



**Get Ready for School™**

A Strong Start to reading program

Based on the research of Dr. Juliana Becku 2010

# Frequently Asked Questions about the *Get Ready for School™* Program



## How much is the program?

- The program is free to registered children. Please visit our website to learn about our funders for the *Get Ready for School* program, we couldn't do it without them!

## What should my child wear?

- Indoor shoes and comfortable clothing.

## Does my child need to be toilet-trained?

- Ideally, yes, your child should be able to use the washroom with little assistance.
- If your child is prone to accidents, please provide a bag with a change of clothes for your child. Please speak with the Lead Instructor about any concerns.

## Does my child need to bring a snack or water bottle with them?

- A health snack is provided during each class. *Important:* if your child has a food allergy, tell the Lead Instructor at the site.
- All children will need to bring a re-usable water bottle, labeled with their name

## Does my child need to attend each week?

- Yes, it is important that children attend classes as scheduled. The skills they are learning will build on each other throughout the program.

## How do I find out about what my child is doing during the class time?

- Parents will attend four parent information meetings throughout the program.
- During these meetings, information will be shared with the whole parent group, about what your child is learning and how you can help at home.
- Children receive take-home materials throughout the program, in the form of letter sound cards, decodable books (working on blending skills) and My Sounds books (working on sound identification and vocabulary). These materials support the early literacy skills, sharing with families what their children are working on in class.
- Parents can connect with the Lead Instructor at the end of class, for a short conversation and/or set up a time to connect by phone at another time.

## Can parents enter the site and/or stay at the program site while the children are in the class?

- In most cases, parents will be asked to drop their child off with the Lead Instructor at the entry door or classroom door and then can go home or do errands while their child is in class. **Note:** Waterloo Public Library, McCormick Branch requires one parent to remain at the site while their child is in the program class.
- Some of our Program Partner Sites have a lobby area, for parents to wait, while their child is in class. In some cases, the Program Partner Site may have activities for parents to participate in, a walking track, or computers available for public use.
- We will collect your cell phone number and the Lead Instructor will contact you in the case of an emergency.

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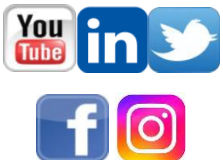
For more information and details about the *Get Ready for School™* program

Visit our website:  
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Email:  
[grfs@strongstart.ca](mailto:grfs@strongstart.ca)

Phone:  
519-743-9578  
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You can also follow us on our social media platforms:



## What are the Welcome Visits and Assessments, and what do they involve?

- The Welcome Visit is a 30-minute meeting for the parents to meet the Lead Instructor. These are held the week before the first class.
- A pre-assessment meeting for the child will occur with a trained Assessor while the parent meets with the Lead Instructor.
- The Parent of all children who participate in this program will be asked to sign an “Informed Consent Form” which allows Strong Start to use the data collected during the assessments. The children’s names will remain confidential.
- Final Visits & Assessments will occur in the same format at the end of the program.

## Are the Instructors trained?

- Yes, all of the program Instructors have participated in customized training program in order to be able to deliver the *Get Ready for School* program. Training is provided by the Strong Start® organization.
- All Instructors are trained and hold Standard First Aid with CPR-C certification.

## Can parents volunteer to help with the program?

- We do not have parents as volunteers in the class.
- To help prepare children for the Kindergarten classroom, it is important that they have an opportunity to work with the Instructors and practice being independent while at school.

## Are masks required?

- Masks are not required. They are optional for parents, children and Instructors.

## What health and safety protocols will the Instructors follow?

- All Instructors are asked to remain home if sick.
- Instructors may be asked to complete a self-assessment prior to coming to work.  
<https://www.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>
- Instructors receive health and safety training.
- Hand sanitizer and gloves are provided, along with disinfectant wipes and soap to clean toys and shared materials.
- Public Health protocols and procedures are followed and updated throughout the program as required.

## What if my child is sick or they, another child or an Instructor contract COVID-19?

- If a child is feeling unwell, they must stay home. A self-assessment to determine whether it's best to remain home can be completed by going to:  
<https://www.ontario.ca/school-screening/>
- The *Get Ready for School* program will follow guidelines from Public Health.
- The Lead Instructor will communicate any procedures during the Welcome Visits and through email as required.