- Planned on-going Professional Learning & connection strategies
- Appreciative Focus

EARLY YEARS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Looking Forward...

Please join us for dinner, connection and an opportunity to collaborate and plan for next year.

Your voice is important and valued! Let's move forward together.

April 12, 2022 • 6:00 - 7:15 PM

Early Years Centre, Sechelt
(5538 Shorncliffe Ave.)

Please RSVP for dinner (and awesome goodie Bags!)

Contact Rachel

604-885-6787 or rwatson@sd46.bc.ca



2. Professional Learning Series: Story Workshop

To provide opportunities to be together, learn together, develop shared language and shared inspiration.



Playful Possibilities for Young Writers
Early Years to Grade 3

STORY WORKSHOP

Facilitated by Susan Harris (Portland Opal School)

Story Workshop is a structure for early literacy that amplifies the relationship between play, art & writing.

Participants will receive a copy of Susan Harris' new book

Location: Sechelt Early Years Centre: 5538 Shorncliffe Ave, Sechelt.

- Oct. 25 3:30 – 5:00 pm Launch
- Nov. 29th 3:30 – 5:30 pm with Susan Harris
- Dec. 6th 3:30 – 5:00 pm
- Jan. 17 3:30 – 5:30 pm with Susan Harris
- Jan. 31 3:30 – 5:00 pm
- April 4th 3:30 – 5:30 with Susan Harris
- May 2 3:30 – 5:00 pm Celebration

RSVP: Kirsten Deasey, District Principal of Learning & Innovation

kdeasey@sd46.bc.ca / 604-741-5787

Dinners will be served!



Professional Learning Series: Story Workshop

- 25+ Participants
- Learning together - frequently over time builds
 - Connection
 - Shared pedagogy
 - Creativity
 - Inspiration & hope & positivity
- Hoping to extend & continue



3. Shared Strategies Approach - WonderFull Me Strategy

To strengthen our connection with families & Child Care Centres & create continuity, 'shared language' and 'shared strategies' with families

- Generative Conversations with Community!
- '6 F Words' Strategy
- CanChild housed within McMaster University
- Grounded in the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework (WHO, 2001).
- Focus on six key areas of child development.
- At first we were focusing on just a few of our 'Wonder Children'...



FUNCTION



FAMILY



FITNESS



FUN



FRIENDS



FUTURE

- All Children Are Wonderful!
- Celebrating strengths
- Surfacing their stories
- MORE than just assessments and test scores...
- Sharing their stories



WONDER-FULL ME

Family - My special people & pets are:

Fun - Interests & things I like to do are:

Fit - Ways I keep fit & healthy are:

Function & Activities - I can:

Friends - My friends are:

Future - My hopes & dream are:

My people are:

I am: (i.e. friendly? funny?)

My Name (child)



WONDER-FULL ME

Family - My special people & pets are:

mom Grace dogs Gus & Ben
dad Anton fish Goli

Fun - Interests & things I like to do are:
baby Leah
- horseriding - badminton

- playing w/ friends - BALLET

Fit - Ways I keep fit & healthy are:
- exercise - YOGA, dance, paddle boarding w/ mom
- eat sandwiches & fruits

Function & Activities - I can:

BALLET CLIMBING
SWIM VIOLIN

Friends - My friends are:

Hendrix Heidi Alice Hank
Sb Jewel Sophie An.
Brian Olive Eric Quinn

Future - My hopes & dream are:
- farmer w/ veterinarian
- vacation

My people are:
MOM
DAD
PAPA
FAMILY

I am: (i.e. friendly? funny?)
FUNNY
CLEAN
ACTIVE
SMART

My Name (child)
ELIANA

Sharing their Culture!

A Community United!

Share your favourite stories, songs & rhymes -
from your culture! from your family!:

Sunshine Coast

**A community united with a
vision that all children
thrive.**

Together, with families and children,
in partnership with:

- School District 46 - Sunshine Coast
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Mem7iman Child Development Centre
- Sunshine Coast Community Services
- Sunshine Coast Child Care Centres/Providers

KindersPARK!

Seamless Transition to Kindergarten Program

Families interview their children



Child Care Connections



Kindergarten Connections



Offered in every elementary school.
Multiple sessions – as attendance is to high!
Kindergarten Teachers & Early Years Team collaborate



Sechelt Nation

KINDERSPARK! WITH MEM7IMAN

The KinderSPARK! Program is designed to support a smooth and positive transition into Kindergarten. The program is offered to all families with children age four or five who are scheduled to enter Kindergarten next September.

Join in for fun activities, learning and friends!



Session 1: Welcoming You to Kindergarten with a Pizza Party!

