

SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES

News for early childhood educators, caregivers, parents, and our community partners



Investing in Positive Adult-Child Interactions

Developmental theory and research suggest that interactions between children and adults are the primary way of supporting children's development and learning. Effective, engaging interactions and environments form the foundation for all early learning.

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an observation tool used to assess the quality of teacher-child interactions in center-based preschool classrooms. There are three areas of teacher-child interactions that support learning and development:

- 1 ► Emotional Support
- 2 ► Classroom Organization
- 3 ► Instructional Support

By using CLASS in VPI (Virginia Preschool Initiative), Head Start and preschool programs, teachers can have a significant impact on a child's development. Smart Beginnings DP invested in a day-long CLASS training for local Head Start and VPI teachers in June. *Investments in high-quality professional development for early childhood teachers is one of the primary ways SBDP is working to improve the quality of childcare in our region.*

Smart Beginnings Recognized for Strategic Partnership

In May, Smart Beginnings DP was included on the Virginia School Board Association's Business Honor Roll for its *Success for All* pilot at Johnson Elementary School.

The pilot is designed to maintain gains in pre-literacy and increase 3rd grade reading proficiency.



SBDP also received a Strategic Partnership Award from Danville Public Schools. The award recognizes those who have given time, talent, and resources toward innovative and transformative initiatives for Danville Public Schools.



SAVE THE DATE!

Our 8th Annual Early Learning Symposium is **Saturday, September 21, 2019!**

Featured topics include Conscious Discipline, Early Math Readiness, The Power of Play, Positivity, and Boys – Wired to Move. Be on the lookout for your registration packet to arrive in early August or call us at 797-8887 to request one.

CHOOSE QUALITY

Choosing an early childhood program is one of the most important decisions a family can make. Research shows that quality child care positively impacts children's development, leading to success in school and in life.

Participation in the Virginia Quality program is voluntary and demonstrates to staff, families, and the community that the early learning program is committed to quality for young children.

Participating programs are focused on top-quality in areas proven to matter to children's school success:



Early learning programs in Danville and Pittsylvania County currently participating in Virginia Quality include:

Level 1

Childcare centers:

- ▶ Just Kids
- ▶ Play N Pretend

Family day homes:

- ▶ Garnetta Deshazor-Bennett
- ▶ Linda Gilbert
- ▶ Searlet Howard
- ▶ Wanda Joyner

Level 2

Childcare centers:

- ▶ Abundant Life Childcare
- ▶ Kid Konnection
- ▶ Little Blessings
- ▶ Small World
- ▶ The Harvest Corner

Family day homes:

- ▶ Gwen Averett- FDH
- ▶ Laverne Tarpley- FDH

Level 3

Childcare centers:

- ▶ Brosville Elementary VPI
- ▶ Chatham Elementary VPI
- ▶ CIC Headstart
- ▶ Gretna Elementary VPI
- ▶ Grove Park Preschool VPI
- ▶ Hurt Elementary VPI
- ▶ Kentuck Elementary VPI
- ▶ Mt. Airy VPI
- ▶ Northside Preschool VPI
- ▶ Southside Elementary VPI
- ▶ Stoney Mill Elementary VPI
- ▶ Twin Springs Elementary VPI
- ▶ Union Hall Elementary VPI

Level 4

Childcare centers:

- ▶ Families First
- ▶ PCCA Head Start Joseph L. Galloway (Chatham)
- ▶ PCCA Head Start Shiloh

Level 5

Childcare centers:

- ▶ PCCA Head Start Bethel

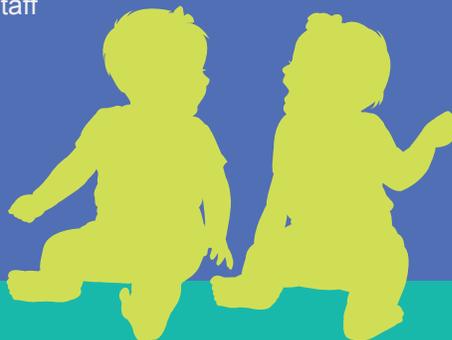
To learn more about ratings and other tips for selecting a quality child care option, visit www.virginiaquality.com.

