



Smart Start

Early Childhood Connections

2010-2011 ECC CIRCLE

FACT SHEET

(For Star Rated Child Care Centers)

Each selected *ECC Circle* site will:

- ✓ work closely with the Smart Start team, including staff from Smart Start Early Childhood Connections and Smart Start Child Care Health Consultation, in developing strategies to improve and maintain the level of care and education that is offered.
- ✓ host one staff meeting within 3 weeks of selection to allow the Smart Start team to review the details and the requirements of the grant.
- ✓ attend a training, as assigned, designed to promote social-emotional development for young children. One teacher representative from each classroom must attend the training and will be responsible for facilitating follow-up learning activities that support social-emotional development.
- ✓ complete a self-assessment in each classroom, which will be based upon the appropriate Environment Rating Scale. The teachers, with assistance from the director, will be responsible for completing the self-assessment.
- ✓ allow the Smart Start team to perform pre- and post-assessments related to quality practices in each classroom.

The Smart Start team will:

- ✓ purchase up to \$5000 worth of learning materials for the site (exact amount depending on the allocation of state funds to our local partnership):
 - Indoor learning materials
 - Outdoor learning materials
 - Social-emotional curriculum and resources
- ✓ support the facility in many ways from August 2010 to June 2011. The Smart Start team will use the appropriate Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-R and/or ECERS-R) in each classroom to create a Quality Improvement Plan based on the needs observed. The Smart Start Team will offer support, as needed, to help implement appropriate use of newly purchased learning materials and to maintain high quality standards.
- ✓ facilitate trainings designed especially for selected *ECC Circle* sites that will establish a peer network for early childhood professionals and provide opportunities to enhance skills and abilities. Up to 5 staff may attend each training for free!

Visit Us!

Smart Start of New Hanover County

3001 Wrightsville Avenue • Wilmington, NC

910.815.3731 • www.newhanoverkids.org