



Smart Start Early Childhood Connections

2010-2011 ECC FOCUS GROUPS

FACT SHEET

(For Owners/Operators of Star Rated Family Child Care Homes or Centers in Residences)

Each ECC Focus Group participant will:

- attend **ECC Focus Group** meetings. All selected individuals must attend at least four **ECC Focus Group** meetings throughout the year. Attendance at two meetings September-January and another two meetings February-June is required. The meetings will be FREE for selected individuals and DCD in-service credits will be issued.
- participate in peer-mentoring opportunities. All selected individuals must participate in at least four peer-mentoring visits throughout the year (arranged by the Smart Start team). Two visits must occur between September and January and another two visits between February and June. The peer-mentoring visits will provide an opportunity to examine daily routines, such as circle time, transitions, and health/safety practices, as well as particular curriculum implementation and business practices.

The Smart Start team will:

- facilitate a variety **ECC Focus Group** meetings to help establish a peer network for early childhood professionals and to provide opportunities to enhance skills and abilities.
- help to organize and support peer-mentoring visits between **ECC Focus Group** participants.
- issue stipends, based on length of employment, to individuals participating in the **ECC Focus Groups**. Each individual who attend the required meetings and participates in the peer-mentoring visits will receive two stipends per year – issued approximately in February and June. Below is an amount summary:

Years in Operation	Amount of Each Stipend
0-2 years	\$100
2-4 years	\$150
4+ years	\$200

Visit Us!

Smart Start of New Hanover County

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