

SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES

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



MOMENTUM IN EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVOCACY

Over and over, research has proven that the early years of a child's development are critical to long-term success; therefore, national and state level debates over the effectiveness and ultimate funding of early childhood intervention through high-quality educational programs often do not seem logical.

When governing bodies debate the efficacy of such programs and fail to financially support the basic programmatic structure, the burden placed on cash-strapped localities creates a system of conflicting priorities. Children grow up quickly, and impressionable years are lost. Ultimately, school divisions struggle to meet individual needs that have escalated by the time children enter kindergarten.

Although Virginia has lagged behind other states in the funding of early childhood initiatives, there is more positive discussion at the 2018 legislative level along with additional funding possibilities. We applaud the momentum created by this advocacy and look forward to future conversations that result in progressive changes in the lives and futures of Virginia's children.

If you are in the field, please continue to take advantage of the high-quality training provided by Smart Beginnings DP or VA Quality. If you are ready to continue your education in early childhood development, learn more about the Pathfinders or other scholarships, and programs at Danville Community College, Averett, Longwood, or James Madison Universities. Together, we can strengthen the system of individuals and organizations caring for and educating young children.



Sue Davis, Ed.D.

SBDP BOARD CHAIR

**Chair, Department of Education, and Director of
Teacher Education at Averett University**

SAVE THE DATE!



Smart Beginnings' 7th Annual Early Learning Symposium will be Saturday, September 15, 2018. We are bringing back one of our most popular keynote speakers, Kimberly P. Johnson.

*You will leave encouraged
and inspired!*

CELEBRATING CREATIVE MINDS

Kickstart *Week of the Young Child* with a free workshop featuring Mandy Bennett that will challenge you to use creative thinking to positively impact literacy.

DATE: Saturday, April 14
TIME: 8:30am – 12:30pm

PLACE: Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 6

How to Register: email info@smartbeginningsdp.org or call 797-8887

Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration that puts the spotlight on early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. This special week is hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). NAEYC offers the following ideas for celebrating this year:



Music Monday!

Children develop math, language, and literacy skills through music, all while having fun and being active!

TRY THIS: Find the beat to connect music, movement, and math. Practice clapping, drumming, or stomping to the beat of the music while counting.



Tasty Tuesday

Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more.

TRY THIS: Measure your ingredients while making your snacks! Ask children if they'd like the same or different amounts of each ingredient.



Work Together Wednesday

When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills.

TRY THIS: Practice organizing blocks by size! Try building a block tower with large blocks on the bottom and little blocks on top!



Artsy Thursday

Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands.

TRY THIS: Bring art outdoors! Offer dark and light paper, chalk and pastels, and suggest children create their own versions of the day and night sky!



Family Friday

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners.

TRY THIS: Invite parents for a Family Friday breakfast, where children can prepare and share breakfast treats with their families!

Find additional resources to help you here: <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/resources>.



CREATING GOOD ORAL HEALTH FOR INFANTS

By Becky Tickle, Infant and Toddler Specialist

If a child's teeth are infected or lost too early due to baby bottle tooth decay, they may develop poor eating habits, speech problems, crooked teeth, and damaged adult teeth. Follow these simple steps to reduce their risk:

- Remind parents to brush their child's teeth with fluoride toothpaste (*follow instructions on package*).
- Remind parents to schedule baby's first visit to the dentist by age 1.
- Never fill bottles with sugar water or soft drinks.
- Never allow children to fall asleep with a bottle containing anything but water.
- Remind parents to reduce the sugar in their child's diet, especially between meals.

Source: www.cdc.gov/oralhealth



TRAINING TIPS

In case you missed our recent trainings, here are key points that may be helpful...



