



• NEW HANOVER COUNTY •

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEWS

Smart Start Early Care and Education Newsletter

January 2020

Recognizing New Hanover County's Children's Champions

Smart Start of New Hanover County is seeking nominations for the Children's Champions Award.

Each year, Smart Start of New Hanover County celebrates and recognizes members of our community who provide exceptional service to young children and/or their families in New Hanover County during children's first 2,000 days of life, from birth to age 5. A Nominee's accomplishments or efforts set him/her apart by going above and beyond normal job duties or if they truly stand out as someone who makes a difference. Previous nominees have included pediatricians, early childhood educators, social workers, members of volunteer organizations, foster parents, school administrators, etc.

All nominees will be recognized and announced at our 19th Annual Breakfast for Children's Champions on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at the Hotel Ballast.

Deadline for nominations is Monday, January 20, 2020 at noon.

Nomination forms and event details are on Smart Start's website at www.newhanoverkids.org. Click on the Breakfast for Children's Champions icon on the home page for a nomination form and submission instructions.

For more information, call (910) 815-3731.

We'd love to have many early care and education teachers nominated... who do you know that is a Children's Champion?

Dedication to Education Bonus*

Smart Start of New Hanover County is pleased to honor early childhood professionals who have achieved degrees or certifications toward their careers. Included in this newsletter are details and an application to apply for the bonus. Applications can also be printed from our website. (newhanoverkids.org— Services)

Deadline to submit the application is Friday, January 17, 2020 at 5pm by mail or hand delivery.

No faxed or emailed applications will be accepted.

*Directors, please share with your staff and make copies as needed.

'Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.'

-Maria Montessori

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April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

In recognizing this important topic, the Smart Start Early Care & Education team will provide a 4 part series on child abuse awareness; 4 DCDEE credit hours will be offered. Topics will include:

- ◇ shaken baby syndrome
- ◇ abusive head trauma
- ◇ sexual abuse
- ◇ recognizing & reporting child abuse

[Look for details in next quarter's newsletter](#)

FREE CURRICULUM

We recently sorted through our training materials and came across several different curriculum we'd like to put in the hands of child care programs and family child care homes.

CREATIVE CURRICULUM
OWL
SECOND STEP

If interested, please contact Mindy at
910-815-3731 or mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org

Provider Appreciation Spa Night

Thursday, May 7, 2020

4:30pm-7:30pm



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

Formal invitation mailed in April.

Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR) Workshop

Wednesday, Jan. 15
9-11:30am

Univ. of Mount Olive–
Wilmington

This workshop is offered by
Region 4 CCR&R

To register:
www.puzzlesregion.com

Directors: a private Facebook group, **Smart Start of NHC: Early Childhood Directors**, was created for you. This page provides a place for administrators to network, ask questions of each other and coordinate efforts to better serve the children in their program. In addition, the Smart Start ECE team will share news and events, and help you with questions you may have about our services.

We hope you join to keep in touch! Find us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECEofNHC/>



Directors...

...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. **Director Dialogues** meet the last Wednesday of every other month. In an effort to increase attendance, we're changing the time to **9:00am**. We heard your suggestions and hope this new time will allow for more of you to attend!

No planned agenda, and no RSVP needed, just come to chat!

Mark your calendars:

Wednesdays at 9am

Jan. 29 March 25 May 27

For more information or questions, contact Natalie Pond.

...share our newsletter and training calendar with your staff.

- * post them in the staff breakroom (do staff know if the newsletter and training calendar are posted and where?)
- * email them to staff
- * provide a copy to each classroom or teacher or provide them with our website address to view the training calendar
- * encourage staff to decide which training(s) he/she would like to register for
- * remember that classes fill quickly. It's important to register online early.

Kindergarten Registration Packets

We're gearing up to deliver Kindergarten Registration packets to all early childhood programs.

Packets include registration dates for NHC Schools, details on how to register the child, and other valuable resources.

Look for an email in early January inquiring about how many packets you'll need for rising kindergarteners.

Having a family night in which packet distribution would be optimal? Stop by our office to pick up your packets. All packets should be picked up or delivered by **February 28, 2020.**

Contact Dayla Mendez for pick up arrangements or questions.

910.815.3731 dayla.mendez@newhanoverkids.org

Resource Room Theme Boxes...

Dayla has been busy updating and replenishing theme boxes that have been out of circulation.

Ready for check-out:

Space	Going Buggy	Under the Sea
Dinosaurs	All About Me	

Self-Care & Recovery from Crisis Workshop

This workshop, created by Save the Children, is a great way to learn more about stress and the body. Participants will learn self-care practices that can help before, during, and after a crisis.

Participants will receive a Safety Tote containing a First Aid kit, weather radio, and other safety items (restricted to one per licensed New Hanover County child care facility). Safety Totes are courtesy of Save the Children.

Thursday, February 27 6:30-8:30pm

See the training calendar for more details. Totes



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Address Service Requested

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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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