



Smart Start Early Care and Education

2020.2021 Dedication to Education Bonus Application

Please print clearly.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____
street city st zip

Home/Cell Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Position (ex. Lead/Assist. Teacher, Administrator, FCCH, etc): _____ Ages Served: _____

Do you receive Infant-Toddler Educator AWARD\$?: Yes No Pay Scale:\$ _____ hr/salary

Education Qualifications (check all that apply in each level):

Level I Bonus

- Early Childhood Preschool Certificate or Infant Toddler Care Certificate or Early Childhood Diploma or CDA and/or
- Level 2 - 7 on the NC Early Educator Certification (EEC)

Level II Bonus

- Associate, Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development and/or
- Level 8 - 13 on the NC Early Educator Certification (EEC)

Please check which form of educational documentation is attached to this application.

(Only one is required. Please do not include documentation not listed below.)

- Copy of transcript (*unofficial is acceptable*) indicating a degree in early childhood education or child development was achieved by January 15, 2021 from an accredited college or university recognized by NC DCDEE. *Transcript MUST include major and date of award.*
- Copy of diploma indicating a degree in early childhood education or child development by January 15, 2021 from an accredited college or university recognized by NC DCDEE. *Diploma MUST indicate major.*
- Copy of NC Early Educator Certificate (EEC) issued by the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals indicating Level 2 or above (*does not need to be current*).

Second form of documentation required to accompany application:

- Copy of recent paystub (within last 30 days) or W2. Documentation of employment status may be verified.

I have read the eligibility requirements and application carefully. To the best of my knowledge, everything on the application is complete and correct. I understand that the funding for the **Dedication to Education Bonus** is dependent and contingent upon approval from the North Carolina Partnership for Children and availability of funds from the state of North Carolina, as approved by the N.C. General Assembly. I understand that priority will be given to those working directly with children in a private child care facility, and earning less than \$22,000 annually. I understand that in order to be eligible for this bonus, I must be in good standing with Smart Start of New Hanover County (ex. no outstanding fees or resources). I am aware that Smart Start of New Hanover County may be checking my employment periodically after the bonus is issued in efforts to track teacher retention.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Employment Verification

APPLICANTS: This section MUST be completed prior to submitting your application. If you are an administrator, please have another administrator complete this section. If you are an FCCH owner, you may complete for yourself.

DCDEE name of child care facility: _____ Facility phone: _____

Administrator name: _____ Signature: _____

Applications must be received or postmarked by: Friday, January 15, 2021 by 5:00pm

Please return application via mail to: Smart Start of NHC- attn: Mindy Davis, PO Box 3288, Wilmington, NC 28406-0288

Refer to the *Eligibility Requirements* handout for more options to return the DTE application. *Faxed applications will not be accepted.*



Smart Start Early Care and Education 2020-2021 Dedication to Education Bonus Eligibility Requirements for Individuals

- The **Dedication to Education Bonus** is aimed at early childhood professionals who have completed a certificate, diploma, or degree in early childhood education/child development **and/or** who have achieved a Level 2-13 on the NC Early Care and Education Professional Scale. Educational qualifications must be earned prior to the application deadline.
- Applicants must be currently working in a licensed star-rated child care facility in New Hanover County, not affiliated with the NHC schools.
- Applicants must be working *directly* with children birth to five years of age **or** serve as an administrator working onsite at least 50% of a 40-hour work week. Applicants serving school-age children **only** are not eligible.
- Applicants must earn a salary of \$22,000 or less with verification from a recent paystub or W2.
- Applicants may be eligible to receive a Level I or a Level II bonus, depending on the level of education completed. The *amount* of each bonus and the *number* of bonuses issued will be dependent upon total number of applications received and funds available. Priority **will** be given to those working directly with children.
- Applicants receiving the Infant-Toddler Educator AWARD\$ are not eligible to receive the DTE bonus.
- Applications must be received or postmarked by Friday, January 15, 2021.
- Each applicant will be notified, via a formal letter, of his/her eligibility status by Friday, February 12, 2021. Those who are eligible will be asked to provide documentation, including a signed contract and a W-9 tax form, for the bonus to be issued. This documentation will be provided by Smart Start.
- Smart Start staff will verify employment and education of all eligible applicants prior to issuing the bonus. Employment may also be checked periodically after the bonus is issued in efforts to track teacher retention.
- Dedication to Education Bonuses will be issued on or before Friday, April 30, 2021.

Educational Documentation: Only **one** of the following forms of **must** be submitted with your application:

- Copy of transcript (unofficial is acceptable) indicating that a certificate/diploma/degree with a major in early childhood education or child development was achieved by DATE from an accredited college or university recognized by NC DCDEE. Transcript **MUST** include major and date of award.
- Copy of diploma indicating the date that a certificate/diploma/degree with major in early childhood education or child development was achieved from an accredited college or university recognized by NC DCDEE. Diploma **MUST** indicate major.
- Copy of NC Early Educator Certificate (EEC) issued by the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals indicating Level 2 or above. This does not need to be current. For more information on the EEC, visit ncicdp.org.

Employment Documentation:

- Copy of recent paystub indicating hourly rate/salary and hours worked during pay period *or* W2.

How to Submit Application and Documentation:

Due to our varied office hours and staffing due to COVID, mailing DTE Bonus documents is strongly encouraged.

- **Mail:** Smart Start of New Hanover County- ATTN: Mindy Davis
PO Box 3288 Wilmington, NC 28406-0288
- **Email:** mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org Please write in the email subject line: DTE Bonus Application
Emailed documentation must be clear and free of smudges, blurs, etc. Pictures of documentation will NOT be accepted, nor will a request to re-submit be provided.
- **Hand-delivery:** Smart Start office. Please contact Mindy to set up an appointment to return your application. Unannounced visits could result in staff not being available to receive your application or answer questions.