

For Parents of Young Children

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Encourage progress

This is for parents of young children. Following are a few ways you can support your child who may be beginning pre-school or primary school.

Encourage free play, inside and outside, in the natural environment. and with natural and found materials. For water or sand play, provide shallow tubs, like a baby's bath, for water and/or sand on a table and containers such as bottles, cups and cartons.

Set aside table space with glue, paper, scissors and junk materials for creative activity and provide a box of dress-up clothes for dramatic play

Read to your child regularly. Learning to read is complex and interest can be greatly enhanced through the sharing of books and stories. Take trips to the library where your child may choose books and take part in programs.

Play board games with your child, limit screen time to avoid obsession with video games, and pay attention to providing nutritious options for snacks and lunch.

Become involved in school activities by visiting or volunteering and encouraging your child to acknowledge and respect differences

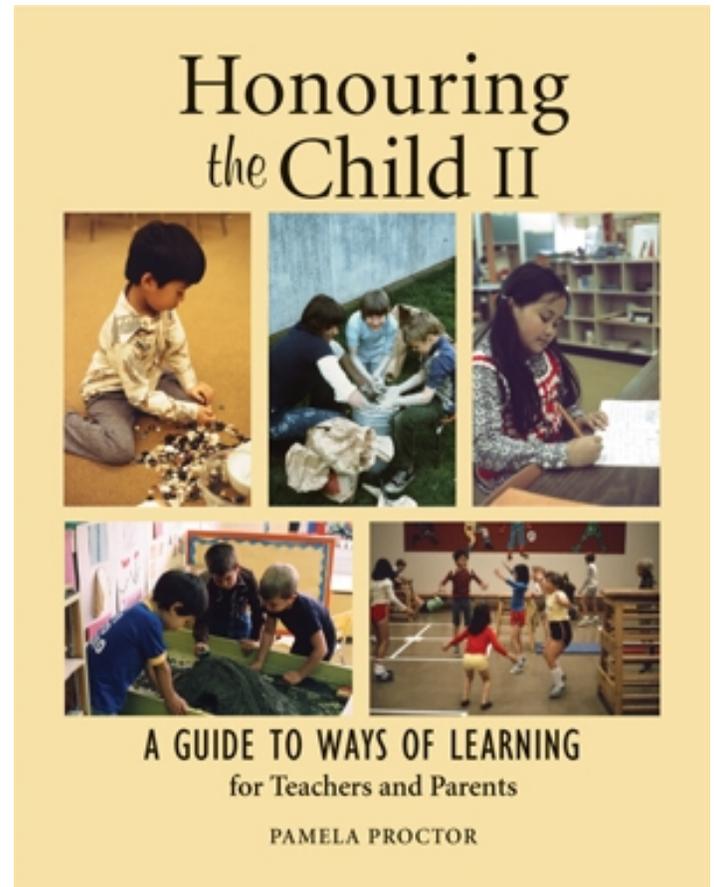
In the past, children were taught basic skills in groups and many had difficulties. Now schools recognize that every child has different needs, interests, styles and rates of learning. Appreciate your child's progress, whether fast or slow, and be encouraging – just as you were when she or he learned to walk and talk.

Pam Proctor, Gibsons,
Author of "Honouring the Child"

"This is just what people need right now"
A Sunshine Coast primary class teacher

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Pam travelled to 30 communities in BC to meet parents and teachers and became aware of a need for practical information on how to organize, facilitate and enhance learning for young children. Also inspired by Reggio Emilia, she produced this handbook with insights from her 35 years of innovative programs in the primary classrooms of Vancouver Public Schools

