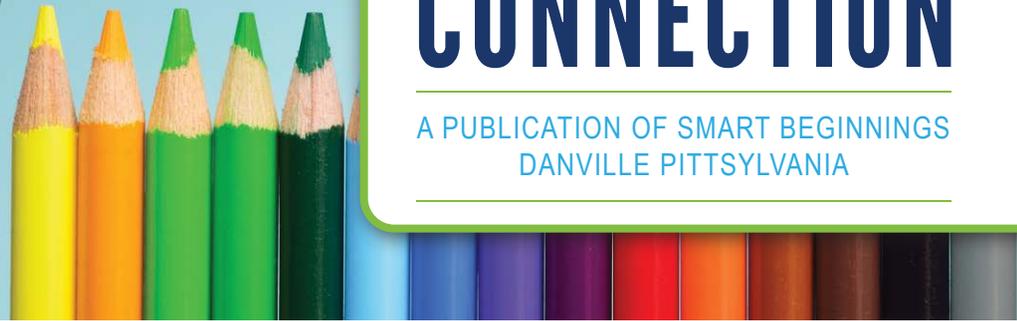




Childcare CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF SMART BEGINNINGS
DANVILLE PITTSYLVANIA

JULY 2017



WE BELIEVE IN SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES

Teaching is world-changing work. Children crave thoughtful, caring adults who can nurture and challenge them, coach and guide them, understand and care about them. Classrooms are places of possibility and transformation for not only young people, but also for teachers.

Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania (SBDP) knows teachers need support. That's why SBDP has made significant investments in high quality, comprehensive training and support for teachers Pre-K through third grade in both public school systems. The goal is to decrease classroom disruptions and increase the capacity to teach and learn, leading to an overall increase in third grade reading proficiency.

To inspire and support all of our local teachers, SBDP is kicking off a *Success for All Students, Teachers, and Families* campaign on **Tuesday, August 8 at 8 a.m. at Averett University's North Campus**. The event will feature an inspirational speaker, Kim Hughes. Kim is a 30+ year veteran of education with master's degrees in both elementary education and school leadership/administration.

All participants will receive a free t-shirt at the event! If you would like to attend, please register by Friday, July 14 to info@smartbeginningsdp.org or call 434-797-8887.



SAVE THE DATE

SBDP's 6th Annual
Early Learning Symposium

Saturday
September 16, 2017

8:30am - 12:30pm
Institute for Advanced Learning
and Research

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the following childcare centers and family day homes who recently completed the VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network training with Becky Tickle, the region's infant and toddler specialist:

Bedford: Little Light Early Learning Center

Danville: Garnetta Deshazor-Bennett, Small World Child Care, Tot Spot Plus Child Care, Tot Spot Child Care, Trinity United Methodist Church Child Care, Wanda Joyner

Fieldale: Barbara Staples

Hurt: Ashley Chapman

Lynchburg: Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church Early Learning Center

Madison Heights: Belinda Lewis

If you're interested in receiving one-on-one personalized training for your infant or toddler classroom, please contact Becky Tickle at 434-797-8887.

TRAINING TIPS

Teaching and Caring for Multiple Age Groups



- Children of all ages benefit from exposure to each other: the older children develop social skills by helping and caring for the younger children; and the younger children learn more complex skills because they are watching the older children.
- Have enough toys for each age group
- Separate non-mobile and almost mobile children from older children
- Ensure furnishings are appropriate for all age groups

Conscious Discipline



- Conscious Discipline empowers adults to consciously respond to daily conflict, transforming it into an opportunity to teach critical life skills to children.
- The basis for Conscious Discipline is connections. The four best connections are eye contact, touch, playfulness and presence.
- Be a STAR: Smile, Take a deep breath, And Relax. This will make you more conscious of your reactions.
- Understand that the way you think dictates how you feel, which dictates how you act.

Keeping Our Children Safe: Indoors and Out



- Keeping children safe indoors and out is a caregiver's top priority!
- Plan ahead
- Childproof the environment
- Lock up medications
- Be aware of food allergies
- Look for life threatening hazards on the playground
- Have a plan in place for emergencies
- Be vigilant

ASK BECKY



How can I protect infants and toddlers in the summer sun?

It's summer time and that means people are outside enjoying the weather. Here are some tips during the hotter months to make sure the infants and toddlers in your care are properly protected from the sun's rays:

1. Sunscreen should be applied to all exposed areas at least 30 minutes before going outside.
2. Use sunscreen even on cloudy days.
3. Look for a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher, UVB and UVA protection.
4. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours, after swimming or toweling off.
5. Sunscreen's shelf life is about three years. Check the date!

by **Becky Tickle**
Infant and Toddler Specialist

For more info go to: https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/sun-safety.htm

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Smart Beginnings is grateful for the financial support of the following donors:

- **Jessie Barksdale**
- **Dr. Sue Davis**
- **Leslie Dobbins**
- **Tricia Gammon**
- **Stephen Gay (via AmazonSmile)**
- **Jon Horin**
- **Junior Wednesday Club**
- **Cathy Liles**
- **Earl Reynolds**
- **Ann V. Stratton**
- **Martha Tucker**
- **Linwood Wright**

To donate to SBDP through Amazon Smile start your shopping here: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3316578>.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Follow us on Facebook: @SmartBeginningsDP

August 7

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Institute for Advanced Learning & Research
150 Slayton Ave., Danville
Lunch will be provided.

