



NEW \$SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

A new scholarship is available **for early childhood professionals** who want to expand their knowledge of the field by pursuing a certificate or degree. The Project Pathfinders Scholarship funds up to two courses a semester taken at any community college in Virginia.



Courses can be taken online or on the ground. It also covers the cost of books (up to \$150 per class) and any school related fees.

If you would like to know more about online course options, you can find additional information on each community college's website or by contacting the Project Pathfinders scholarship advisor,

Mila Spaulding at pathfinders@vecf.org or 804-749-8149.

DONATION TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD

A **\$1 million** donation from Ben and Betty Davenport of Pittsylvania County has established the Davenport Early Childhood Development Institute at four community colleges including Danville, Patrick Henry, Virginia Western and New River. The Institute will provide training, professional development, coaching and a fellows program that will offer financial incentives, service opportunities and leadership experiences to select students. **For more information contact Martha Tucker at Danville Community College via email mtucker@dcc.vccs.edu or 434-797-6434.**

Childcare Professionals Attend Business Summit

Child Care Aware of Virginia held the second annual Child Care & Early Education Business Summit on Dec. 1 in Glen Allen. Three local childcare professionals (pictured at right) — Sharon Motley, owner of Abundant Life; Anna Warren, owner/director of Little Blessings Child Care; and Laverne Crews, owner/director of Small World Child Care — attended. The summit focused on effective childcare business practices and resources. Sessions included Child Care in a Box: The VA Shared Services Network; Maximizing Food Dollars: Understanding the Federal Food Program, Promoting Healthy Meals & Snacks; and Marketing Your Program.



Playing Outside in Winter

The arrival of colder weather doesn't mean children should be kept inside all day. There are several health benefits to outdoor play in the winter. For instance, the Vitamin D children receive from exposure to the sun is essential to their growth and can have a large effect on their mood. According to the California Childcare Health Program While outdoor activity is recommended, it is still important to pay attention to the temperature, the wind chill factor and how children are dressed. Once you know the temperature and wind chill factor, check the Child Care Weather Watch chart, which will help you determine whether outdoor play is safe.

The chart can be found at <https://ncrlap.org/Resources/>

Steps for Becoming a Subsidy Provider

Interested in becoming a subsidy provider? Provided below is a list of steps to complete.

1. Print, complete and return the [Application for Enrollment to be a Provider of Subsidized Child Care](#) and provide your current private pay Child Care Rates to begin the approval process. (The application can be found at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/files/InstructionsforCompletingApplication.pdf>.)
2. You will be provided information about the Virginia Preservice Training for Child Care Staff and will be assigned to the appropriate agency for processing.
3. The assigned agency will contact you and schedule attendance at the next available Subsidy Orientation Session or provide you with a New Vendor Approval Packet. Note: The completed New Vendor Approval Packet must be submitted to the VDSS Child Care Subsidy Program within **60 days** of receipt.
4. Once your New Vendor Approval Packet is received by VDSS, a licensing representative from the Division of Licensing Programs will schedule a pre-approval inspection.
5. If approved, the Child Care Subsidy Program will email you a Vendor Agreement to review and sign. Local departments of social services will use the completed Vendor Agreement as verification of your participation in the Child Care Subsidy Program.



Safety Tips

1. Set time limits and come inside periodically to warm up.
2. Watch out for common warning signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
3. Dress children in multiple loose layers so they stay dry and warm.
4. Rule of Thumb: Dress children in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.
5. Check surroundings beforehand to see if there are any icy or slippery patches.



(Provided by The American Academy of Pediatrics)

For additional information, including policies, forms, manuals, and notices visit https://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/assistance_providers.cgi.





Ask Becky

By Becky Tickle,
Infant and Toddler Specialist

Do Babies Really Play?

Play time is a baby's "work." Infants and toddlers need opportunities to build skills through interactions with toys and caregivers.

