Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library—Help Us Spread the Word to Families!

Smart Start and Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library are working together to bring books to North Carolina’s youngest children through funding provided by the North Carolina General Assembly. This includes funding for up to 5,000 children under age 5 in New Hanover County.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is a FREE program for all families with young children in New Hanover County – regardless of income, need, or zip code. All registered children, under the age of 5, will receive a FREE book mailed to their home each month until their 5th birthday. There are no strings attached, and no eligibility requirements.

We need your help in getting children enrolled! Here are some simple ideas to help families sign their child up:

- **Parent Information Board**
- **Daily Classroom Sheets**
- **Program Newsletter**
- **Backpacks and Cubbies**
- **Table outside Classrooms or in the Lobby**

Feel free to copy details about the program from the above paragraphs for flyers/blurbs you might create. We can provide copies for each child in your program for backpacks, sign-up tables, etc. Just let us know how many copies you’d like and we’ll deliver them.

We are so excited to bring this program to children in our community. Feel free to contact Krista Turner with questions: Krista.turner@newhanoverkids.org / 910-815-3731

‘The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character– that is the goal of true education.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Smart Start Participates in Farm to Childcare Initiative

As part of a statewide grant, we’ve had an exciting year working alongside Children’s Cottage of Wilmington to pilot a Farm to Childcare program. The goal of this program was to connect children to local, seasonal foods for meals and snacks and to add on-site gardens as a learning resource and for growing their own food. Some of the fun activities that children participated in included taste tests, field trips to farmer’s markets, classroom activities with a local nutrition educator, and growing a garden. The child care site also chose to update their menus to incorporate local foods where possible.

Amy Kirk of Children’s Cottage: “Our Farm to Childcare experience has been a tremendous success! The children and families have embraced our approach to gardening, purchasing locally grown foods, and promoting healthier eating habits. We have had families share with us that they started their own gardens at home and are making it a point to shop at our local farmer’s markets.”

Want to learn more about incorporating healthy fruits/veggies, creating a garden, or other activities listed above? We’re currently looking for child care centers and homes to expand and continue this initiative. Complete the enclosed survey and return it to Stephanie Harris or Natalie Pond, or call us at 815-3731 if you would like to learn more.

In celebration of Provider Appreciation Day, Smart Start is hosting

Provider Appreciation Spa Night

Thursday, May 10, 2018
4:30p-7:30p

We invite all early childhood professionals who work with and care for young children to join us for this special event.

Director Dialogues

Looking for a way to meet other directors, network, get ideas, or share frustrations?

Join us at the Smart Start office for an informal gathering specifically for directors. We meet the last Wednesday of every other month at 1:00p. Feel free to bring your lunch!

No planned agenda or RSVP needed, just come to chat!

Wednesday, March 28
Wednesday, May 30

For more information or questions, contact:
Mindy Davis | 910.815.3731

Directors: interested in being a part of our Provider Appreciation Spa Night as a way to celebrate your staff?

Give us a call... there are several ways you could contribute:

◊ your time
◊ a door prize
◊ allowing staff who might work during evening hours time to attend
◊ know someone who can do a relaxation station for us?
◊ we’re open to ideas!
Dedication to Education Bonus for Centers

Smart Start of New Hanover County aims to recognize the educated professionals in our community who work with, care for, and teach young children. Many of you employ staff who received our Dedication to Education Bonus for Individuals this winter. We are pleased to announce the opportunity for centers to now apply for a Dedication to Education Bonus.

The Dedication to Education Bonus for Centers is intended for star-rated centers who have achieved at least 5-7 Education Points on the Star-Rated License. We encourage all eligible centers to apply. The application deadline is Friday, April 20 at 5:00pm.

Applications were mailed to each program. If you did not receive one, you can print one from our website—services/early childhood/grant opportunities.

For more information, contact Mindy: 910.815.3731

Did you know…

Dr. Martin Luther King was supposed to speak at Williston Senior High School on the day he was assassinated? Instead, he chose to stay in Memphis, TN.

On the 50th anniversary of his death, a Commemoration is being held on Wednesday, April 4 from 6:30-8p at Williston Middle School’s Gymnasium to celebrate his life and legacy.

Please share information about this special event with families and friends; we hope you'll join the community for this commemoration.

For more information, visit: https://mlkandilm.wixsite.com/1968

Changes to Re-issue of Training Certificates*

Due to the increased volume of requests to re-create past certificates, there is now a need to implement a charge for this service. To cover the cost of staff time needed to research paper files, verify attendance, re-create & mail certificates, SSNHC will charge $5 for each new certificate that must be issued—effective immediately.

As a reminder, participants are given two certificates of completion at the end of each training. We encourage participants to keep one copy for their personal records, and provide the second copy to their administrator for their employee files.

*This does not apply to the re-issue of certificates due to an error.

We will no longer be providing a hard copy of our training registration forms with our newsletter.

You can print the forms from our website... look for this picture on our workshop page.

You can also register and pay online!
www.newhanoverkids.org
Smart Start Early Care and Education staff

Mindy Davis: Early Care and Education Manager
mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org

LaKeasha Glaspie: CCR&R Specialist/Resource Room
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Krista Green: Early Childhood Consultant
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Kim Klein: Behavior and Inclusion Consultant
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Natalie Pond: Early Childhood Consultant
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Kelly Puzon: Behavior and Inclusion Consultant
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Matt Schaeffer: Early Childhood Consultant
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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, send us an email letting us know.

Contact Us

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