



**SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
CURRICULUM UPDATES AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Last updated: October 15th, 2012**

***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) 541-3044
Email: mmacleod@ssrsb.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)

Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a population-level instrument that measures children’s readiness to learn in a school environment in five general domains identified in the literature: physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive development; and communication skills and general knowledge in relation to developmental benchmarks rather than curriculum-based ones. The EDI is an outcome measure of children’s development and is completed once they have successfully made the transition to school. The DoE has assumed the lead in this initiative (recommendation from the Nunn Commission) and has identified dedicated funding and plans to access all Primary students in the province on a rotating basis to build the data base

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
- **Play* Talk * Learn update:** The bags are a different color but same contents. Schools will have them in early October 2012. Principal letters have gone out. Because of fiscal timing, the bags will never be ready for Spring so will most likely arrive in October from now on and primary teachers might use Parent-Teacher meetings to provide the resource and explain its potential to parents/guardians. 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.
- 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:** 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. We will want to do before March Break at the latest-Primary teachers get together and it is all done electronically.

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