



• NEW HANOVER COUNTY •

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEWS

Smart Start Early Care and Education Newsletter

January - March 2022

Dedication to Education Bonus for Individuals

The application window is open for early care professionals to apply for the DTE Bonus.

This year, there are 2 parts of the bonus– you may qualify for one or both parts.

Part 1- Educational Attainment

- This is our usual bonus based on the education level of the applicant with a salary cap.

Part 2- Educational Enrollment

- This bonus is based on the applicant qualifying for the Part 1 bonus- having a certificate or diploma and working on an Associate's degree.

Application deadline is Friday, January 7, 2022. Please submit application and documentation by mail or hand delivery only.

Questions? Contact Mindy
910.815.3731 ext. 1010
mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org



Access the application
using the QR code.

“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.”

- Maria Montessori

New in '22 Virtual Workshop Changes

Thanks for your feedback on the different modes of trainings we offer. We plan to continue to provide you with virtual and self-paced training options, in addition to our in-person trainings.

So we can continue to offer quality trainings and ensure everyone is having a good experience, we are implementing new guidelines for our virtual workshops. Failure to participate could result in being removed from the workshop and forfeiture of credit and cost.

1. **Cameras must be on** for the duration of the training and you must be in the camera frame.
2. You must be at a **stationary location** during the training (no shopping, driving, cooking, etc.).
3. **Be prepared to actively participate** during the training. From time to time during the class, you'll be asked to share ideas or thoughts. Be prepared to turn on your mic to speak, or share in the chat box.

Why are we making these changes? Regardless of the delivery of the training, we want to be mindful of all participants. Your fellow classmates are learning along with you– so keeping distractions to a minimum, being respectful of conversations, and providing an optimal learning environment is very important to us.

Thanks for helping us continue to offer quality trainings for all!

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Shake off the winter blues with the **Early Childhood Symposium**

Saturday, March 19, 2022

presented by the NHC Resiliency Task Force—early educators will be renewed and ready for spring after attending this all day conference centered around being a resilient caregiver. Learn how to take care of you, so you can take care of the children in your classroom.

details to come

Provider Appreciation Night

Thursday, May 5, 2022 4:30-7:30pm

The Early Care and Education Team looks forward to pampering you and celebrating the work you do with young children!

Environment Rating Scale– Assessment Support

In anticipation of regular assessments beginning in the spring, we've scheduled workshops specifically about using the rating scale tools. See respective training calendars for details.

offered by Smart Start: ECERS-R Thurs., March 24 FCCERS-R Thurs., Feb. 10

offered by Region 4: ITERS-R Thurs., Jan. 20 SACERS-R Wed., Feb. 2

Meetings with Matt

Join Matt— virtually— to ask him questions about your work as a teacher, director, or family child care teacher. Pop-in with your question between the designated hour and then pop out. It's that simple!

Topics Matt can help with:

- * DCDEE Moodle health & safety trainings
- * getting ready for assessment
- * behavior challenges
- * how to talk with parents
- * updating your schedule
- * anything you want or need to know to help you!

When: every other Wednesday between 12:00-2:00pm

January 5th & 19th

February 2nd & 16th

March 2nd, 16th, 30th

How: go to Zoom website: <https://zoom.us/Join a Meeting>
Click: 874 4692 7948
enter Meeting ID:

Training Certificates

Due to the amount of virtual workshops we offer, we send certificates of completion to the attendee's program at the end of each month.

This helps us to save money on postage as well as staff time after each workshop.

However, if you need a certificate for your compliance/monitoring visits prior to the end of the month, feel free to contact Matt to make arrangements.

Thanks for your understanding.

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?

We're facilitating our Director Dialogues— [via Zoom!](#)

Join other directors for the next meeting on **Tuesday, Jan. 25th & Thursday, March 24th— both dates at noon.**

A Zoom link will be emailed prior to the meeting. No planned agenda, and no RSVP needed, log on to chat!

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.

Be sure to always check your junk/spam email folder if you aren't seeing an email from

Sorry, Not Sorry...

Have you ever been asked to say "I'm sorry" for something that you weren't sorry for or that you didn't even understand? Once you gave this perfunctory "I'm sorry", do you think you or the person felt any better? Probably not. We can tell when someone is genuinely sorry and remorseful for something they did to us. As adults, we often feel a need to make up for mistakes our children have made in social situations. It makes *US* feel better. When we make a young child say "I'm sorry" before they are developmentally able to understand what it means and to actually know what they did wrong, we are taking away the power of the words. Children end up learning that no matter what they do, all they have to do to make up for it is say "I'm sorry."

Two year olds are naturally egocentric, thinking the world revolves around them. They do not understand basic social skills like sharing and taking turns. They have to intentionally be taught those skills. They also need to be taught empathy. So, when we make a child this young say "I'm sorry", they may have the ability to say it, but they don't have the ability to understand it or the 'why' behind it. Around 3 years, they start to recognize their own emotions. When they are 4-5 years old, they are able to understand that they have thoughts and feelings that are separate from others. This is when they start to understand how another person may feel in a situation. This is empathy and when a child will be able to say "I'm sorry" and understand and mean what they are saying.

What can we do to help the children in our care learn social skills, develop empathy, and be able to say "I'm sorry" and mean it? The most important thing is to model empathy and saying "I'm sorry." Children watch our social cues and how we react to situations. We can model saying "I'm sorry" appropriately and with feeling. This helps children learn those aren't just empty words. We can also turn our attention to the child that has been wronged and comfort them. Asking the child who caused the incident to help the child 'feel better' or calm down helps to teach empathy and develop saying "I'm sorry" in a meaningful way. Children will often show empathetic actions before they are able to verbalize empathy. For example, a toddler may hug another child who is crying. A two-year-old may give his toy to another child who is sad. We can start labeling feelings and emotions for children even before they can verbalize them. We can intentionally teach social skills to children. With older preschool children who are starting to recognize feelings in themselves and others, we can ask them to recall a situation in which something was done to them and ask them how that made them feel. Then we can help them make the connection that what they just did made the other child feel the same way.

So, the next time you think about telling a child to say they are sorry, ask yourself if they are developmentally ready to say that and mean it. Or are you just forcing them to say meaningless words?

Resource Room Delivery

If it's challenging for you to make your way to our office during regular business hours, we can bring items to you!

Contact Dayla to make arrangements to have RR materials be delivered or picked up for return.



Smart Start of New Hanover County
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Address Service Requested

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER AND TRAINING CALENDAR WITH ALL STAFF

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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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