(Back by popular demand!)

August 22

SURVIVING AND THRIVING: TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE

For Families/Caregivers

6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

PATHS, 705 Main St., Danville

August 23

SURVIVING AND THRIVING: TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE

For Professionals

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Institute for Advanced Learning & Research
150 Slayton Ave., Danville

September 16

ANNUAL EARLY LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Institute for Advanced Learning & Research
150 Slayton Ave., Danville

Registration required: info@smartbeginningsdp.org or 434-797-8887

Summer Activities at the Danville Public Library

This summer the Danville Public Library (511 Patton St.) has a variety of free activities available for both children and adults.

- The Summer Reading Program is open to everyone and runs from June 1 to July 30. There are book challenges for all ages.
- Beginning Monday, July 10, there is a City by Design 3D Printing class for adults. Sign up for this three-part workshop (the class is also held July 17 & 24) to design and 3D print a small city to be displayed in the library. Registration is required at www.playdanvilleva.com.
- Family Fun Nights will be held every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Visit the library's website for more classes and activities:
<http://www.readdanvilleva.org/>



Visit the Virginia Museum of Natural History

See a flying Pteranodon with a 20-foot-wing-span. Learn about Virginia's rich natural and geological history. Discover antelope from Africa. All of this and more, is at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville.

Visit the museum Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for ages 3-18 and free for children under 3.

For more information visit www.vmnh.net or call 276-634-4141.



Top row L to R: Jamaira Richardson, Charmita Pool, Ella Whittle, Rowan Faucette, Logan Piercy. Bottom row L to R: Sherron Kennedy, Chudney Griffith, Amanda Shepherd, Cassandra Walton, LaKendra Lipscomb.

Not pictured: Heather Taylor, Randi Breeden

Davenport Institute Update

The inaugural cohort of the Davenport Institute has completed their first semester at Danville Community College. The students will continue classes this summer and complete their Career Studies Certificates in Early Childhood Development in the winter.

Members of the Davenport Institute **receive financial, academic and life support** while enrolled in the program. Exemplary students have access to the Fellows Program, which provides additional monetary support, leadership and advocacy opportunities.

Recruitment for the second cohort (beginning fall 2017) is going on now. To learn more about this opportunity, contact Martha Tucker at DCC at mtucker@dcc.vccs.edu or 434-797-6434.

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

In March, a cross-sector of community members committed to helping local families attended the Strong Foundations conference, hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank in Washington, D.C. Sessions featured the latest research on early childhood development, education and the workforce, and community impact.



Conference attendees included:

- **Dr. Sue Davis**, Chair of the Department of Education & Director of Teacher Education, Averett University
- **Denise Dawson**, Special Education Coordinator, Pittsylvania County Schools
- **Dr. Alexis Ehrhardt**, Executive Director, Averett University Center for Community Engagement and Career Competitiveness
- **Wesson Felder**, Social Worker, Danville Public Schools
- **Jennifer Gregory**, Executive Director, Middle Border Forward
- **Dean Hairston**, Board Chair, Neighborhood Development Corporation
- **Kenny Lewis**, Founder, Danville Church-Based Tutorial Program, Inc. and Better Together
- **Amanda Oakes**, Director of Prevention Services, Danville Pittsylvania Community Services
- **Angela Wells**, Director of Innovation & Implementation, Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania



CENTER FOR HOUSING EDUCATION OPENS IN DANVILLE

Looking to buy a house, but have questions? Visit the new Center for Housing Education at 502 Franklin St. in Danville. The center, which is the first of its kind in Virginia, is open to anyone and all services are free. It is intended to be a one-stop-shop for all aspects of home ownership and maintenance. Contact Director Kimberly Walker at 434-793-2343.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

Achievement Gaps Start Early and Persist

- ▶ Children of low income status are more likely to lag behind. They hear and know fewer words, demonstrate less academic readiness, have lower reading scores, lower math scores and are less likely to graduate high school.

Brains Are Built Through Experiences

- ▶ Caregivers who are responsive to a child's signals through "serve and return" interactions facilitate healthy brain architecture.
- ▶ A child without supportive adults who experiences "toxic stress" can develop weakened brain architecture.

Community Development Investments Matter

- ▶ Community centers and libraries, health care clinics, childcare, parks and recreation, affordable housing, and healthy food outlets all make a difference in the future of children and families.

Valuable Skills are Developed in Childhood

- ▶ Early childhood and adolescence are critical times for forming capabilities employers need.
- ▶ Skills such as self-regulation, cognitive flexibility, teamwork, critical thinking, and planning are formed and developed during this time.



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

Got News?

Email your news to
ETomlinson@smartbeginningsdp.org.