



# Childcare CONNECTION



DECEMBER 2017

A PUBLICATION OF SMART BEGINNINGS DANVILLE PITTSYLVANIA



## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

**To our partners, volunteers and funders,**

On behalf of the Board and staff, we offer our sincere gratitude for your partnership. Together, we continue to strengthen children and families in Southside Virginia.

Wishing you and yours a magical holiday season. We hope you have time for rest and joy.

Warm regards,

*Ann*

**Ann Vandervliet Stratton**  
*Executive Director*

## SBDP COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Smart Beginnings invests in our local community through Innovation Awards that support pre-literacy and reading proficiency by third grade. SBDP is especially interested in efforts that empower high-risk populations, such as children not participating in preschool, single parent households, teen parents, families living at or below the poverty level, and children with untreated developmental delays. While our primary focus is literacy, the availability of parent education and support are also emphasized as they promote the social and emotional wellbeing of the child and family.

### **Our current Innovation Awards and Partners include:**

**Danville Public Schools:** Funding for a Professional Development Coordinator to work with teachers in small groups and provide professional development opportunities.

**Pittsylvania County Schools:** Funding for an evidenced-based program that develops and strengthens the classroom management skills of teachers. Approximately 100 Pre-school through 2nd grade teachers are benefiting.

**Pittsylvania County Schools:** Funding for My Sidewalk, a research-based intensive reading intervention program that accelerates the reading development of struggling students. The program reaches over 150 students.

**Danville Pittsylvania Community Services:** Funding for two playgroups a week held in the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority community. The playgroup provides an opportunity for caregivers to build connections, friendships, and a circle of mutual support while being centered on an evidence-based curriculum.

**Pittsylvania County Schools:** Funding for an evidence-based parent education program that helps parents create positive relationships with their child.



# TRAINING TIPS

## To the Tune of Learning

- Music grows the human brain, particularly in the earliest years of life.
- Implementing music into all types of subject matter makes learning fun.
- Anyone, trained or untrained, can do music with young children.

## Leading with a Purpose

- Teaching teachers how to be leaders and encouraging each other is important.
- Set the environment with positive tools that reflect a spirit of family.
- It is always better to be Loving than to be Right!

## Purposeful Planning

- If children are in a safe space that encourages movement, they will explore the environment independently.
- Infants and toddlers learn best with an intentional teacher.

## Intentional Teaching

- When planning activities, ask yourself, "is this activity relevant, providing the opportunity for learning, and extending knowledge?"
- Active learning activities promote learning and diminish negative behaviors.
- Planning lessons based on children's interests motivates them to learn.

## The Power of Free Choice

- Comment on what you notice, making positive comments on what you see the child doing.
- Ask the child how "you" can be a part of his or her play.
- Be aware of punitive or negative language during play.
- Create an environment that welcomes play and comfort. Is your space inviting? Do you have well defined spaces?



## Participating VA Quality Childcare Providers in Danville and Pittsylvania County

- Abundant Life
- Cheryl Moore Family Day Home
- Children First Learning Center
- CIC Head Start Westmorland Center
- Families First Children's Center
- Garnetta Deshazor-Bennett Family Day Home
- Grove Park Preschool
- Gwen Averett Family Day Home
- Just Kids
- KaShawnda Murrell Family Day Home
- Kid Konnection Child Daycare Center
- LaVerne Tarpley Family Day Home
- Little Blessings Child Care
- Northside Preschool
- PCCA Head Start – Bethel
- PCCA Head Start - Shiloh
- PCCA Head Start - Chatham
- Play and Pretend
- Scarlet Howard Family Day Home
- Small World
- Tot Spot Child Care Clarkson
- Tot Spot Plus

*Virginia Quality is a state-led program that supports child care and early learning programs in improving their quality so all Virginia's children can be ready for school.*



## FREE PARENTING SUPPORT!

Pittsylvania County Schools is excited to offer The Incredible Years School Age program beginning January 22, 2018, at Chatham Elementary School. The program helps parents monitor children after school; set rules about TV, computer and drug use; support children's homework and partner with teachers.

Parents will meet once a week, in 2-hour sessions led by a trained facilitator, for 12 weeks. **Meals and child care are provided!** Meals are available at 5:15 p.m. and the program begins at 5:30 p.m.

*For more information, contact Jeff Buchanan at (434) 203-8228 or [jeffrey.buchanan@pcs.k12.va.us](mailto:jeffrey.buchanan@pcs.k12.va.us). Registration deadline is January 12, 2018.*

# TRAINING CALENDAR

Take advantage of our great local trainings in 2018!

## January 4

### SURVIVING AND THRIVING: TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Danville, VA

Lunch will be provided.

## January 13 & 20

### 123 READ!

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost is \$25.

Virginia Western Community College

Roanoke, VA

## January 27

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

9:00am - 12:30pm

Specific location TBA

Danville, VA

## February 3

### RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

First United

Methodist Church

Martinsville, VA

## February 17 & 24

### CSEFEL - CENTER FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF EARLY LEARNING

Cost is \$30.

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

YMCA, Altavista, VA

## March 10

### CELEBRATING BABIES AND TOTS

Cost is \$30.

