

The background of the slide features an abstract design with layered, organic shapes in shades of beige, light blue, medium blue, and dark blue. These shapes are arranged in a way that suggests a landscape or a series of overlapping elements. A white rectangular box with a thin grey border is centered in the upper half of the slide, containing the title text.

# Early Learning & Childcare Department Operational Plan

2025-2026

## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

- **CONTEXT**

In fall 2022, the Department of Early Learning and Childcare was established in response to a Ministry of Education and Childcare pilot initiative to support its new expanded mandate into childcare. Early Learning, specifically our *StrongStart* programs, *Ready, Set, Learn* activities and Kindergarten – ECE partnerships have existed in SD62 for more than a decade. These programs were previously included in the Curriculum and later the Indigenous Education department portfolios. The board-operated childcare program at Ruth King was part of the Community LINK portfolio and Seamless Day Childcare at Millstream was initiated by the Curriculum Transformation Department. Meanwhile, third party provider childcare was the oversight of the Custodial Manager in Facilities. All these programs, and more, are now housed in SD62’s Department of Early Learning and Childcare.

- **MANDATE**

- To improve access to quality, inclusive early learning, and childcare settings in BC schools.
- To increase the quality of early learning and childcare through increased awareness of the First Peoples Principles of Learning, including paying attention to inclusion and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- To develop a collaborative early learning and childcare system for children, families, and educators in BC schools.

- **VISION**

To engage in collaborative dialogue and actions that improve the outcomes for our youngest learners aged 0 to 8.

INSERT DEPARTMENT PLAN 2025-2026 DELIVERABLES AND METRICS: LEARNING

STAFF WILL	INTENDED IMPACT	MEASURES	PROGRESS & EVIDENCE
GOAL: Increase the engagement and understanding of early learning pedagogy to successfully bridge the integration of childcare (0 to 5) and the early years (0 to 8)			
<b>Staff Will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build a shared understanding among educators and educational leaders of the value of play-based learning and all its variants.</li><li>• Provide tailored support to implement the goals of the Early Learning Framework, First Peoples Principles of Learning, and Learning in the Primary Years in learning settings 0 to 8.</li><li>• Support teachers and ECEs in utilizing Kindergarten literacy resources, guidelines and assessments (screeners) in a developmentally appropriate way.</li></ul>	<b>Intended Impact:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Play-based learning will encourage personal, intellectual and SEL growth in students to develop their own voice and ideas.</li><li>• Literacy and numeracy competencies will develop through play-based and experiential learning.</li><li>• Increased staff awareness and implementation of early learning pedagogy and appropriate learning materials to encourage play, particularly among our K-ECE partnerships and StrongStart coordinators.</li></ul>	<b>The Department will show progress by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff engagement in play-based learning strategies &amp; pedagogies via workshops and classroom supports.</li><li>• Staff pre- and post- self-reflections.</li><li>• Kindergarten student literacy outcomes.</li></ul>	<b>The Department has demonstrated progress by:</b>

INSERT DEPARTMENT PLAN 2025-2026 DELIVERABLES AND METRICS: ENGAGEMENT

STAFF WILL	INTENDED IMPACT	MEASURES	PROGRESS & EVIDENCE
GOAL: Foster a sense of partnership among families of young children and SD62 staff and the wider community who support them			
<b>Staff Will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Build partnerships focused on integrated childcare within SD62.</li><li>Grow South Island partnerships to support the needs of families with young children.</li></ul>	<b>Intended Impact:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strengthen understanding and ways in which to nurture supportive and respectful communication practices.</li><li>Provide support through parenting engagement opportunities for parents/caregivers to see themselves and their children as learners and strong, capable individuals, particularly through StrongStart and Ready, Set, Learn initiatives.</li><li>Strengthen existing partnerships and grow new connections with early years partners on the South Island.</li></ul>	<b>The Organization will show progress by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Holding regular meetings among SD62 childcare providers (3<sup>rd</sup> party and board operated) to discuss and articulate shared goals and visions, related to the ELF.</li><li>Chairing the South Island partnership table and championing related initiatives that are built on a trusting and collaborative foundation.</li></ul>	<b>The Organization has demonstrated progress by:</b>

INSERT DEPARTMENT PLAN 2025-2026 DELIVERABLES AND METRICS: GROWTH

STAFF WILL	INTENDED IMPACT	MEASURES	PROGRESS & EVIDENCE
GOAL: Expand childcare and improve current childcare to meet the needs of our growing community			
<b>Staff Will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expand board-operated before &amp; after school childcare spaces.</li><li>Hire a part-time Manager – Childcare.</li><li>Ensure the quality and inclusive nature of current third-party and SD62 childcare providers.</li></ul>	<b>Intended Impact:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Offer more access to quality, inclusive early learning and childcare settings in SD62.</li><li>Prioritize the sustainability of our childcare programs (infrastructure, programming etc.).</li><li>Build staff capacity by offering training and professional learning to all childcare providers delivering service on school grounds.</li></ul>	<b>The Organization will show progress by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increasing the number of childcare spaces.</li><li>Collecting feedback from families regarding their satisfaction of the childcare services being offered.</li><li>Holding professional development workshops with our third-party providers and SD62 childcare staff.</li></ul>	<b>The Organization has demonstrated progress by:</b>