Here are some ways to make the most of playtime:

- **Follow the child's lead** — provide an object, toy, or activity for the baby or toddler and then see what he does with it. It's okay if it's not the "right" way...let him show you a "new way."
- **Go slowly** — it's great to show the child how a toy works, but try to hold off on "doing it for her" every time. You can begin something, such as stacking one block on another, and then encourage her to give it a try. Providing just enough help to keep frustration at bay motivates the child to learn new skills.
- **Read the child's signals** — an infant may not be able to tell you using words when he's had enough or when he's frustrated. But he has other ways — like using sounds, facial expressions and gestures. Reading the signals that precede a tantrum help you know when to jump in or change to a new activity. Reading his signals can also tell you what activities the child prefers.

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1081-tips-on-playing-with-babies-and-toddlers>



Support Smart Beginnings and Celebrate Your Loved Ones

Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania (SBDP) is pleased to provide an opportunity for you to honor or remember a loved one. Consider making an honorarium or memorial gift to SBDP that will make a difference in the lives of young children in Danville and Pittsylvania County. Honorarium gifts are appropriate for birthdays, baptisms, bar and bat mitzvahs, graduations, house warmings, weddings, new babies and other special occasions.

All contributions are recognized with a card to the individual or family of the namesake for the gift (the amount is not included). Honorariums and memorial gifts will be recognized in the quarterly newsletter.

Checks should be made out to Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania and can be mailed to 133 Robertson Ave., Danville, VA 24541. In addition, include information concerning who should be notified about the honorarium or memorial.

Support SBDP Through AmazonSmile

Smart Beginnings DP now has an AmazonSmile account:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3316578>.

By clicking the link, you will go directly to smile.amazon.com in support of Smart Beginnings DP. This way you won't have to search among almost a million other organizations.

For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of your purchase price to Smart Beginnings DP.

Mark Your Calendars

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmartBeginningsDP/>

January 21, 2017 – Learn Every Day

9:00am–3:00pm, Institute for Advanced Learning & Research
(150 Slayton Ave., Danville) Lunch will be provided.

RSVP by January 13 to info@smartbeginningsdp.org or 434-797-8887

January 26, 2017 – It's All About Literacy (infants & toddlers, ages 3-4 and after school age)

6:15pm–8:30pm, Regional Center for Advanced Technology & Training
(121 Slayton Ave., Danville) Dinner will be provided.

RSVP by January 20 to info@smartbeginningsdp.org or 434-797-8887

February 2017 – Director Network: Motivating Staff

Follow us on Facebook for more information.

February 18, 2017 – Health and Nutrition Training

9:00am–1:00pm, Place TBA

RSVP by February 10 to info@smartbeginningsdp.org or 434-797-8887

March 2017 – Early Math

Follow us on Facebook for more information.

March 18, 2017 – Working with Multiple Age Children

9:00am–2:00pm, Institute for Advanced Learning & Research
(150 Slayton Ave., Danville) Lunch will be provided.

RSVP by March 10 to info@smartbeginningsdp.org or 434-797-8887



TRAINING Tips

from Leadership Challenges

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Managers handle the day-to-day business like schedules, finances and planning. Leaders raise others to a higher standard through modeling behavior and encouraging them.

TRAITS OF LEADERSHIP

1. Inspiring
2. Confident
3. Honest
4. Fair
5. Enthusiastic

LEADERS

1. Create standards of excellence
2. Set an example to follow
3. Set goals
4. Help others know where to go and how to get there
5. Create opportunities for victory

1-2-3 READ MARTINSVILLE

Participants learned:

1. Strategies for expanding children's language through storytelling and conversations
2. How to select and use books and print materials
3. How to infuse literacy activities within a child's daily routine
4. How to use story props to engage infants and toddlers in early literacy experiences
5. Strategies for involving families in literacy activities

Welcome New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome five new members to our board this year. We extend a warm welcome to:

- **Jon Horin**, director of environmental programs for Noblis
- **Kenny Lewis**, founder of Better Together and Danville's Church Based Tutorial Program
- **Maana K. Parcham**, assistant public defender for the city of Danville
- **Earl Reynolds**, Danville deputy city manager
- **Gary M. Wasson**, CEO/ executive director of the Danville Redevelopment & Housing Authority

Staff Directory

Reach us at
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Helen Jane Hodges, ext. 301
Director of Operations

Angela Wells, ext. 302
Director of Innovation Implementation

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Executive Director

Emily Tomlinson, ext. 304
Director of Public Engagement

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GOT NEWS?

Email your news to
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