8:30am - 4:00pm

Specific location TBA

Staunton, VA

## March 24

### 123 READ REFRESHER

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SBDP

Danville, VA

For more information  
and to register for  
any of these  
trainings, visit  
[www.va-itsnetwork.org](http://www.va-itsnetwork.org)



**THE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE** is a six-session interactive forum for childcare owners and directors focused on developing leadership in yourself and others. Earn up to 12 training hours! All sessions are held at New College Institute in Martinsville, VA, from 6:30-8:30pm. Session dates are:

January 9, 2018

February 13, 2018

March 13, 2018

April 10, 2018

May 8, 2018

June 12, 2018

To register for The Leadership Challenge, call (434)-797-8887 or send an email to: [info@smartbeginningsdp.org](mailto:info@smartbeginningsdp.org).



## MEET LEIGH LAUGHORN

Leigh Laughorn joined the Smart Beginnings DP team in October as our second full-time Infant and Toddler Specialist. She will work with Becky Tickle to meet the regional training and support needs of individuals working with infants and toddlers (ages birth to 3). She received her Bachelors in Elementary Education, and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Averett University. Leigh has over 20 years of teaching experience with Caswell County Schools

and during her last year held the position of K-5 Curriculum Specialist and Testing Coordinator. Most recently she was a Director with Trinity Childcare in Danville. **She can be reached at [lLaughorn@SmartBeginningsDP.org](mailto:lLaughorn@SmartBeginningsDP.org).**



### LOOKING FOR MORE EVENTS?

The Danville Public Library offers a variety of weekly story-time events! Visit [www.readanddanvilleva.org](http://www.readanddanvilleva.org) or call 434-799-5195 to learn more.

## TRAINING TIPS

### Inspiring Infants and Toddlers with Music

- Music can be used to enhance all areas of development.
- Music should have a purpose. Use it for dancing, singing, calming, or even transitions.
- Use those recyclables to make homemade instruments!

### Responsive Caregiving for Infants and Toddlers

- Watch: Look for verbal and non-verbal cues.
- Ask: How can you change the environment to help the child?
- Adapt: Modify your actions to meet the needs of the child.

WE BELIEVE IN...

**SUCCESS**

FOR ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES



On August 8, Smart Beginnings DP launched its Success for All Students, Teachers and Families campaign with an inspirational welcome-back-to-school event for all elementary teachers in Danville and Pittsylvania County. The event was only possible with the help of our partners: Averett University, DCC, Danville Public Schools, and Pittsylvania County Schools.

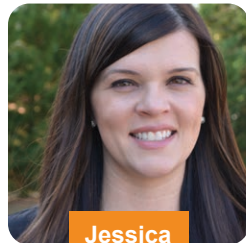
A video featuring local success stories was a highlight of the event and a meaningful reminder that classrooms are places of possibility and transformation. The video features Chris Wilson, Brandie Kendrick, Dr. Corliss Jones, Wesson Claiborne-Felder, Phillip Hayes, Chris Burton, Danielle Jeffers, Carllneshia Johnson, Justin Ferrell, and Dr. Tiffany Franks.



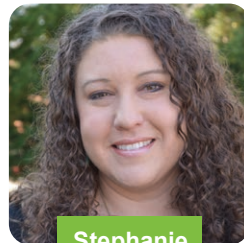
You can watch the video on our homepage, [www.smartbeginningsdp.org](http://www.smartbeginningsdp.org).

## WELCOME TO THE SBDP TEAM!

Jessica Webb joined the Smart Beginnings DP team in October as Operations Coordinator. She received her Bachelors in Business Administration from Ferrum College and has seven years of work experience in Finance and Operations. She can be reached at [jwebb@smartbeginningsdp.org](mailto:jwebb@smartbeginningsdp.org).



Jessica



Stephanie

Stephanie Mann has joined the Smart Beginnings DP team as Strategy Coordinator. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 2005 from the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Most recently, she worked for a private preschool in Greensboro, serving in a variety of roles, from Lead Teacher to Director of Operations. She can be reached at [smann@smartbeginningsdp.org](mailto:smann@smartbeginningsdp.org).

*We are now fully staffed and grateful to have such a talented team!*



For those of you who may not be aware, Laurie Moran was a Smart Beginnings DP board member and avid supporter. At the time of her death, she was serving as Immediate Past Chairman. Laurie's passion for early childhood education will not be forgotten.

## THANK YOU

We could not accomplish all that we do without our board of directors. We are thankful for all that they do to support us in our mission. As 2017 draws to a close, we say good bye and offer a heartfelt thanks to several board members who have completed their terms:

- ▶ **Larry Campell**  
Co-Assistant Pastor of Bible Way Cathedral and City Council Member
- ▶ **Betty Davenport**
- ▶ **Leslie Dobbins**  
Director of ICC, IALR
- ▶ **Laura Singleton**  
Communications Manager, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
- ▶ **Martha Tucker**  
Assistant Professor of Early Childhood, Danville Community College
- ▶ **Linwood Wright**  
Economic Development Consultant, City of Danville

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Smart Beginnings DP is excited to welcome the following new board members whose 3-year terms begin January 1, 2018:

- ▶ **Julie Brown, Ph.D.**  
Director of Advanced Learning, IALR
- ▶ **Betty Jo Foster, Ed.D.**
- ▶ **Joyce Green**  
Probation Supervisor, Danville Court Services
- ▶ **Debra Holley, Ed.D.**  
Vice President for Academic and Student Services, DCC
- ▶ **Alonzo Jones**  
Vice Mayor, City of Danville, and Director of Maintenance and Operations, Danville Public Schools
- ▶ **Kelvin Perry**  
Project Manager, City of Danville



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## Got News?

Email your news to  
[info@smartbeginningsdp.org](mailto:info@smartbeginningsdp.org).