Elevate Your Infant and Toddler Care

The Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network is enrolling child care centers and family day homes for its 2019-2020 year. All benefits are free and on site. Space is limited. **Call Becky Tickle or Stephanie Mann at 797-8887 to learn more.**

Benefits of Participation:

- All services are free and our staff comes to you!
- Improve the quality of care for your infants and toddlers
- Minimum of 40 hours of one-on-one coaching for child care programs (32 hours for family day homes)
- On-site training for your staff
- Professional networking opportunities
- Access to an educational resource lending library



Join these providers in saying "yes" to a year of inspired training and growth in infant and toddler care!

- ◆ Bashful Giraffe, Lynchburg
- ◆ Caring Hearts, South Hill
- ◆ Dan River W.E.E. School, South Boston
- ◆ First Steps, Bedford
- ◆ Freedom Baptist Church, Axton
- ◆ Impact Church of God, South Hill
- ◆ La'Verne Tarpley, Danville
- ◆ Little Hearts, Martinsville
- ◆ Longwood Ave. Christian Academy, Bedford
- ◆ Mary Bethune Academy, Lynchburg
- ◆ Kid-Konnection, Pittsylvania Co.
- ◆ Searlet Howard, Danville
- ◆ Sharon Martin, Martinsville
- ◆ Sherry Gammon, Evington
- ◆ Sunshine Smiles CLC, Farmville



TRAINING TIPS

Missed a training with us? Here are some highlights of recent trainings:

The Inclusive Classroom for Infants and Toddlers

- Young children's behavior is a way of communicating and has meaning.
- It is important to intentionally build social emotional skills in infants and toddlers.
- Support families in promoting routines, environments and strategies that promote social emotional development of infants and toddlers.
- Develop and implement a support plan to respond to challenging behavior.

Responsive Caregiving: Watch, Ask, Adapt

Responsive caregiving means reading the cues of children and responding to them in a sensitive way. Determine when to guide, teach, expand, watch, or intervene. This is the best way to meet a child's physical and mental needs.

Responsive interactions are...

- Responsive to the child's verbal and non-verbal cues
- Timely
- Positive and nurturing

Watch, Ask, Adapt-

Watch: Read behavioral cues, both verbal and non-verbal.

- Just watch, don't rush in.
- Being good observers helps us connect better with children.

Ask: What is the infant trying to tell me?

- What are my own emotional state and feelings?
- How should I respond?

Adapt: Engage with the child to help them feel comfortable.

- Be available to the child.
- Modify your actions as needed.
- Imitate the child.
- Express emotion.
- Wait for a child to respond.

I-2-3 READ!

- Literacy-rich environments include a variety of print materials in each area of the classroom or home.
- Follow children's interests when selecting books, activities, and environmental décor.
- Intentionally plan literacy activities to build early literacy skills, even for the youngest children.
- Speak to children in a deliberate and intentional manner, keeping the desired early literacy outcomes in mind. For example, when a baby makes the sound "baba," we know he means bottle. Respond by saying "bottle," not "baba."
- Know the Early Literacy Outcome Indicators and how to tell when they are achieved.

Download a free copy of the Milestones of Child Development at www.va-itsnetwork.org.

Congratulations Providers!

