

# SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES

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



## Increased Mental Health Support for Infants and Toddlers

Tamara Coyle is the new full-time Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultant for the Piedmont Roanoke and Piedmont Southside regions. She can provide onsite technical assistance and group training for programs serving infants and toddlers.



Tamara received her bachelor of arts in psychology from the University of Virginia and her master's in social work from Temple University. Tamara is a licensed clinical social worker who also holds her Infant Mental Health Specialist Endorsement (III). She completed her Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellowship/Postgraduate Certificate from the University of Massachusetts-Boston. She spent the last 18 years in Connecticut working as the mental health/disabilities manager for a large Head start/Early Head start program. Tamara is passionate about working with providers, families and young children. She can be reached at (203) 916-2177 or [tamarac@cdr.org](mailto:tamarac@cdr.org).

## Thinking About a Degree in Early Childhood Education?

JMU now offers an Early Childhood Associate Degree to Bachelor of Individualized Study pathway. It is designed for students who have earned an associate's degree in early childhood from a Virginia Community College. Completers of this program earn a four-year degree and are eligible for a Virginia teaching license in PK-3rd Grades. The program is entirely online and can be completed in 2 to 4 years.

If you have an associate's degree in early childhood from DCC and are ready to take the next step, contact one of the following individuals to learn more:

- **Shannon Graves**, Davenport Navigator at DCC [shannon.graves@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:shannon.graves@dcc.vccs.edu) or 434-797-8484
- **Traci Daniel**, Director of Early Childhood Education at DCC [tdaniel@dcc.vccs.edu](mailto:tdaniel@dcc.vccs.edu) or 434-797-6434

## It's Time to Register for Kindergarten

Kindergarten registration for Danville and Pittsylvania County begins Friday, March 8, 2019. Go to the school your child will attend to register. Or for more information, call Danville Public Schools at 799-6400 or Pittsylvania County Schools at 432-2761.



## And, check this out...

Visit [www.studyece.org](http://www.studyece.org) to learn more about early childhood programs at our community colleges. This new website also includes wonderful profiles on some of our local early childhood leaders including Traci Daniel, Brandie Kendrick, and Angela Barnes.

# Play space to open at Danville Science Center this Spring!

The Danville Science Center will open a new gallery for preschoolers this spring. It will encourage experienced-based play and discovery using both fine and gross motor skills as well as age and developmentally appropriate interactives that are right-sized for little learners. The centerpiece,

a 30-foot long steam locomotive climbing and imaginative play structure, will provide an appealing entry point for life-long STEM learning. For more information, please contact Adam Goebel, Executive Director at [agoebel@smv.org](mailto:agoebel@smv.org).

The centerpiece is a 30-foot long steam locomotive climbing and imaginative play structure.



## SBDP Welcomes VA's First Chief School Readiness Officer

SBDP's October board meeting featured Jenna Conway. Ms. Conway is the Chief Deputy of the VA Department of Education and serves as VA's first-ever Chief School Readiness Officer. She coordinates efforts to improve the quality of and access to early childhood education programs across Virginia. The creation of this position marks significant progress!

*Pictured from left to right: Jon Horin, Vice Chairman, SBDP; Jenna Conway, VA's Chief School Readiness Officer; Kathy Glazer, President, VA Early Childhood Foundation; Jessie Barksdale, incoming Board Chairman, SBDP; Dr. Sue Davis, outgoing Board Chairman, SBDP*



## SBDP Hosts First Lady Pamela Northam

Smart Beginnings was honored to host First Lady Pamela Northam's visit to Danville on October 29. Mrs. Northam visited two VA Preschool Initiative (VPI) classrooms and Harvest Corner Child Care Center, taking time to read to the children at each stop.

## SBDP Supports Innovative Approaches to School Readiness

SBDP continues to incubate change through innovative partnerships with both of the local school systems. In Pittsylvania County, SBDP is funding a third year of *Incredible Years for Teachers*. The program provides intensive classroom management training to strengthen management strategies and skills; promote prosocial behavior; and reduce classroom aggression and non-cooperation.

## Appreciation for Our Community Partners

Smart Beginnings hosted an appreciation event last December. It was nice to see so many familiar faces from the early childhood and education communities. Congratulations to **Garnetta Deshazor-Bennett** (Family Day Home); **Wanda Joyner** (Greater United Apostolic Church); and **Anna Warren** (Little Blessings Childcare Inc.) who won the educational resource giveaways.

## Save the Date

8th Annual Early Learning Symposium

Saturday  
September 21

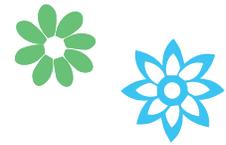
## Give the Gift of Reading

Did you know that a gift of just \$29 can provide a vulnerable child in our community with FREE high-quality, age-appropriate books for a whole year?

Smart Beginnings DP partners with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to provide local children in need with free, brand new, high-quality books from the time they are born until their fifth birthday. One book arrives in the mail each month. If enrolled at birth, a child builds a library of 60 books by age 5!

If you want to give the gift of reading, simply mail a check of any amount payable to Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania to 133 Robertson Avenue, Danville, VA 24541. Note "Imagination Library" in the memo line of the check.

# TRAINING CALENDAR



April 6

## GROWING TOGETHER, LEARNING TOGETHER 4TH ANNUAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

8am - 1pm | New College Institute, Martinsville, VA

Register by March 28. Email [ruthanne@smartbeginningsmhc.org](mailto:ruthanne@smartbeginningsmhc.org) or call 276-403-5528 to register.

April 11

## RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING

6:30pm - 8:30pm | Farmville, VA

Register by April 8

An in-depth look at the continuous process of Watch, Ask, and Adapt. Learn when to guide, teach, expand, watch, or intervene when it comes to infants and toddlers.

Email [info@smartbeginningsdp.org](mailto:info@smartbeginningsdp.org)  
or call 434-797-8887 to  
register for the below trainings.

April 13 or May 4

## INCLUSION

9:00am - 12:00pm

April 13 class: Smart Beginnings | Danville, VA. Register by April 8.

May 4 class: Campbell Co. Library | Rustburg, VA Register by April 29.

Using "People First" Language. Relationship with Families. Understanding Resources in your Community - The ABC's of case studies. Ways to include all students.

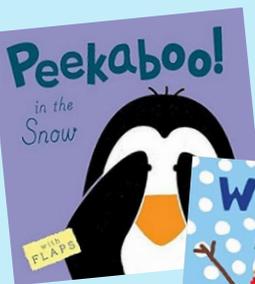
May 9

## 123 READ REFRESHER

6:30pm - 8:30pm | Little Light ECL, Bedford, VA

Register by May 2

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



## Winter Books for Kids

### FOR AGES 0-2:

*Peekaboo! In the Snow*

by Cocoretto

Lift up flaps that are perfect for guessing, prediction and memory skills

*Winter* by Roger Priddy  
Bright Baby Touch and Feel  
Interactive First Book



### FOR AGES 3-5:

*A Wish to be a Christmas Tree*,  
by Colleen Monroe

*No Two Alike*, by Keith Baker



