

# SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES

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



*Happy Holidays*  
**from Our Family to Yours**

**Dear Teachers, Caretakers and Partners,**

We are so grateful for your many contributions to children and families. The nurturing interactions, the attention to details, the commitment to make things better...

During this season, we know it can be joyous and/or difficult at times. Smart Beginnings is working hard to prepare for training and support strategies in 2020. If you have ideas, please contact our team. We welcome your insights, and we wish you and your families a very merry holiday season!



*Jessie Barksdale*  
Chairman, Board of Directors



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1. Start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).
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## TRAINING TIPS

### Boys Are Wired to Move

- Remember to create a boy-friendly classroom by clearly defining areas for exploration and play with a variety of materials that create opportunities for hands on, creative, and whole-body experiences.
- Perform an annual classroom inventory to ensure you have materials that meet the interests of boys and girls, including boy-specific dress up items.
- Create opportunities for males (fathers, caregivers, or community helpers) to volunteer in your classroom.
- When interacting with boys, get down on their level and remember that it can be hard for them to make eye contact.
- Remember that boys' brains are designed differently from girls. It is part of their being to act, do, and think the way they do. Focus on their strengths to help guide their learning and behavior.

### Math is Everywhere!

- The development of math concepts begins at birth. This development grows over time through adult interaction where mathematical language is used...your bottle is full, the bowl is empty, or would you like more?
- Infants can hear the patterns in the songs we sing to them and the books we read.
- Young children love to place items in a line. The next time a child lines up their goldfish crackers, point to each cracker individually as you count down the row. Before you know it, you'll see the children modeling this same number sense skill.
- When a toddler notices the patterns on their shirt, extend their learning by naming and pointing to the pattern: your shirt is red, orange, red, orange, red, orange.
- When you fill the sensory table with soapy water, add containers of different sizes. As the children are filling and dumping, use the phrases empty, full, more, and less to describe the contents.

### The Marigold Effect: The Power of Play and Positivity

- Prioritize your day and individualize curriculum with intention.
- Allow for a substantial portion of the day (1/3) to be intentional play.
- Engage in intentional play with children to scaffold learning and development.
- Use discipline as a time to nurture, teach, guide and build on a child's skills.

### 1-2-3 READ!

- Storybook reading is a powerful tool for promoting literacy development in young children.
- Through sustained interactions with books and materials in a literacy-rich environment, children develop concepts about print, an ability to retell stories from illustrations, and a love of books, all which are precursors to their ability to read.



### Celebrate or Memorialize a Loved One

You can celebrate a loved one or special life event with a donation to Smart Beginnings DP. Call us today to learn more about an Honorarium or Memorial gift. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

# UPCOMING TRAININGS

Except where noted, contact Smart Beginnings at (434) 797-8887 or [info@smartbeginningsdp.org](mailto:info@smartbeginningsdp.org) to register.



## JANUARY

January 7, 2020 | 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

### POTATOES, PEAS AND PEARS

Smart Beginnings DP  
133 Robertson Ave, Danville, VA  
Trainer: Stephanie Mann, ITS Piedmont Southside  
Register by December 31.



January 18, 2020 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

### CREATING A CULTURALLY SENSITIVE CLASSROOM

Open Bible Baptist Church  
20669 US-29, Chatham, VA  
Trainer: Becky Tickle, ITS Piedmont Southside  
Register by January 8.

January 11, 2020 | 10:30 am -1:00 pm

### POTATOES, PEAS AND PEARS

South Boston Library  
509 Broad Street, South Boston, VA  
Trainer: Stephanie Mann, ITS Piedmont Southside  
Register by January 3.

January 25, 2020 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

### BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE INFANT AND TODDLER PROGRAM

Smart Beginnings DP | 133 Robertson Ave, Danville, VA  
Trainer: Brandie Kendrick  
Register by January 17.



