



Highlights of 2013-2014 Smart Start of New Hanover County Program/Activity Results

Smart Start of NHC funded 10 separate, direct service activities serving children birth to 5 years of age and their families in NHC through a program allocation of \$2,010,326.00 state tax dollars in 2013-14. These activities addressed documented needs in early care & education, health, and family support arenas and produced the following unduplicated number of specific supports. State funds leveraged over \$302,127.00 of additional funds from other sources in support of local Smart Start work.

Smart Start PUZZLES Center:

445 child care providers in 73 child care sites serving a total of over 5,880 children participated in at least one of the 50 Smart Start-funded trainings/workshops designed to improve/enhance their knowledge of early childhood issues and increase their skills in providing high quality, age-appropriate early childhood programs.

24 child care facilities serving 2,442 children received on-site technical assistance with developmentally appropriate practices, positive staff/child interactions, activity ideas, classroom management, and support in the re-licensing process.

Over 110 child care providers accessed age-appropriate information and materials provided by Smart Start PUZZLES Center Resource Room one or more times during the year.

Over 230 families acquired PUZZLES Center Resource Room memberships providing them with a year's worth of access to early childhood and parenting books and materials, museum passes, and community resource and other information.

1600 "Kindergarten Readiness" packets were distributed to families of 4-year-olds enrolled in local child care facilities to support positive transitions into the school system.

34 child care providers and other community members who work with families of young children successfully completed Touchpoints Approach™ training, a model based on the ground-breaking work in the field of child development by Children's Hospital Boston and renowned pediatrician Dr. T. Berry Brazelton. The training offers service providers concrete ways to take family-centered, relationship-based direct service to a new level of understanding with their families - in the service of their children. 90 previously trained service providers in the community attended at least one Touchpoints Reflective Practice session to continually enhance and expand the quality of their direct work with families.



Smart Start Early Childhood Connections:

45 (28 +17) child care providers working in 34 classrooms across 6 star-rated licensed child care facilities serving approximately 925 children received direct, intensive technical assistance based on evidence-based models of consultation to enrich and expand program practices and improve/enhance learning environments for which a total of \$9,000.00 in grant incentives were awarded. (Quality Circle Intensive TA)

100 providers working in classrooms serving children birth through 5 years of age in licensed child care facilities were awarded a grand total \$21,750.00 for having earned an early childhood degree and maintaining employment in the early childhood field. (Dedication to Quality Bonuses)

3 child care facilities were selected to participate in activities that provided classroom and center based professional development support and group trainings, as well as Individual Education Bonuses totaling \$13,250.00 to staff. (Stairways)

5 licensed child care facilities were selected to receive free Smart Start services such as on-site technical assistance and PUZZLES Resource Room access to support 100 child care providers working in 40 classrooms throughout the year. (Bridges)

Smart Start Intervention/Inclusion Services:

63 technical assistance plans were developed for children newly referred to SSI/I Services for observation to determine needs and address issues in child care classrooms. Services and supports based on previously developed assistance plans continued for 167 children enrolled in licensed child care.

73 parents received training and/or other support for a child receiving assistance in the classroom.

18 at-risk young children enrolled in licensed child care facilities were successfully referred to appropriate early intervention portals.

64 providers in 33 different child care facilities with over 3,000 enrolled children received on-site training and/or support in classrooms serving children with behavioral or other special needs.

\$3,400.00 in bonus awards were earned by 8 individual child care classroom teachers upon successful completion of SEA (Social-Emotional Abilities) intensive on-site training to increase and expand upon classroom management skills and teaching methodologies to improve/enhance learning environments for all children.

24 teachers in 16 different child care facilities serving over 1,470 children participated in an intensive training series for improving/enhancing classroom management and other teaching skills associated with effective supports for children with behavioral and/or other special needs.



Smart Start Healthy Family Services:

63 high and at-risk mothers participated in Motherread B.A.B.Y.[™], an early literacy program that utilizes quality children's books to impart parenting and health information to high-risk mothers, impacting 51 children birth to 3 years of age.

35 health, child care, and other service providers working with young children and their families in New Hanover County completed Touchpoints Approach[™] training to enhance and further support their work in effectively generating positive change in the families they assist.

Smart Start ABCD (Assuring Better Child Health and Development)

21 participating medical practices providing well-child check-ups for young children in 6 local counties (Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Pender, and Onslow) received support in reviewing early intervention practices and protocols to ensure that developmental screenings are administered and referrals to appropriate early intervention portals are provided.

112 community meetings and presentations were provided to medical facilities and other groups and organizations concerned with assuring that early intervention activities best practices are available and provided for their service populations.

Smart Start Child Care Subsidy:

408 children received subsidized child care through Smart Start funding in 55 facilities with an average star rating of 4.1, impacting 354 families.

13 teen parents who successfully completed the Smart Start Baby Fast program received Smart Start subsidized child care to allow them to remain enrolled in and/or graduate from high school.

49 families with a total of 55 children enrolled in 21 different child care facilities were provided with child care facility registration fee payments totaling \$2,110.00 through Smart Start's Share the Care funding.

Smart Start Baby FAST[™]:

Three 8-week cycles of the Baby FAST[™] program impacting 28 local families were conducted by certified Coordinators with the support of 7 trained, contracted, community resource team members, and over 27 regular community volunteers.

28 teen mothers, 22 grandmothers/grandfathers or other support persons, 12 fathers and 40 other family members participated in the Smart Start Baby FAST family support program, impacting 28 babies.



30 Smart Start Baby FAST graduates and 21 other family members attended at least 1 FASTWorks™ support group activity, the majority of which were planned and coordinated by both current and previous participants.

20 Smart Start Baby FAST™ participants were supported in completing high school, GED, or higher education programs during the year.

8 Smart Start Baby FAST participants also participated in Mothered B.A.B.Y.™, a program that demonstrates and nurtures age-appropriate early literacy practices and constructively addresses parenting issues through the use of quality children's books.

Smart Start Raising A Reader™:

37 child care teachers working in a total of 21 classrooms in 5 child care facilities received Raising A Reader™ training and support to implement the nationally acclaimed book-sharing program with 383 children and their families.

Over 1,280 books were circulated among participating families, 80 new library cards were issued to children, and 41 new or renewed library cards were issued to other participating family members.

20 family events/workshops, including library tours and early literacy workshops, were conducted over the course of the program with over 325 participating family members attending at least one event.

Smart Start Reach Out and Read™:

2 local medical sites (Cape Fear Pediatrics-Wilmington site and MedNorth Health Center) participated in Smart Start Reach Out and Read, an activity in which medical providers “prescribe” developmentally appropriate early literacy engagement activities for families during well child check-ups for children birth through 5 years of age.

874 children received a developmentally and culturally appropriate, high quality children's book during their regular exam visit to take home and keep.

15 medical providers successfully completed Reach Out and Read early literacy training in order to participate in the program.

27 wait and exam room areas in participating sites were developed/enhanced to emphasize early literacy activities and skills.