



Challenging Behaviors in Preschoolers

In November, Smart Beginnings hosted a workshop on challenging behaviors in young children. The training was led by Desiree W. Murray, Ph.D., a scientist and child psychologist with the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC Chapel Hill.

Why is self-regulation important?

Children with self-regulation issues are at risk for underachievement, dropping out of school, delinquency, bullying, and substance abuse. In contrast, emotional regulation and social competence are powerful predictors of school success!



Provide difficult students with more praise

- Difficult students need higher “doses” of praise and attention than other children, similar to the way a child with a reading delay or physical handicap needs extra support.
- Self-esteem is typically lower in difficult students due to a history of failure and criticism from adults. It’s not uncommon for these students to even seek negative attention for misbehavior.

Establish positive, supportive relationships

- Supportive teacher relationships help “protect” children from the risks of living in poverty, such as dropping out of school.
- Positive relationships contribute to higher achievement, greater academic confidence, and better social-emotional adjustment.

Create a classroom with effective behavior management

- These classrooms have lower rates of disruptive, aggressive, and inappropriate behavior.
- Children spend more time focused on learning activities in these classrooms.

Many classroom management programs (like the *Incredible Years Teacher Classroom Management Program*) work! Significant benefits have been experienced in teachers’ effectiveness and stress levels.

January 23, 2015 Kindergarten Transitions

12:30pm — 2:00pm
 Raleigh Court CDC | Roanoke, VA
 Call Smart Beginnings Greater Roanoke (540) 777-4211 for more information or to register.

January 28, 2015 Emotional Support

1:00pm — 3:00pm
 United Way of Central Virginia | Lynchburg, VA
 Call Smart Beginnings Central Virginia (434) 455-6921 for more information or to register.

February 4, 2015 Kindergarten Transitions

6:30pm — 8:30pm
 YMCA Kids Unlimited | Covington, VA
 Call Smart Beginnings Greater Roanoke (540) 777-4211 for more information or to register.

February 10, 2015 Kindergarten Transitions

6:30pm — 8:00pm
 Franklin County Dept. of Social Services | Rocky Mount, VA
 Call Smart Beginnings Greater Roanoke (540) 777-4211 for more information or to register.

February 25, 2015 Classroom Organization

1:00pm — 3:00pm
 United Way of Central Virginia | Lynchburg, VA
 Call Smart Beginnings Central Virginia (434) 455-6921 for more information or to register.

February 28, 2015 Dealing w/ Challenging Behaviors

9:00am — 12:00pm
 RCATT | Danville, VA
 Call Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania (434) 797-8887 for more information or to register.

March 2-6, 2015 Read Across America Week

March 19-21, 2015 VAECE Conference

Richmond | VA
 A variety of sessions focused on quality early learning standards in Virginia.

March 20, 2015 Kindergarten Registration Begins!

Call Danville Public Schools (799-6400) or Pittsylvania County Schools (432-2761) for more information.

March 25, 2015 Instructional Support

1:00pm — 3:00pm
 United Way of Central Virginia | Lynchburg, VA
 Call Smart Beginnings Central Virginia (434) 455-6921 for more information or to register.

Creating a Shared Vision for Young Children & Families

January 30, 2015, 9:00am - 2:00pm
 The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research



During the past year, Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania has collected funding and program information from area organizations that serve young children. The result of that work is a “map” of fiscal resources allocated for children ages birth to 6 in our area. Dr. John Morgan, former Executive Director of Voices for Virginia’s Children, will present an overview of the local, state, and federal dollars that fund our early childhood “system” of resources and services. After the presentation, participants will develop a shared vision for maximizing resources to ensure measurable improvements for children and families.

Call (434) 797-8887 or email info@smartbeginningsdp.org to register!

Incredible Years Returns

Another session of *The Incredible Years* begins **January 26!** *The Incredible Years* is an evidence-based parent support and education program for parents and caregivers of children ages 3 to 8. Classes will be offered at City Head Start on Monday mornings and at Southside Elementary on Tuesday evenings. Classes and childcare are free.

Contact Angela Wells at 797-8887 or awells@smartbeginningsdp.org to register or learn more.





Happy new year from all of us at Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania! And thank you, our partners and supporters, for helping us make 2014 a productive and successful year for early childhood development in Danville and Pittsylvania County. Some highlights...