## FEBRUARY

February 1 and 8, 2020 | 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

### 123 READ

Timberlake United Methodist Church  
21649 Timberlake Rd, Lynchburg, VA  
Trainers: Becky Tickle and Stephanie Mann, ITS Piedmont Southside  
Register online at [www.va-itsnetwork.org](http://www.va-itsnetwork.org) by January 24.

February 25 | 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

### 123 READ REFRESHER

Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania  
133 Robertson Avenue, Danville, VA  
Trainer: Stephanie Mann, ITS Piedmont Southside  
Register by February 18.



February 29, 2020 | 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

### BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE INFANT AND TODDLER PROGRAM

South Boston Library  
509 Broad Street, South Boston, VA  
Trainer: Brandie Kendrick  
Register by February 21.



## MARCH

March 7, 2020 | 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

### COMMUNICATION: IT'S MORE THAN JUST TALKING

Smart Beginnings DP | 133 Robertson Ave, Danville, VA  
Trainer: Stephanie Mann, ITS Piedmont Southside  
Register by February 28.

March 7, 2020 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### GIVING INFANTS AND TODDLERS THEIR BEST CHANCE

Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center | 118 E Danville Street, South Hill, VA  
Trainer: Becky Tickle, ITS Piedmont Southside  
Register by February 24.

## MAY

May 7, 2020 | 6-8:30 pm

### CREATING A CULTURALLY SENSITIVE CLASSROOM

New College Institute | 191 Fayette St, Martinsville, VA  
Trainer: Becky Tickle, ITS Piedmont Southside  
Email [ruthanne@smartbeginningsmhc.org](mailto:ruthanne@smartbeginningsmhc.org) or call 276.403.5963 to register. Register by April 30.



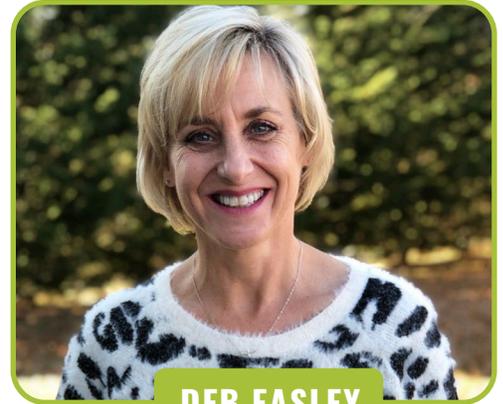


## GRATEFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP!

Smart Beginnings is grateful to **Kenny Lewis** and **Gary Wasson** for their board leadership the past three years. While both will remain steadfast advocates of school readiness, they are stepping away from their formal positions on the board to make room for retirement and other adventures. Smart Beginnings DP relies on the generous donations of time, insight and support of individuals like Kenny and Gary to make a difference in the lives of young children.

## SBDP WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

**Deb Easley** joined Smart Beginnings DP as Director of Teacher Development on October 14. Deb will work closely with the Success for All pilot team at Johnson to ensure significant growth in 3rd grade reading proficiency pass rates. She will also contribute to long term strategic planning related to regional training and infrastructure for teachers working with children ages 3 to 8. Deb holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Shippensburg University and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Averett University. She has ten years of business and accounting experience, and sixteen years of teaching experience. Deb and her husband, Duke, live in Martinsville and are proud parents to two Virginia Tech daughters.



DEB EASLEY

Smart Beginnings DP also welcomed **Jessica Breakley** as Training Coordinator on November 4. Jessica will develop SBDP's annual training schedule, coordinate all aspects of training events, and build positive relationships among trainers, staff, community partners and early childhood educators. Jessica previously worked for Goodyear, most recently as Human Resource Specialist. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Education from Liberty University. When she's not working, Jessica enjoys spending time with her husband, spoiling her children, reading, and baking.



JESSICA BREAKLEY

Welcome Deb and Jessica!

### Announcements

Congratulations to Lindsay Allen and Jennifer Underwood, VPI teachers with Danville Public Schools, for completing the Pre-K CLASS Certification.

### Donor Appreciation

- ▶ Ann Vandervliet Stratton (in honor of Sonya Wolen)
- ▶ William Gentry / The Gentry Farm



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