

Smart Start of New Hanover County 2017-2018 Program Evaluation Report



Early ChildhoodIt's Everyone's Business

a partner
in the

smart start
network.

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Smart Start of New Hanover County

Our Vision

Smart Start of New Hanover County envisions every child entering school with the health, family support and early education necessary to succeed.

Our Mission

Smart Start of New Hanover County seeks to build bridges to develop, sustain and enhance health, family support and early education services for all children, age's birth to five.

Our Beliefs

- ✓ The well-being and success of every child is critical regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or developmental and learning disabilities.
- ✓ The quality of life for young children is basic to adult well-being and the future economic vitality of our community.
- ✓ Parents are a child's first and most important teacher.
- ✓ A broad community-based partnership committed to young children should be available to assist parents in their role as primary caregivers.
- ✓ The community has the responsibility to provide effective strategies and services to support early education, as well as the development of mentally and physically healthy children.

Our Broad Goals

- ✓ Ready Early Educators
 - Maintain and expand high quality early education in New Hanover County
- ✓ Ready Families
 - Serve and engage parents of children in New Hanover County in their first 2000 days of life
- ✓ Ready Community
 - Educate and advocate for a strong early childhood system

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Funded Service	Agency	Funding Received
Behavior & Inclusion Support (BIS)	Smart Start of NHC	\$137,777
Child Care Advantage (CCA)	NHC Department of Social Services	\$824,474
Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)	Smart Start of NHC	\$348,317
Curriculum & Assessment (CURR)	NHC Schools	\$26,255
Professional Development Connections (PDC)	Smart Start of NHC	\$134,502

Smart Start's Investment in Early Care and Education



■ Early Care and Education ■ Total Smart Start Budget

QUICK FACT → *4,827 children ages birth to five were enrolled in licensed child care sites in NHC*

Local Goals:

- ✓ Enhance the quality of early childhood education programs
- ✓ Support inclusive early childhood environments while preventing the expulsion of children in child care
- ✓ Provide professional development opportunities and recognition for early educators
- ✓ Help families access quality child care and connect to resources for their children
- ✓ Provide a resource room filled with developmentally appropriate materials for families and early educators to utilize
- ✓ Increase the use of appropriate early childhood curriculum and ensure learning is occurring via uniform assessment in all NC Pre-K and Head Start classrooms



Measurement Tools:

- ✓ Environment Rating Scale
- ✓ NC Star-Rated License
- ✓ Classroom Assessment Scoring System
- ✓ TPOT/ TPITOS from the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundation for Early Learning
- ✓ Teacher Turnover Worksheets and Teacher Surveys
- ✓ Teaching Strategies Gold Performance and Growth Reports

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

QUICK FACT → *47% of infants were cared for in child care sites that were not meeting high standards*

Local Quality Assurance:

Program Monitoring	Program Evaluation
Early Care and Education programs were implemented as designed 	Early Care and Education programs met most goals 



= met or exceeded all goals



= met most goals



= did not meet goals

Evidence of Impact:

- ✓ Early educators in 41 classrooms received support related to challenging behaviors and/or the inclusion of children with special needs (BIS)
 - **93.75% of these educators, working specifically with infants and toddlers, showed an increase in interaction skills (goal = 70%)**
 - **100% of families (with children with challenging behaviors and/or special needs) reported a clearer understanding of resources available due to involvement in BIS services**
 - **7.4% drop in the number of children expelled from child care programs (goal = < 10%)**
- ✓ 38 child care sites had at least one staff person that participated in training related to children's social and emotional well-being (BIS)
 - **Consultants made 377 visits to licensed child care sites to support practices and provide techniques**
- ✓ 277 families received financial assistance with the cost of high quality care (CCA)

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Evidence of Impact, Continued:

- ✓ 28 early childhood sites received technical assistance to maintain quality (CCR&R)
 - **23 of those sites already had a 3, 4, or 5 star-rating; 5 had a 1 or 2 star-rating**
 - **12 of those sites requested support specific to infant and toddler care**
 - **100% of these sites maintained their star-rating (goal = 90%)**
 - **Average star rating for placement of children receiving child care subsidy is 4.35 (high performing goal = 4.0)**
- ✓ 1,696 packets containing information related to the transition to Kindergarten were distributed to families through child care sites (CCR&R)
- ✓ 72 trainings offered related to early childhood best practices (CCR&R)
 - **424 early educators participated**
- ✓ 157 families received information on child care choices and/or child development (CCR&R)
 - **A Resource Room filled with curriculum guides, resource books, and learning materials for children was used by 180 early educators and family members**
- ✓ 15 early childhood sites participating in a program to support the use of a universal curriculum and assessment tools (CURR)
 - **Of those – 6 were public and 9 were private**
 - **830 children were impacted and showed substantial growth from the beginning of the year to the end in all domains: social, language, physical, cognitive, mathematics, and literacy**
 - **42 early educators received support with the implementation**
 - **100% of these educators reported an improvement in knowledge and awareness of children's individualized instruction and activities (goal = 80%)**
- ✓ 221 early educators received a *Dedication to Education (DTE)* stipend based on educational qualifications (PDC)
 - **91.4% of those educators maintained employment at the same child care site during the year (goal = 80%)**
- ✓ 83% of the star-rated child care centers employed educators who received the DTE stipend (PDC)
 - **17 of those child care centers received a bonus for hiring staff with higher levels of education**

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

*State Goals

Description	State Standards	Most Current Local Results
<u>Average star rating</u> for children in 1-5 star care <u>% of children</u> in 4 and 5 star care	<u>Minimum:</u> 4.0 star rating <u>AND</u> 60% <u>High Performing:</u> **4.0 star rating <u>AND</u> 60% for each age group	4.16 AND 69% Meets minimum
<u>Average star rating</u> for subsidized children in 1-5 star care <u>% of subsidized children</u> in 4 and 5 star care	<u>Minimum:</u> 4.25 star rating <u>AND</u> 80% <u>High Performing:</u> **Meets minimum PLUS 70% for each age group	4.35 AND 75% Below minimum
<u>% of children</u> enrolled in 1-5 star centers that have at least 75% of lead teachers with college degrees (7 education points)	<u>Minimum:</u> 50% of children are in sites with 7 lead teacher education points <u>High Performing:</u> **50% of children in sites with 7 lead teacher education points for specific age group	50% Meets minimum
<u>% of children</u> enrolled in 1-5 star centers that have directors with college degrees (7 educator administration points)	<u>Minimum:</u> 60% of children are in sites with 7 administrator education points <u>High Performing:</u> **60% of children in sites with 7 administrator education points for specific age group	63% Meets minimum

*Based on the *Early Childhood Community Profile* **Standard increased from previous year adding specific age groups

**QUICK FACT → 68% of
2 year-olds were
educated by professionals
with LESS than an
Associate's Degree**

↓ SUCCESS STORY

"The TS GOLD Assessment has helped me increase my anecdotal note taking skills and encourages me to use pictures as documentation. This assessment program helps me group children for activities so I can meet their individual needs. Also, the children love the themed studies in Creative Curriculum. It really keeps them engaged!"

(NHC NC Pre-K Teacher)

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Steps to Move the Needle:

QUICK FACT → *Smart Start subsidy dollars can ONLY be used help families with the cost of care at 4 and 5 star-rated child care sites while state subsidy dollars can be used for care in 3, 4, or 5 star sites.*

- ❖ Support early educators with technical assistance involving interactions, language, inclusion, and appropriate practices
- ❖ Target supports for educators working specifically with infants and toddlers
- ❖ Encourage early childhood sites to increase star-rating
- ❖ Facilitate increased collaboration between public pre-k's and private child care centers

↓ **SUCCESS STORY**

"I worked with an NC Pre-K teacher this year who was struggling with a child who was displaying challenging behaviors. This particular child had been through the foster-care system. When I spoke with the teacher initially, I felt resistance. The strategies I suggested which were aimed at supporting social and emotional intentional teaching and appropriate expectations for all children. But as our visits continued, I observed the teacher putting these techniques into practice. Slowly, the teacher saw how these techniques were working and reported that they are now in her teacher

(Behavior and Inclusion Support Consultant)

↓ **SUCCESS STORY**

"Hello, everyone. I just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU for helping our staff prepare for our star-rated assessment this summer. Our scores came in last Friday morning via email and our visit from our DCDEE Consultant was this morning. She was pleased and said our scores were amazing! Thanks again for supporting our teaching staff in making positive changes to the quality of care we offer!"

