



## Information about Ready, Set, Learn Events

*Ready, Set, Learn (RSL)* is an early learning initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Education. Schools that participate in *Ready, Set, Learn* will receive funding to help plan school-based or community events. *Ready, Set, Learn* is intended to facilitate partnerships between schools, local community agencies and early childhood service providers. Funds may augment activities already underway within your school district and community, or support new activities.

*Ready, Set, Learn* is intended for families of three- to five-year-olds to develop positive connections with the school system and with participating community agencies.

### **How does *Ready, Set, Learn* work?**

The Ministry of Education provides \$2,450 to school districts for each participating elementary school to cover the cost of hosting and/or participating in at least one *Ready, Set, Learn* event between September and May.

Events may include activities such as:

- a tour of the school, visits to classrooms and/or visits to the school library;
- interactive play activities for children and their parents;
- information sessions for parents and caregivers;
- engagement of the school's older students to act as tour guides and ambassadors;
- applications for local public library cards;
- presentations or displays by the school, school district, or by participating community partners (Health Authorities, Early Years Centres, etc.); and/or
- other activities appropriate to influence school readiness.

Schools are encouraged to provide participating families with information about school and district early learning programs, services and any additional items to influence school readiness. Participating community partners and early childhood service providers may have additional information for parents.

The Parent Booklet [Ready, Set, Learn: Helping your Preschooler get Ready for School](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/rsl/) (PDF, 1.31 MB) offers helpful tips and learning activities. Hard copies of the Booklet are no longer available from the Ministry of Education however, the booklet is available in thirteen languages on the Ministry of Education web site at [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early\\_learning/rsl/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/rsl/).

# READY, SET, LEARN

In addition, *Ready, Set, Learn* Funding (\$2,450) may be used to:

- release teachers to plan and carry out the events;
- advertise or promote the events;
- provide refreshments to families;
- purchase storybooks, craft and learning materials to support activity stations;
- provide transportation for families living in remote areas to help them get to the school;
- provide honoraria to participating community partners or guest speakers;
- provide supervised activities for children while parents/caregivers are in separate information sessions; and/or
- support for other appropriate costs of the event.

Any portion of funding that is not expended in support of the activities above may be used to support school-based early learning initiatives for children not yet attending kindergarten and/or their parents/caregivers, at the discretion of the Board, and may include the following:

- Funding for a district level early learning coordinator
- Professional development for StrongStart BC facilitators
- Aboriginal early years initiatives and outreach – involving Elders, storytelling, or language nests
- Implementation of preschool-age programs in schools (Mother Goose, PALS, Best Babies, Welcome to Kindergarten etc.)
- Support of community library services and family literacy programs
- Health education in the early years (dental hygiene information, physical literacy)
- Hearing, dental and vision screening
- Food and nutrition programs for early years students
- School Psychologist, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Language services for StrongStart BC early learning programs
- Transportation services for early years initiatives
- Initiatives that support collaboration between StrongStart BC facilitators or other early years professionals and Kindergarten teachers



## What are the Steps for Organizing a *Ready, Set, Learn* Event?

### STEP 1: Planning for the Event(s)

Participating schools may make connections with community agencies and regional early childhood development (ECD) service providers, inviting them to partner in planning *Ready, Set, Learn* school events. Schools may wish to collaborate with other schools to offer community-based events that would not be possible to be hosted by individual schools.

Use your district's network of contacts within the community to plan events that meet community needs and connect with as many families as possible.

### STEP 2: In Advance of the Scheduled Event(s)

District or school staff members oversee the planning and implementation of a *Ready, Set, Learn* event or multiple events.

School districts, schools, and participating community agencies promote *Ready, Set, Learn*, inviting parents/caregivers of three- to five-year-old children to participate in events.

Schools and participating community agency staff connect with hard-to-reach families in the community to make sure they know about the events and encourage them to attend.

### STEP 3: Between September and May

*Ready, Set, Learn* events take place. School districts transfer the *Ready, Set, Learn* funds to participating schools. If schools do not use the full \$2,450 allocated for each event, schools or districts may use residual funds to support other early learning initiatives for pre-school aged children in the school.

### STEP 4: Assist your District Early Years Contact by Providing Event Information

A **district level** report must be completed and submitted to the Ministry of Education by June 1. Each participating school should provide the district Early Years Contact with the *Ready, Set, Learn* event information required to complete the report.

**Failure to complete the *Ready, Set, Learn* District Report annually by June 1 may result in a recovery of up to 100% of *Ready, Set, Learn* funds from the district.**

For questions about *Ready, Set, Learn* contact:

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