



**SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM UPDATES AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Last updated: August 27th, 2014**

PRIMARY & EARLY-ENTRY COHORT SUPPORT Early Learning in Early Elementary Play-Based Education

Contacts

Department of Education
Nancy Taylor, Early Learning Consultant
Phone: (902) 424-4908
Email: taylornl@gov.ns.ca

Natalie Flinn, Active Healthy Living Consultant
Phone: (902) 424-6134
Email: flinnnj@gov.ns.ca

Ardith Haley, Arts Education Consultant
Phone: (902) 424-8894
Email: haleyaj@gov.ns.ca

South Shore Regional School Board
Mark MacLeod, Coordinator of Programs P-12
Phone: (902) 541-0825
Email: mmacleod@srsb.ca

Focusing on embedding and integrating play-based concepts into the subjects of Visual Arts, ELA, Science and Health curriculums.

“Research shows that child-guided, teacher supported play benefits children in many ways”- Copple and Bredekamp (2009)

Grade Primary

Provincial Guide

- Primary Program Document: expected / Fall 2012
- Implement Primary Program Guide (2010-2011)
- Primary Program: A Teaching Resource (Feb, 2008)
- Foundation for Grade Primary Program (1999)

Core Resources

- Grade Primary Early Year Professional Learning workshop for our Grade Primary teachers (2009-2010) focusing on an educationally sound, developmentally appropriate approach to learning. The subjects of Visual Arts, Science and movement are integrated into the workshop. Put on by Nancy Taylor, Natalie Flinn and Ardith Haley from the DOE-excellent workshop. All teachers received the following resources to take back to their classrooms:
 - Young Learners Experiences in Art
 - Explorations in Art, Book 1 and TR
 - ART IS ...
 - The Arts Go To School
 - Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs: Serving Children from Birth to Age 8
 - Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves
 - A persona doll and several pertinent student texts (the dot; and tango makes three)
 - Clay, clay tools, multicultural colored pencils
 - ScienceLinks Primary-2
- The end of last year, 2012-13, each school received **Play-Talk-Learn bags** and there were components missing. These components will be arriving at your schools in the near future- please keep a look out for this box from the Book Bureau. The 3 items are a travel-size matching game called Life on Earth with 24 pairs of tiles to be matched and two small hard-covered books called Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit: A Book of Changing Seasons and Cookie's Week. The DoE are working hard to deliver the Play-Talk-Learn resources in a more efficient and timely fashion for 2014! The **Play-Talk-Learn resource** was given to **grade primary** students and their families beginning in February 2012 at 4 selected boards, including SSRSB and province-wide to primary students in all boards as part of 2012-2013 primary orientation activities. The DOE would like schools to provide parents of primary students with some explanation of how the materials in the bag can be used to support the growth and development of their child. The resource includes three books, including one wordless book; egg shaker rhythm instrument and music CD; a plastic magnifying glass and container of rainbow bubbles with blowing wand; 12 colored animal counters for sorting; upper and lower case magnetic numbers and letters; a pack of crayons and a pack of Toy Clay; and a pad of colored paper, a pencil and a pair of scissors. **The Play•Talk•Learn resource has been discontinued.**

- Two Demonstration Primary play classrooms will be set up-one in CBRSB and one in Strait-will be an empty classroom filled with play resources where teachers can try things out.
- **EDI** is a measure to help schools understand and support the particular needs of our young students, identifying where these students are vulnerable and making long term plans to address those needs. All school boards are involved now with EDI-Stephen Jamieson will look after this for SSRSB. Classroom teachers collect information, via questionnaire, for each child in their Primary classroom, once they have settled in, (usually in February) once they have successfully made the transition to school. Questions capture information that determines whether children are developmentally prepared to participate in a school environment and take advantage of all that school has to offer This data, compiled by McMaster University, will also prove helpful to Daycares, Family Resource Centres and YMCA's The **EDI data** should be available in September 2013. We will want to do before March Break at the latest-Primary teachers get together and it is all done electronically.
- Stephen has a copy of the resource Explorations: Learning Through Inquiry and Play that supports the understanding of play-based learning in **Primary and Grade 1** classrooms. This resource describes learning areas that invite and support students to explore, investigate, and wonder. It offers meaningful learning experiences that emerge from and connect to play. See Stephen if you would like to borrow the resource.

Grade 1

Core Resources

- Grade 1 Early Year Professional Learning workshops / Workshop held on November 10th, 2010 for our Grade 1 teachers focusing on an educationally sound, developmentally appropriate approach to learning. The subjects of Visual Arts and Health are integrated into the workshop. Put on by Nancy Taylor, Natalie Flinn and Ardith Haley from the DOE-excellent workshop. All teachers received the following resources to take back to their classrooms:
 - Young Learners Experiences in Art
 - Explorations in Art, Book 1 and TR
 - ART IS ...
 - The Arts Go To School
 - Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs: Serving Children from Birth to Age 8
 - Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves
 - a persona doll and several pertinent student texts (the dot; and tango makes three)
 - Clay, clay tools, multicultural colored pencils
 - ScienceLinks Primary-2
- Stephen has a copy of the resource Explorations: Learning Through Inquiry and Play that supports the understanding of play-based learning in Primary and Grade 1 classrooms. This resource describes learning areas that invite and support

students to explore, investigate, and wonder. It offers meaningful learning experiences that emerge from and connect to play. See Stephen if you would like to borrow the resource.