- Ready Freddy the frog debuted at our Annual Early Learning Symposium in September and was also a favorite among the children at the Imagine Children's Festival in October.
- A record attendance at our 3rd Annual Early Learning Symposium enjoyed the dynamic energy and enthusiasm of keynote speaker and author, Kimberly Johnson. All attendees received their own copy of Kimberly's book, *The Climber*, for inspiration.
- SBDP was honored to convene a community conversation on early childhood education with U.S. Senator Mark Warner in January. In May, SBDP hosted a roundtable discussion with Lt. Governor Ralph Northam on the importance of state-level support for early childhood education.
- Three childcare centers and three family home childcare providers joined the Virginia Star Quality Initiative, the quality improvement and rating system for childcare providers:
 - Childcare Centers/Preschools**
 - Becky's Kiddie Kollege
 - Danville Public Schools/VA Preschool Initiative
 - Sacred Heart School
 - Family Home Childcare Providers**
 - GabDan's Christian Day Care
 - Howard's Day Care
 - Little Prince and Princess Family Day Care
- Receiving a \$92,865 grant from Child Development Resources to provide an Infant Toddler Specialist for the Piedmont Southside Region, which includes 8 counties and 3 cities.
- Promoting early kindergarten registration for city and county public schools in March through the distribution of over 1,000 gift bags of school readiness materials for early registrants.
- Providing 25 hours of professional development training to 327 of our area's early childhood professionals.
- Receiving \$17,984 in grants and contributions for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. In 2014, enrollment increased by 36%, from 450 to 613 children, and a total of 5,707 high-quality books were mailed to participants.
- In partnership with Danville Public Schools, hosting a School Readiness Camp for 34 rising kindergarteners with little or no preschool experience. The camp develops pre-literacy skills, strengthens socializations skills, and gives students a chance to practice daily school routines.
- Creating a "map" of fiscal resources allocated for children ages birth to 6 in our area. The fiscal map, which was a year in the making and required contributions from numerous early childhood stakeholders, will guide us in creating a shared vision to maximize the positive impact on children and families.

To all of our childcare centers, preschools, and family home childcare providers who are the "boots on the ground," teaching our youngest citizens day in and day out, we thank you for your energy, diligence, and continued commitment to early childhood development. We admire you and look forward to supporting you in 2015.

Sincerely,

Ann

Ann Vandervliet Stratton, Executive Director

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 55 childcare programs for parents to choose from in Danville and Pittsylvania County.
- Only 17, or 36%, of those childcare programs are star-rated.
- Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania administers the Regional VA Star Quality Initiative grant in partnership with Smart Beginnings Central VA, Smart Beginnings Roanoke, and Smart Beginnings Martinsville-Henry County.



Board Member Appreciation

Smart Beginnings could not achieve successes like the grant to expand support for infant and toddler caregivers, or the record attendance at this year's annual symposium, without the support of a diverse, knowledgeable, and engaged volunteer board of directors. To our directors, we say "thank you" for your invaluable guidance, encouragement, and ongoing support. We also thank our outgoing board officers for their service the past year:

Kirby Wright
Chair

Laurie Moran
Vice-chair

Cathy Liles
Treasurer

Tiffany Franks
Immediate past chair

In 2015, board officers will be:

Laurie Moran
Chair

Charley Majors
Vice-chair

Cathy Liles
Treasurer

Kirby Wright
Immediate past chair

VA Child Care Financing Program



The Child Care Financing Program (CCFP) assists Virginia child care providers with financing for fixed asset needs. The Virginia Small Business Financing Authority offers direct low-interest rate loans to regulated child care providers for quality enhancement projects or to meet or maintain childcare standards.

Eligibility

To apply for assistance applicants must:

1. Be in “good standing” with the Division of Licensing Programs of the Department of Social Services.
2. Demonstrate a reasonable assurance of repayment.
3. Maintain business operations in Virginia.

What loans can be used for:

- Fixed asset purchases directly related to the health, safety and welfare of the children, such as playground equipment, resilient surfacing for playground areas, lockable cabinets for cleaning supplies and other poisonous substances, cots, cubbies, books, blankets, educational materials, and equipment for infant care.
- Minor building maintenance, renovations, or repairs necessary to comply with health and safety standards required by the Department of Social Services, or to meet necessary requirements for children with special needs, etc.
- Purchasing buses.
- Purchasing learning aids, tools or programs to aide in the development of the children.

Loans cannot be used for:

- The purchase or improvement of land, building construction, permanent mortgages, working capital or to refinance existing debt.

News & Updates:

Infant Toddler Specialist

Smart Beginnings is pleased to welcome Becky Tickle as Infant Toddler Specialist for the Piedmont Southside Region.

Becky will provide mentoring and training for childcare centers and family home providers working with children ages birth to three. Her service area, one of nine in Virginia, includes Danville, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Bedford, and the following counties: Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, Henry, Nelson, Patrick, and Pittsylvania.

Becky most recently served as a Lead Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator in a five-star preschool program in North Carolina. She holds a BS in Early Childhood Education from Mount Olive College.

Welcome, Becky!

The VA ITS Network is a program of Child Development Resources, and is supported by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Grant #93.575, with funds made available to Virginia from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The next Childcare Connection will be published in April 2015. Email your news to: hjhodges@smartbeginningsdp.org



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