Where: Mem7iman with the KinderSPARK! staff
Meet Kinnikinnick Kindergarten Teachers! Register for Kindergarten!
Date: Tuesday, May 31st, 2022
Time: 5:00-6:30pm
Dinner: Pizza

Session 2: Welcoming You to Kinnikinnick

Where: Kinnikinnick Elementary with the KinderSPARK! staff
Visit with Kinnikinnick Kindergarten Teachers
Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2022
Time: 5:00-6:30pm
Dinner: Golden City

Session 3: Kinnikinnick Kindergarten Orientation

Where: Kinnikinnick with the Kindergarten Teachers
Meet new Kindergarten Friends and Families
Date: Tuesday, June 14th, 2022
Time: 10:30-11:30pm
Lunch: Pizza

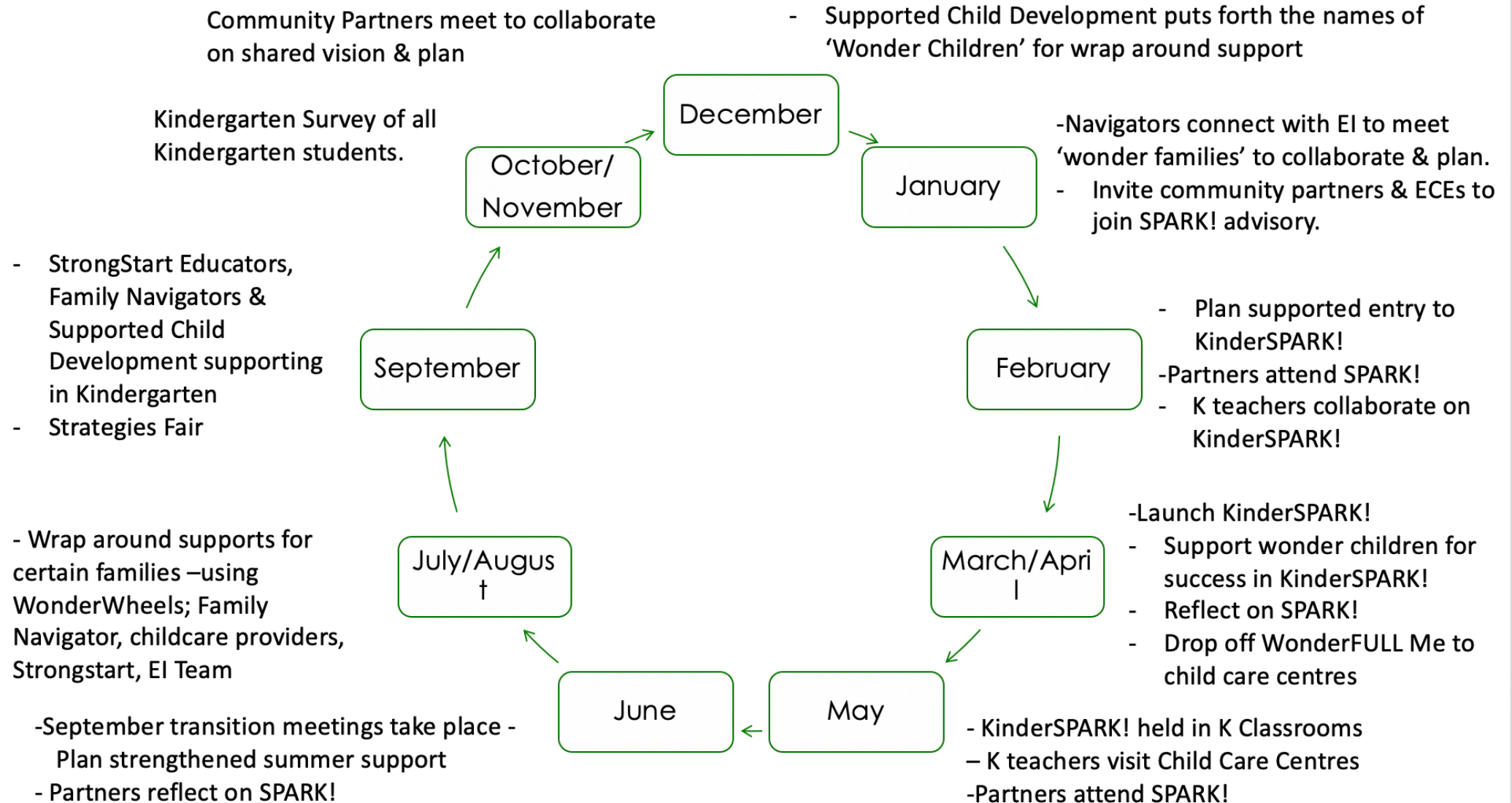


For more information, contact:
Kirsten Deasey, School District 46 | 604-741-5787
Gilda Craigan, Acting Floor Manager,
Mem7iman Child Development Centre
604-885-5044 or 604-399-9122
Please contact Gilda Craigan if you would like transportation



4. Strengthen Annual Cycle Supports

Strengthen 'lever points' in the year to gather, co-create and co-facilitate interactions with families.



5. Strengthen 'Ages & Stages' Supports

Goal is for children & families to experience coherent support – from birth through the early years.

Supporting Families at each Age & Stage

Infant

- Prenatal Collaboration
- SPARK!
- Circle of Security
- Baby Groups/Infant Development Program

Age 1

- SPARK!
- Drop-in StrongStart/Parent-Tot
- Being Present Parenting

Age 2

- SPARK!
- Positive Discipline
- Work with families to support connections with Child Care Centres & bridge to Family Doctors & the Family Support Institute.

Age 3

- SPARK!
- Family Navigators connect with Supported Child Development & EI team to begin connecting with families

Age 4

- SPARK!
- KinderSPARK!
- SPARK! to Kindergarten Programs

Age 5

- Supported Child Development & Early Years Team in Kindergarten to support Transition
- Strategies Fair

Age 6! 7! 8!

- Story Workshop
- Literacy/Numeracy

Thank You!