Smart Beginnings DP celebrates the following child care programs and family day homes who participated in a year-long commitment to improve the quality of the infant and toddler care they provide:

DANVILLE

- ◆ Train Up A Child (Arketa Washington)
- ◆ Greater United Apostolic Church

MARTINSVILLE

- ◆ Cecily Smieja

COLLINSVILLE

- ◆ YMCA Collinsville
- ◆ Crustal Burrows Collinsville

LYNCHBURG

- ◆ Elizabeth's Early Learning Center
- ◆ Aslan Castle
- ◆ Angel Keeper (Gloria Almond)
- ◆ Tiff's TOT SPOT (Tiffany Osborne)
- ◆ Shining Stars Homecare (Sandy Duff)
- ◆ Timberlake UMC
- ◆ Five Star Academy
- ◆ Katherine Brown-Austin
- ◆ Faith Assembly Child Care

FARMVILLE

- ◆ Stepping Stones
- ◆ Creative Learning Center

OTHER AREAS

- ◆ Doodles Treehouse (Rustburg)
- ◆ Gina Johnson (Chase City)
- ◆ Linda Goode (Boydton)
- ◆ King's Academy (Axton)

Additional parent resources

for childcare include the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and Childcare Aware:

The VA Department of Social Services provides regulatory oversight of childcare providers. On their website, you can:

- search for child care options in your area by county or city
- find out which child care programs are regulated by VDSS and which are not
- find out the difference between licensed and unlicensed childcare programs
- view the dates and inspection reports, including details of any violations, for licensed and religious exempt child day centers, licensed and voluntarily registered family day homes, and certified preschools

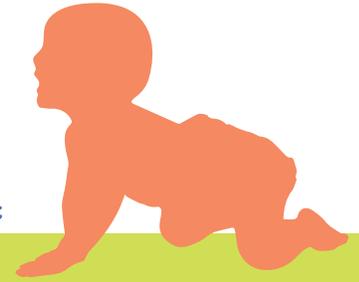
Visit [Child Care Aware's website](#) to learn more about:

- How to start your childcare search
- Tips and checklists for choosing a child care program
- Resources for children with special needs

Learn more on their websites:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/>

<https://www.childcareaware.org/state/virginia/>



Harvard Launches Serve and Return Campaign

Child-adult relationships that are responsive and attentive—with lots of back and forth interactions—build a strong foundation in a child's brain for all future learning and development. This is called “serve and return.” Serve and return is one of the easiest and most important activities adults can do with babies and young children.

Harvard's Center on the Developing Child is building awareness of serve and return with a new “how to” video; a social media campaign (#ServeandReturn); and a flyer for parents and caregivers on the five basic steps of serve and return (English and Spanish available).

The 5 Steps of Serve and Return:

- 1 ▶ Notice the serve and share the child's focus of attention.
- 2 ▶ Return the serve by supporting and encouraging.
- 3 ▶ Give it a name!
- 4 ▶ Take turns...and wait. Keep the interaction going back and forth.
- 5 ▶ Practice endings and beginnings.

Visit developingchild.harvard.edu for access to these resources and more information.

Smart Beginnings welcomes Kushana Galloway

Kushana Galloway joined the Smart Beginnings DP team in June as our full-time Administrative Coordinator.

Kushana holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Virginia State University. Most recently, Kushana was a Success Specialist in the Success for All pilot at Johnson Elementary. Kushana has also worked for the VA Early Childhood Foundation as a Family Coach, and for the Workforce Investment Board. As a Family Coach, she assisted first-time parents with personalized coaching related to school readiness, education, and employment goals. She will support all of our systems building and training strategies, as well as operations.

She can be reached at kgalloway@SmartBeginningsDP.org or (434) 797-8887 ext. 300.



Donor Appreciation
Mrs. Tracy Mallard



This publication supported by: *The Virginia Infant & Toddler Specialist Network is a program of Child Development Resources, www.cdr.org, 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 Danville Regional Foundation.*



**SMART
BEGINNINGS**
Ready for School. Ready for Life.

133 Robertson Avenue
Danville, VA 24541
Phone: (434) 797-8887
Fax: (434) 797-9999
info@SmartBeginningsDP.org

Got News? Email your news or announcements for the next newsletter to hjhodges@smartbeginningsdp.org.