(Child Care Center Director in NHC)

FAMILY SUPPORT

Funded Service	Agency	Funding Received
Parents as Teachers® (PAT)	SSNHC	\$75,182
Raising A Reader (RAR)	NHC Public Library	\$32,752
Reach Out and Read® (ROR)	NHC Public Library	\$9,332
READY Parents (READY)	Communities in Schools of Cape Fear	\$77,167
Triple P® (PPP)	SSNHC	\$66,151

Smart Start's Investment in Family Support



■ Family Support ■ Total Smart Start Budget

QUICK FACT → 38% of children in NHC are living in single-parent households

Local Goals:

- ✓ Help families develop skills and knowledge to support their child's development
- ✓ Encourage book sharing at home with young children
- ✓ Encourage families to utilize their local libraries
- ✓ Increase parenting knowledge to promote child language, intellectual growth, and physical and social-emotional skills
- ✓ Encourage positive parenting practices
- ✓ Introduce families to strategies related to praising desired behaviors and providing safe and engaging environments for their child(ren)
- ✓ Strengthen families and enhance social relationships for young parents under the age of 24 years

↓ **SUCCESS STORY**

"I really liked coming to the class. It helped me to realize things I was doing and that now I can take different ways of resolving certain situations. Really like listening to others and what tools they were using. It's helped a lot with my patience and learning different ways to cope with life's situations that arise."

(Parent participating in Triple P Level 4)



FAMILY SUPPORT

Measurement Tools:

- ✓ Raising A Reader Parent Survey
- ✓ Reach Out and Read Parent Survey
- ✓ Protective Factor Survey
- ✓ Triple P Parenting Scale
- ✓ Triple P Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
- ✓ Parent Satisfaction Survey

QUICK FACT → *14.2 % of children were retained after not demonstrating reading proficiency on 3rd grade standards*

Local Quality Assurance:

Program Monitoring	Program Evaluation
<p>Family Support programs were implemented as designed</p> 	<p>Family Support programs met most goals</p> 



= met or exceeded all goals



= met most goals



= did not meet goals

↓ **SUCCESS STORY**

"I just wanted to let you know about one of the Raising A Reader kids and his family. A while ago, one of the children from Johnson Pre-K came into the library with his father. The boy's dad explained how much they appreciated the blue bags as they didn't have any books at home. The father had a library card but because of excessive fines that he could not pay – he was unable to check out books. After talking with him, the fines were waived. This was over a year ago and they are still coming in on a regular basis for books. The father reports that his son is doing great in school and the library is his favorite place to go on Saturdays!"

(NHC Public Librarian)

↓ **SUCCESS STORY**

"Attending group connections has enhanced parents' knowledge of development and parenting issues by providing information about parenting skills, parent-child interactions, child development, and community resources. These sessions have been beneficial for parents to see their children participate in social interactions that are normally infrequent with other children. One family has also attended the county library for the first time and another has gone to a recreation center along with the Parent Educator to be introduced to community activities that enrich all areas of children's development."

