

Learning

Aboriginal Family Literacy Outreach Program

The Aboriginal FLO Step In, Step Out Program is for all families of Aboriginal ancestry.

This program will focus on cultural literacy, family literacy, adult literacy, food literacy, and early childhood development.

The schedule of the program is:

- 9-9:45am: Welcome, connect and play
- 9:45-11am: Parent time to participate in a learning circle: computer literacy, college/employment readiness, family literacy and more! Child care provided
- 11-12 pm: Lunch together and closing

To register or for more information, please contact Terry.

Courtenay Elementary School
Courtenay BC

Contact: Terry Louden

Email: cveyap@shaw.ca

[Visit website](#)

Aboriginal Early Years Program

This program is for open to all children who are between birth and 4 years of age. Program has an Aboriginal history and focus.

Early Years program is open Tuesday and Wednesdays from 9 am to 11:45 am and includes a healthy snack, cultural presentations and activities; designed to meet the needs of the child.

Children are accompanied by their parents or other family/caregiver members who are an important part of the child's life.

Thursdays operate from 10 am to 1 pm and has a parent focus. This is a place for parents to come and express or discuss challenges of parenting, as well as enjoying a meal and discussion from the Elders and Facilitators of the group. Facilitators include a Speech & Language Therapist, 3 Elders of Metis background and 1 Facilitator of the Lene Lenape Nation.

Transportation is available, and we accept on-going registration.

For dates and times of this program, please visit the [event page](#).

Note: This program runs September to June.

Courtenay Elementary School
Courtenay BC

Contact: Terry

Phone: 250-465-9944

Email: cveyap@shaw.ca

Learning

Aboriginal Head Start (Preschool Program)

This program is for children of Aboriginal Ancestry, Status, Non-Status, Metis, and Inuit who are between 30 months - 5 years of age.

The Preschool program is available Monday – Thursday with morning or afternoon classes.

The program includes meals, bus transportation, Elder involvement and is free of charge.

There are 6 major components:

- Culture and Language
- Nutrition
- Education/Kindergarten Readiness
- Health Promotion
- Social Support
- Parental Involvement

Registration is ongoing throughout the year.

Aboriginal Head Start
956 Grieve Ave
Courtenay BC

Phone: 250-334-2477

Email: cvahs@shaw.ca

[Visit website](#)

Comox Valley Toy Library Society

The toy library is a place where families and caregivers can borrow toys.

What are the benefits to borrowing toys?

- It saves money!
- It's a good way to see if your child likes a toy before buying it.
- It helps cut down on clutter and storage issues.
- It's good for the environment.
- It's a chance to try different types of toys as your child grows.
- It's an excellent rainy day strategy (bringing out something "new" to play with!)

Does it cost anything to join the toy library?

Memberships to the Comox Library Toy Library Society are \$20/year. That fee can be waived, though, if your income is low. You can ask about this when you register. (You may be asked to produce your most recent Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment to verify eligibility or if your family has PLAY booklets from the Comox Valley Regional District Sports and Aquatic Centres, you can show these, instead.)

Where is the toy library? When is it open?

The toy library is located at St. George's United Church (at the corner of 6th & Fitzgerald). It is open every Tuesday from 10-11 and the 1st Saturday of the month from 10-11.

St. George's United Church
505-6th Street
Courtenay BC

Contact: Andrea

Phone: 250-218-6764

Email: cvtoylibrary@gmail.com

[Visit website](#)

Learning

English Language Learning
(formerly known as Mother
Goose and More)

This program is for English Language Learners and their young children. It is an opportunity for families to enjoy Early Literacy activities as well as to practice speaking and listening to English.

The group starts with the parents doing a cooking activity while the children play in in the StrongStart room. This is followed by sharing a hot lunch and conversation as a group.

After lunch, there are English classes (beginner and intermediate) with trained volunteer tutors from the Adult Learning Centre, while the children do Early Learning activities with qualified Early Childhood Educators.

The group wraps up with Mother Goose rhyme time and interactive literacy activities.

Courtenay Elementary School
Courtenay BC

Contact: Carlene Steeves or Adult
Learning Centere

Phone: 250-338-5396 or 250-338-9906

Email: carlene.steeves@sd71.bc.ca

Family Storytime @
Cumberland Library

A drop-in group for families of all ages!

This is an opportunity to learn stories, fingerplays, songs and more.

Please visit the [Event page](#) to see when this is happening.

Cumberland Library
2746 Dunsmuir Avenue
Cumberland BC

[Visit website](#)

Friday's Child

This program is for families and children under 6 years of age who are of Aboriginal Ancestry.

It is for families of children with extremely challenging behaviours, including FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder), ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder), ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and other undiagnosed challenges. Friday's Child is a strengths-based program and teaches parenting, life and advocacy skills.

The format of the program is as follows:

- 9:45 - 10:00 Arrive at the preschool.
 - 10:00 - 10:30 Social time (tea & coffee, playtime for children)
 - 10:30 - 10:40 Circle Time with families
 - 10:40 - 11:15 Circle Time for parents, guest speakers while children play with an ECE
 - 11:30 - 12:30 Family Activity
 - 12:30 - 1:15 Lunch (provided)
 - 1:30 Wrap up and go home!
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Aboriginal Head Start
956 Grieve Ave
Courtenay BC

Phone: 334-9591

Email: fridayschild@shaw.ca

Learning

Parents & Tots

This weekly drop-in group is a chance to bring your children 0-5 years of age for crafts, play and a variety of early learning activities.

It is also an opportunity for you to meet with other parents for support and to learn about community resources.

For contact information, dates and times for this group, please visit the [event page](#) or our [online calendar](#).

Fanny Bay Hall
7793 Island Highway
Fanny Bay BC

Contact: Evelyn

Phone: 250-335-9022

Email: pedbally@shaw.ca

Storytime @ Comox Library

A drop-in group for families with children 0 - 5 years old.

This group is an opportunity for stories, fingerplays, songs, nursery rhymes and other fun activities.

For this program's schedule, please visit our [online calendar](#).

Comox Library
101-1720 Beaufort Avenue
Comox BC

[Visit website](#)

Phone: 250-339-2971

StrongStart (School District #71)

This is a drop-in early learning program for children from newborn - 5 years of age, accompanied by their parent or caregiver.

Children, families and caregivers attending StrongStart centres can expect a play-based environment which includes circle time, art, snack and gym.

StrongStart centres are located in 7 Comox Valley elementary schools. (Click on the school name to get address, contact information and upcoming dates.)

[Aspen Park Elementary](#): Tuesday & Thursday, 8:45-11:45

[Brooklyn Elementary](#): Monday - Friday, 8:30-12

[Courtenay Elementary](#): Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 8:30-11:30, Thursday: 8:30-2:30 (closed Wednesdays)

[Cumberland Community School](#): Monday - Friday, 8:30-11:30

[Puntledge Park Elementary](#): Wednesday, 8:45-11:45

[Queneesh Elementary](#): Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:30-11:30, Friday: 8:30-2:30 (closed Thursdays)

[Royston Elementary](#): Monday & Friday, 8:30-11:30

Note: StrongStart Centres follow the school district calendar.

[Visit website](#)

Please bring your child's birth certificate or passport when you come to your first Strong Start.

Learning

Dad's Night Out (Valley
Dad's)

A night to celebrate time for children and their dads! Kids grab your dad, grandpa or male caregiver and join us each Wednesday of the month for Dad's Night Out. Check out the [events page](#) for location, each week is different. 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Sponsored by Success by 6 and LUSH Valley.
