Dear Partners,

We remain so impressed and grateful for childcare providers who have continued to serve families despite the risk associated with Covid-19. Thank you for your bravery and service. High five for Helping Hands Child Development Center, Children First Learning Center LLC, Just Kids Child Development Center, Just Kids Too, Learn n Play, True Way Daycare, Penny Bruce, Arketa Washington, Searlet Howard, Cynthia Morton, Abundant Life Child Care and Learning Center, Wanda Joyner, Small World, and Little Blessings!

We hold in our hearts so much affection for families with young children. Employment, school, schedule disruptions, solitude…and yet, parents and caretakers continue to care for, love, play with, and nurture little ones every day. Reassurance and calm interactions matter more than ever before. If you would like a copy of *First Aid for Feelings*, a workbook for you and your child, please let us know.

We give great thanks to the generous donors who made it possible to: distribute rapid response cleaning supplies, issue acknowledgement stipends to childcare providers; and to distribute more than 450 “Let’s Play!” play boxes for young children at home, and to consolidate and share ever changing government guidance. Our funders include the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, Danville Regional Foundation, VA Early Childhood Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and individual donors.

Thanks also to our distribution partners for various response projects: Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Healthy Families & Infant Toddler Connection at Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services, WIC/Department of Health, Danville DSS, Pittsylvania County DSS, DPS, PCS, CIC Head Start, PCCA Head Start, Sovah Health, City of Danville, Riverview Rotary and the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce.

There is hurt, fear, and uncertainty in our world. But together, we will listen, seek to understand, and grow together as a community. We must set the example for our children. Together, we will ensure that all children regardless of race, or economic status have access to nurturing environments, caring adults and high-quality learning experiences.

Let’s get started.

The Smart Beginnings Team

Ann Vandervliet Stratton, Executive Director
My relationship with Healthy Families began in December 1998. At the time, I was a 17-year-old high school senior, who would eventually drop out. As a new single mom, I was nervous and afraid. I had no idea how to be a good parent… given my lack of knowledge and resources. This all changed when I met Patricia Hunt, my Healthy Families Family Support Worker.

Patricia visited me once a week in the beginning and once a month as I progressed through the program. She provided me with information on my child’s development, taught me parenting skills, encouraged me to go to college, and educated me about providing a healthy diet for my child. During the home visits, we discovered my son had speech issues. He was accepted into early intervention services, where his issues were corrected. When he entered Kindergarten, he was the best reader in his class! He went on to become a high school Honor Graduate.

I continued my education and received a Master's Degree in Education from Liberty University in 2012. I am now a Training Coordinator at Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania, where I can give back to the community. I know without a shadow of a doubt: our accomplishments would have been impossible without the help from Healthy Families. It’s a life changer and I’m forever grateful.

Healthy Families home visiting services are provided FREE of charge. To begin receiving Healthy Families services, parents must be residents of Danville or Pittsylvania County, expecting a baby, or parenting a baby less than three months old.

For more information, call 799-0456.

Free Support for Infant and Toddler Classrooms!

Are you looking for creative ideas, resources, or support for your infant and toddler classrooms? Our Infant Toddler Specialists work side by side with staff to develop a plan that meets your needs and builds on the strengths of your program. Programs are also eligible to receive onsite training, resources, and developmentally appropriate materials for their classrooms. Call 797-8887 or email Training@SmartBeginningsDP.org for more information!
SAVE THE DATES

SBDP’s 9th Annual Early Learning Symposium will take place Saturday, October 17, 2020. Enrollment will be limited to ensure social distancing.

VIRTUAL TRAININGS...COMING UP!
Call 797-8887 or email Training@SmartBeginningsDP.org to register.

INFANT FEEDING PRACTICES
July 7, 6:30-8:00 pm
July 10, 1:00-2:30 pm

THE ART OF SELF CARE
July 14, 6:30-8:00 pm
July 16, 1:00-2:30 pm

EATING: A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR TODDLERS
July 21, 6:30-8:00 pm
July 24, 1:00-2:30 pm

EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF NATURE
July 28, 6:30-8:00 pm
July 30, 1:00-2:30 pm

BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL SERIES
Aug. 4 (Session 1), 12:30-2:30 pm
Aug. 11 (Session 2), 12:30-2:30 pm
Aug. 18 (Session 3), 12:30-2:30 pm
Aug. 25 (Series 4), 12:30-2:30 pm
Sept. 1 (Session 5), 12:30-2:30 pm
Sept. 8 (Session 6), 12:30-2:30 pm

PROGRAM OBSERVATION & IMPROVEMENT
Aug. 7, 1:00-2:30 pm
Aug. 27, 6:30-8:00 pm

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE FIT
Aug. 20, 6:30-8:00 pm

Phase II Guidance for Childcare Providers

The Governor’s Executive Order 63 requiring face coverings, does NOT apply to child care programs.

• Group size allowed has increased
  » Under the age of 4: Up to 12 including staff
  » Age 4 and up: Up to 22 including staff
  (as long as following social distancing recommendation of 6 ft. apart)

• Playgrounds: Up to 50 including staff, no mixed age groups and social distancing in place.

• Swimming Pools and Water Activities: Not permitted for leisure- No splash pads or wading pools. Sprinklers may be used with social distancing.

Family members and ALL visitors must wear face coverings when entering child care facility. Masks should not be worn when outside, sleeping or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.

Symptoms to look for in children- fever, cough, nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, sore throat and nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea (up to 30% have no symptoms).

To learn more, visit dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html
NEW UNIFIED EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS for All Children Ages Birth – 5

VA is working across stakeholders and experts to develop a unified set of early learning and development standards for children ages birth to five. The Standards will provide parents and all early childhood providers with a resource for understanding what children should know and should be able to do as they grow and change from birth and before they enter Kindergarten and formal schooling.

“This guidance will replace VA’s Milestones of Child Development, and the Foundation Blocks for Early Learning distributed in the past,” explains Angela Wells, Director of Innovation Implementation. Programs will be able to phase in the use of the updated birth-five standards beginning in 2021-2022.

Training Tips (continued)

Visual Tools for Infants and Toddlers

► Know and use the different learning styles to help teach to all children within your classroom. The different learning styles are:
  » Bodily kinesthetic - learn through movement
  » Visual - learn through seeing
  » Auditory - learn through hearing
  » Logical - learn through problem solving
  » Verbal - learn through words/reading
  » Intrapersonal - learn through self-reflections
  » Interpersonal - learn through interactions with others

► A visual aid is anything that helps a child better understand. Visual aids can be used to help a child communicate, express their emotions, or understand what comes next in their routine. Examples of visual aids you can use:
  » Daily routine picture cards
  » Communication boards
  » Picture with emotions to communicate feelings
  » First/then boards to help children complete tasks

Got News? Send announcements you want to share in the next newsletter to info@smartbeginningsdp.org.