(PAT Parent Educator)

FAMILY SUPPORT

Evidence of Impact:

- ✓ Parent Educators made 440 home visits to provide 39 primary caregivers with information on child development and parenting (PAT)
 - **Overall average positive impact of 100% in the areas of: nurturing and attachment, discipline, parent resiliency, social connections, and support of development**
 - **78% of parents made progress towards or achieved their self-determining parenting goals**
 - **0% of families enrolled have a report of abuse or neglect while active in the program**
- ✓ 12 Group Connection Sessions were held for families to learn, share ideas, and support one another (PAT)
- ✓ 59 parents completed a Triple P Level 4 Group class as part of an intervention directive (PPP)
 - **100% of parents participating showed a decrease in negative practices related to laxness, over-reactivity, and hostility (goal = 60%)**
 - **70.2% of parents participating report an increase on protective factors subscales including family functioning and nurturing and attachment (goal = 80%)**
 - **73 children, birth to five years of age, were impacted**
- ✓ 59 attended Triple P Level 2 seminars where families are introduced to strategies such as praising desired behaviors (PPP)
 - **83% of parents indicated they gained a better understanding of what they can do to help their child learn new skills and behaviors (goal = 82%)**
 - **38 children, birth to five years of age, were impacted**
- ✓ 26 individuals attended weekly sessions designed specifically for young parents to foster an open exchange of ideas, support, information, and resources (READY)
 - **34 sessions held**
 - **100% of parents showed an increase in positive parenting practices (goal = 70%). Highlighted areas: *family resiliency* grew from 4.03 to 5.04; *social-emotional support* from 3.4 to 5.48; and *concrete support* from 3.95 to 5.70**
 - **96% of participating young parents were actively seeking or have already acquired a high school diploma or equivalency (goal = 80%)**

FAMILY SUPPORT

Evidence of Impact, Continued:

- ✓ Parent Educators made 199 home visits using the *Partners for a Healthy Baby* curriculum (READY)
- ✓ 605 children in 34 classrooms participated in a school-to-home book rotation system through the child care site they attended (RAR)
 - **The average number of times that families look at books together during the week grew from 3.71 to 5.41**
- ✓ 400 library cards issued to participating families (RAR)
 - **54% of parents reported they have visited the library at least once since beginning the program (goal = 50%)**
- ✓ 4,671 books were distributed to children during medical well-child check-ups while the pediatrician stressed the importance of book sharing at home (ROR)
 - **63% of medical staff at participating sites are trained in Reach Out and Read procedures (goal = 75%)**

*State Goals

Description	State Standards	Most Current Local Results
<u>% of parents</u> who report reading to their children daily	Minimum: TBD High Performing: TBD	41% (Statewide) TBD
<u>% of children</u> ages 0-5 with an investigated report of child abuse/neglect	>=5% and <12%	8.7% Within the Range

*Based on the *Early Childhood Community Profile*

↓ SUCCESS STORY

"What I enjoy the most from the program is being able to learn and do new things with my kids and learn how it helps their development".
(PAT parent participant who is a mother to a 2 and 4-year old)

FAMILY SUPPORT

Steps to Move the Needle:

- ❖ Increase the number of parents we serve
- ❖ Use a uniform measure with all of the family support programs to properly measure parents' use of protective factors

QUICK FACT → 62% of the children receiving books through the Reach Out and Read program were insured through Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP)

↓ **SUCCESS STORY**

"Tameka is a young parent to her 11 month old son. When Tameka first joined the program, she was overwhelmed by the responsibilities of caring for a child as a single parent and finishing high school. Since attending Circle groups and taking advantage of home visits, Tameka's overall attitude has tremendously improved into an "I can do it" mentality. Her positive state of mind has helped her bond with her father and her grandparents who she now lives with, along with making regular visits to her mother who lives in a nearby neighborhood. She recognizes how fortunate she is to have her family's assistance and just graduated from high school in the beginning of June! An accomplishment that she wasn't always certain that she could achieve. Currently, Tameka has been in contact with the New Hanover County Work Force Center to help find employment and has illustrated such loving and strong parenting skills with her son. During a recent home visit, she took pride in her ability to make a healthy snack for him (grapes are one of his favorites!) and is working on teaching him "please" and "thank you". It has been a pleasure watching her grow!"

(Parent Educator with READY Parents – names have been changed to ensure confidentiality)

QUICK FACT → Since 2010, there has been a 3% drop in the number young adults NOT completing high school

↓ **SUCCESS STORY**

"A parent participating in the Raising A Reader program at the child care site came into class and told the teacher that her daughter was so excited about the red bags (containing books) and "read" to her mom in the car all the way home. They also read together later that day and again before bed."

