

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: EARLY LEARNING

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking
January 8th, 2020

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- 1b Our students will thrive in their **early years, and throughout their education**, within schools, families, and communities that inspire learning, respect, and connection.
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"If kids come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families it makes our job easier. If they do not come from strong, healthy, functioning families it makes our job more important."

- Barbara Coloroso

Background:

The early years are critical because just like language, many of the predispositions they currently experience are time limited. Brain development doesn't occur at a constant rate— there are prime times for acquiring different kinds of skills and knowledge and specific times when the brain is pruning out unused connections. Enriched environments and appropriate stimulation help ensure that a window of opportunity for developing a specific capacity will be optimized. The absence of appropriate stimulation within certain time frames may lead to the skill or ability being 'pruned out' from lack of use. (<https://www.changelearning.ca/get-informed-understanding-human-learning-born-learn-early-years.html>)

The Ministry of Education has released the Early Years Framework which includes several key changes:

- Expanded focus to children from infancy to eight years of age (previously five years of age),
- Increased focus on reconciliation and Indigenous worldviews,
- Increased focus on inclusive practices,
- Connects with new K-12 curriculum, core competencies and primary program principles,
- Focus on integrating theory with practice.

Discussion:

The district has a well-established series of programs that support children from birth through to the end of kindergarten including:

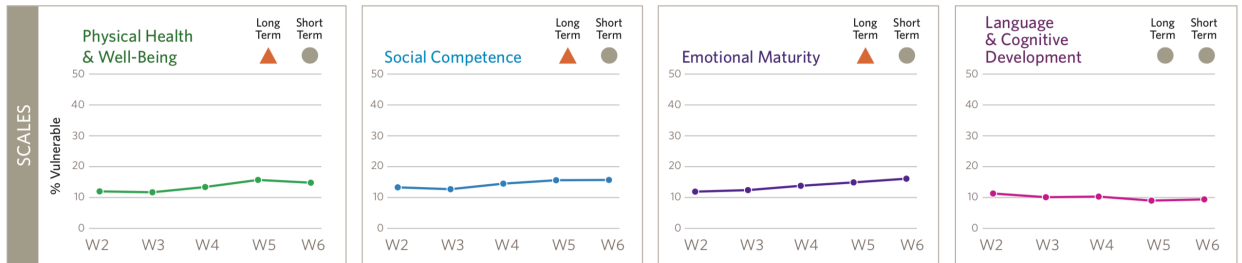
- SPARK! (Supporting Parents Along the Road to Kindergarten),
- Imagination Library,
- StrongStart Centres,

- StrongStart Outreach (“WonderWheels”),
- Ready, Set, Learn,
- KinderSPARK!,
- Screening of our newest students in September,
- Early Development Instrument (EDI) is completed by all Kindergarten teachers every year,
- PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters),
- SPARK! 10.

Data Summary:

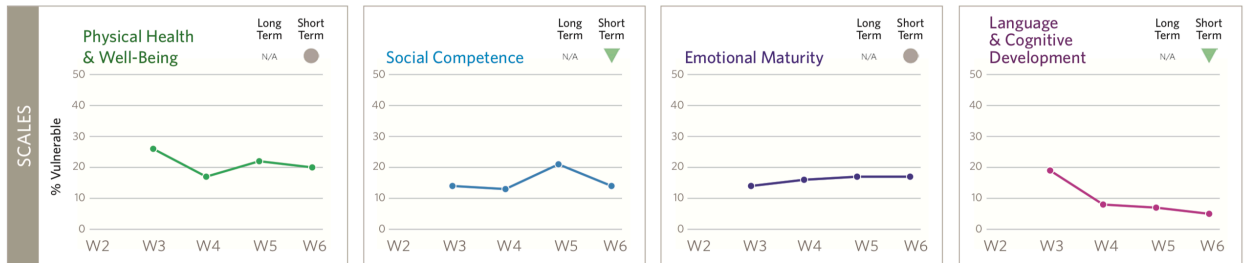
PROVINCIAL DATA ■ BRITISH COLUMBIA

NUMBER OF CHILDREN W2: 37,756 W3: 37,398 W4: 46,671 W5: 42,406 W6: 43,181



SCHOOL DISTRICT DATA ■ SD46 SUNSHINE COAST

NUMBER OF CHILDREN W2: 168 W3: 168 W4: 373 W5: 397 W6: 440



- EDI scores reveal that children enter Kindergarten in SD46 with strong skills in Language and Cognitive Development. We are now increasing our focus on Social and Emotional Supports in the early years as our data indicates this needs to be a priority for our students.

Recent and Next Steps:

- The Early Years Framework is supported in our district in a number of areas including the Board’s Affirmation statement, the value of inclusivity, the connection with Core Competencies and this goal specifically.
- KinderSPARK! facilitators and Kindergarten Teachers are working together to introduce a ‘redesigned’ KinderSPARK! program. This update introduces families to the redesigned curriculum, though a child-centred and personalized approach.