Did You Know...

90% of brain development occurs in the first 2,000 days of life.

Our national security, crime prevention, and economic prosperity all depend on our investments in the youngest members of our society in the first 2,000 days of life.

Early experiences determine how brains are wired.

Social and emotional skills, sometimes called "soft skills" are as important as cognitive skills in determining success in school, work and life.

High-quality child care at an early age can help prevent crime and increase the likelihood of high school graduation, employment and job retention.

Smart Start
of New Hanover County
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NEW HANOVER COUNTY

Smart Start

of New Hanover County

2014-2015
Programs and Services

Smart Start of New Hanover County

In 1993, North Carolina policymakers created Smart Start as an innovative solution to a problem: Children were coming to school unprepared to learn. Locally, Smart Start of New Hanover County is an independent non-profit agency that serves all children from birth to age 5 and their families with a focus on the unmet needs of children in our community.

We fund services in these three key areas:

Health

We work towards better health outcomes for children because early identification and treatment of health conditions (physical, mental or socio-emotional) positively impact a child's entire life.

Family Support

We support families in building strong foundations for their child's emotional, intellectual, and physical development.

Early Care and Education

We advance the quality of child care so that all young children will have the best possible learning environment.

Early childhood investments produce sustained results at a local, state, and national level and are critical to keeping the United States competitive in a global market.

Birth to Kindergarten: 2,000 days that matter!

We only have 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and their first day of kindergarten. Experiences during these 2,000 days literally determine how a child's brain is wired, lay the groundwork for future health, and form the foundation of the social and emotional skills needed for academic and workplace success.

ABCD (Assuring Better Children's Health & Development)

In collaboration with Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear

Smart Start of New Hanover County serves as a regional hub for six counties in southeastern NC. Funded by Race to the Top Funds, this project works directly with medical practices serving young children to assure regular check-ups and developmental screenings, and supports best practices for providing appropriate early interventions.

Baby FAST ™ (Families and Schools Together-Babies)

Communities In Schools of Cape Fear, 910-343-1901

Intensive support for the entire family is provided for teen parents. Weekly meetings nurture family and social relationships, assist in accessing community support services, and emphasize setting and reaching educational goals.

Child Care Advantage

NHC Department of Social Services, 910-798-3400

Smart Start of NHC provides up to 39% of its total annual state funding to the NHC Department of Social Services' child care subsidy program. Qualifying families receive assistance in paying for high-quality child care for their children birth to age five.

Early Childhood Connections

To increase the teacher education and retention levels in New Hanover County, Dedication to Education grants and support are offered to early childhood professionals. SSECC staff works to advise and inform individuals about appropriate higher education options, promote the Early Educator Certification, and create and manage a county-wide data base which tracks education levels.

Intervention/Inclusion Services

Easter Seals UCP North Carolina & Virginia, 910-392-7003

Supports the full inclusion of young children in child care who have or are at risk for special developmental or behavioral needs. Specialists provide technical assistance and training to classroom professionals, as well as support for parents to navigate the system of early childhood intervention services.

Motheread®/Motheread B.A.B.Y.® (Birth and Beginning Years)

Using children's literature, this nationally recognized model supports parents in their critical role as their child's first and most important teacher. The lessons promote early literacy skills and apply literature to real life family contexts with topics such as bed time routines, coping with crying, expressing needs and feelings, self-awareness, and protecting children from danger.

Parents as Teachers™ (PAT)

Parents are supported in promoting the healthy development of their children and school readiness through the use of an evidence-based home visiting model. Parent knowledge of child development and model parenting practices are fostered, and the early detection of developmental delays is improved.

Raising a Reader™

New Hanover County Public Library, 910-798-6367

Early childhood professionals are provided with materials and strategies for engaging families in reading activities. Families develop book sharing routines with their child which advances early literacy for children birth to age five.

Reach Out and Read

New Hanover County Public Library, 910-798-6367

This nationally recognized, evidence-based program encourages school success by partnering with medical providers to "prescribe" books and shared reading activities for families. At scheduled well-check visits, children ages 6 months to 6 years receive a new, high quality, culturally and age-appropriate book. Primary care providers coach parents in developmentally appropriate reading activities to use at home.

Triple P® - Positive Parenting Program (Level 4 Group)

Using evidence based principles, Triple P offers advice and tools that parents need to raise confident, healthy children, and to build stronger family relationships. Participants must be referred from NHC Department of Social Services.

Touchpoints™ Approach

Multi-disciplinary professionals working with families of young children are trained on the Touchpoints™ Approach developed by renowned pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton, M.D. The goal is to ensure the best outcomes for children by enhancing working relationships between parents and professionals.

weeLiveFIT

A community collaborative effort focused on increasing awareness of the childhood obesity epidemic. Solutions to put young children on a path to a healthy future include a website with information about healthy eating and physical activity and community-wide information sessions and conferences.

SMART START PUZZLES Center

which includes the following services ...

Child Care Referrals

This regional partnership covering seven counties in southeastern NC provides trained specialists who offer families free, customized referrals to child care, after-school, pre-school and summer camps, including location, operating hours, program costs, and quality standards. Information is provided to help families understand and identify high-quality child care. Specialists work with community partners to ensure accurate and current data is shared.

Community Referrals

Knowledgeable referral counselors help families identify and access services to meet their child's needs. Information is available on topics such as child development, early intervention for special needs, child care subsidy, and more.

Resource Room

Early childhood professionals and families can check-out curriculum guides, resource books, videos, children's CDs, and theme boxes with educational toys and activity ideas. Laminating services, die cuts, a computer work station, museum passes, baby wear and other items are also available. Membership requires a small annual fee.

Child Care Professional Training and Technical Assistance

To improve and maintain the quality of care and education for young children, individualized consultation is provided to child care professionals on room arrangement, daily schedule review, and practice assessments using the Environment Rating Scales. Knowledgeable staff lead specialized workshops on topics such as First Aid and CPR, Playground Safety, CLASS™, and many others. Information about CEUs offered in the region is available.

Public Awareness and Outreach

Accurate and relevant information about children birth to age five is shared with parents, community members and public officials through the use of social media, outreach events, and distribution of print materials.

All services are offered by Smart Start of New Hanover County unless otherwise noted.
For more information, call us at 910-815-3731 or visit us at www.newhanoverkids.org.