(RAR Program Manager)

Community Awareness

Funded Service	Agency	Funding Received
Community Outreach and Education	Smart Start of NHC	\$126,000

Community Partners:

- ✓ Some of our fellow collaborators: NHRMC, Catholic Social Ministries, Coastal Horizons, NHC Courts, Trillium, Family Support Network, UNCW, Health Department, Nourish NC, NHC Schools, NHC Arboretum, Communities in Schools of Cape Fear, Feast Down East, Samara's Village, United Way of Cape Fear, CDSA, Planned Parenthood, T.E.A.C.C.H., Methodist Home for Children



Local Goals:



- ✓ Increase access to and awareness of services for children and families
- ✓ Leverage partners and supporters
- ✓ Engage the community in an early childhood campaign
- ✓ Educate the community about the importance of the first 2000 days in a child's life
- ✓ Facilitate trainings for professionals which focuses on using a strength-based approach to working with families
- ✓ Help to facilitate the coordinate of services for families in our community

Measurement Tools:

- ✓ Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory
- ✓ Social media tracking
- ✓ Outreach event tracking

Community Awareness

Local Quality Assurance:

Program Monitoring	Program Evaluation
Community Awareness program was implemented as designed 	Community Awareness program met all goals 



= met all goals



= met most goals



= did not meet goals

Evidence of Impact:

- ✓ Smart Start worked to educate the community about the importance of the first 2,000 days in a child's life and the positive impact that investing NOW can have by:
 - **Bringing together 31 community agencies to work on early childhood systems planning and coordination**
 - **Providing 10 or more opportunities each week for families to learn about early childhood issues through Twitter and Facebook**
 - **Educating 1,775 parents and community members about Smart Start:**
 - **291** → **Breakfast for Children's Champions**
 - **150** → **Smart Start Early Childhood Family Festival**
 - **160** → **First 2,000 Day's Summit**
 - **1,174** → **Outreach events**
 - **Sharing information about Smart Start at 13 guest speaking engagements (goal = 10)**

QUICK FACT → Each local Smart Start agency is required to make an in-kind match equal to or greater than 19% of the total annual budget

↓ **SUCCESS STORY**

Smart Start of NHC raised \$83,000 through our Breakfast for Children's Champions

Community Awareness

*State Goals:

Smart Start of New Hanover County's community awareness efforts broadly address the state goals in ALL of the topic areas. This includes the indicators specifically related to health below and the within others previously described in this report.

Description	State Standards	Most Current Local Results
<u>% of children</u> ages 0-2 who receive early intervention or special education services	>= 4.0% and <10.0%	TBD
<u>% of children</u> ages 3-5 who receive early intervention or special education services	Pending	4.2% Within range
<u>% of children</u> enrolled in Medicaid who receive a well-child exam	<u>Minimum</u> : 75% <u>High Performing</u> : 85%	82% (Statewide) Meets Minimum
<u>% of low income children</u> age 2-4 who are at a healthy weight	<u>Minimum</u> : 66.1% <u>High Performing</u> : 70%	69.5% Meets Minimum

*Based on the *Early Childhood Community Profile*

↓ SUCCESS STORY

"Smart Start's Early Childhood Family Festival was a great success this year with an increase in numbers of attendees and media coverage. There was a live broadcast of Coast 98.7 from the event itself!"
(Family and Community Education Manager)

Steps to Move the Needle:

- ❖ Utilize an agency-wide data collecting and reporting system
- ❖ Increase the number of speaking engagements and/or board memberships

QUICK FACT → Smart Start of NHC
worked with Live Oak Bank to provide parenting classes and early childhood information to their employees

Want to know more about Smart Start of New Hanover County?



Contact Us.....

Location: 3534 South College Road, Suite F, Wilmington, North Carolina 28412

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Visit our Website.....

www.newhanoverkids.org

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