Responsive Caregiving

- Pay attention to the social and emotional climate of infant and toddler settings
- Use caregiving routines to support social emotional development
- The physical environment can promote social emotional development in infants and toddlers
- Caregivers need to intentionally build social emotional skills in infants and toddlers
- Support families in promoting routines, environments, and targeted strategies that promote social emotional development of infants and toddlers



Emergency Preparedness

- The VDSS website (www.dss.virginia.gov/) has everything you need to create an Emergency Preparedness Plan. Click on Child Care > Child Day Care > Child Day Centers or Family Day Homes.
- Include “lockdown procedures” in your plan for how to secure the building.
- Don’t forget to include a secondary location for evacuation. You may need this in an emergency situation that affects your primary location. This is especially important for family day homes.
- Include information staff may need to know when the director is unavailable, such as: where important documents are kept, allergy information and emergency medications.
- Have a plan for how you are going to contact families and staff during and after an emergency.



Understanding Children Who Bite

- Biting is a developmentally appropriate behavior!
- Biting is usually seen in toddlers and two-year-olds. As children gain self-control, develop problem solving skills, and are able to verbalize their needs, they no longer need to bite.
- Observe and record where, when, and in what context the biting occurs so you can understand the reason behind the biting. For example, was a toy taken away?
- Make sure children’s sensory needs are being met. Offer foods with a variety of textures.
- Avoid labeling a child as a “biter.”
- Avoid giving too much attention to a child who bites after an incident. It may reinforce the behavior and cause a child to repeat it.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Be sure to check our website, www.smartbeginningsdp.org for new trainings!

April 14

CELEBRATING CREATIVE MINDS

8:30am - 12:30pm

Institute for Advanced Learning and Research

TO REGISTER:

info@smartbeginningsdp.org or 434-797-8887

June 7

VA QUALITY DIRECTORS NETWORK: CHILDCARE GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FUNDRAISING

11:45am - 1pm

United Way of Danville

TO REGISTER:

talitha@uwrva.org or 276-806-5764

August 4

123 READ!

Abundant Life

TO REGISTER:

btickle@va-itsnetwork.com or 434-797-8887

August 11

123 READ!

Abundant Life

TO REGISTER:

btickle@va-itsnetwork.com or 434-797-8887

September 15

7TH ANNUAL EARLY LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

Keynote: Kimberly P. Johnson

8:30am-3:30pm

Institute for Advanced Learning and Research

UPDATED VA QUALITY WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE

Virginia Quality is the state's rating system for licensed preschool providers. Visit www.virginiaquality.com to learn more about quality childcare and level ratings obtained by program participants.



Level 1: Basic Health & Safety The program is in compliance with requirements of state and local regulatory agencies.

Level 2: Education & Qualifications The program recognizes the importance of having teachers who have or are working towards formal education in child development or early childhood education.

Level 3: Curriculum & Assessment The program uses curriculum, child assessment, and intentional teaching that promotes children's development and incorporates state early learning guidelines.

Level 4: Environment The program strives to have children engaged in meaningful learning and play by offering them a variety of materials and activities throughout the day.

Level 5: Interactions Daily, supportive interactions between teachers and children form the foundation for social and cognitive learning, significantly impacting school readiness.

SBDP RECEIVES \$55,000 GRANT

SBDP will receive \$55,000 over the next 3 years to continue support for the Smart Beginnings for Southside Families initiative. The funding is part of a \$1 million dollar award from the Kellogg Foundation to the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF).

MT. HERMON LIBRARY HAS MOVED!

The library's new address is 4058 Franklin Turnpike, Danville, VA 24540 (next to Tuscarora Village Shopping Center).



CELEBRATE OR MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE

with a contribution to school readiness. 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.



It's Time to Register for Kindergarten

Kindergarten registration has begun in both Danville and Pittsylvania County Schools! If you have a child who will be five years old by September 30 and haven't registered, contact your child's school today to make an appointment.

WHAT YOU MAY NEED TO REGISTER:

- Registration forms (*available at the school*)
- Valid parent/guardian photo ID
- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Virginia Physical with required immunizations
- Three proof of residency documents

Some exceptions may apply. Call your school for more details.



133 Robertson Avenue
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info@SmartBeginningsDP.org

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