

# Smart Start of New Hanover County

2021-2022

The staff and board of Smart Start of New Hanover County have the honor of working with and for families, caregivers, and early educators as they shape the hearts and minds of children in their critical first few years of life.

## Smart Start Services that Support Families in Our Community:

### **Attachment Bio-Behavioral Catch-Up / Smart Start of New Hanover County,**

Contact:

Attachment Bio-Behavioral Catch-Up is an intervention provided to caregivers with children ages 6 to 24-months. This 10-session, in-home program supports the enhancement of secure attachment between caregivers and children where that attachment may have been disrupted.

### **Child Care Advantage / New Hanover County Department of Social Services**

Contact: Amber Garner/ agarner@nhcgov.com / 910-798-3400

Through a state-level contract, Smart Start funds enhance the child care subsidy program which provides financial assistance with the cost of high quality child care to families who are working or attending school. Locally, the Smart Start subsidy program is titled "Child Care Advantage" and funds funnel directly through the NHC DSS.

### **Circle of Parents / Smart Start of New Hanover County,**

Contact:

Through funding provided by NC Department of Social Services, weekly support group meetings are held for parents of children with special needs. These meetings provide opportunities for parents to engage with one another and take on leadership roles. Meals and child care are provided at each meeting.

### **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library / Smart Start of New Hanover County**

Contact: Rachel Williamson / Rachel.williamson@newhanoverkids.org / 910-815-3731

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a FREE program for families where each registered child will receive a book by mail at home each month. State funds have been allocated to ensure that families in every county of North Carolina have the opportunity to participate.

### **Parents as Teachers® / Smart Start of New Hanover County**

Contact:

Parents as Teachers is a home visiting program which provides families and other primary caregivers with information on child development and parenting to promote child language, intellectual growth, and physical and social-emotional skills.

### **Positive Parenting Program / Smart Start of New Hanover County**

Contact: Beth Bowen / beth.bowen@newhanoverkids.org / 910-815-3731

Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) is a prevention and intervention parenting education service for families utilizing seminars (Level 2), brief interaction opportunities (Level 2-Brief), and a series of group (Level 4 Group) or one-on-one sessions (Level 4 Standard). Families are introduced to strategies which include praising desired behaviors and providing a safe and engaging environment for their child(ren).

### **Reach Out and Read® / Smart Start of New Hanover County**

Contact: Rachel Williamson / Rachel.williamson@newhanoverkids.org / 910-815-3731

Medical care providers at participating medical practices in New Hanover County are trained in the national evidence-based model to deliver early literacy guidance to parents of children 6 months to 5 years of age. New books are given to each child during each well-child visit.

### **Young Parents Support Program / Communities in Schools of Cape Fear**

Contact: Emmy Gibson / emmy@ciscapefear.org / 910-343-1901

The Young Parents Support Program provides services to young families using weekly support group meetings (Circle of Parents) and a home visiting curriculum (Partners for a Healthy Baby) to work toward strengthening family management, increasing positive communication, enhancing nurturing skills, and reinforcing the use of positive discipline.

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*The early years of childhood are critical. There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when that child begins kindergarten. The experiences during that time have a lasting impact on later learning, health, and happiness.*

## Smart Start Services that Support High Quality Early Care and Education:

### **Behavior and Inclusion Support, Smart Start of New Hanover County**

Contact: Mindy Davis / [mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org](mailto:mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org) / 910-815-3731

Materials provided by the *Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL)* are utilized within the early childhood workforce to improve outcomes for young children. The goals are to promote inclusive and supportive environments and to prevent the expulsion of children in child care.

### **Child Care Resource & Referral, Smart Start of New Hanover County**

Contact: Mindy Davis / [mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org](mailto:mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org) / 910-815-3731

Child Care Resource & Referral supports early educators through technical assistance and training aimed at improving and maintaining quality early learning environments, meaningful adult-child interactions, and health and safety standards. A Resource Room with educational materials and equipment for loan is available.

### **Curriculum & Assessment / New Hanover County Schools**

Contact: Shannon Smiles / [Shannon.smiles@nhcs.net](mailto:Shannon.smiles@nhcs.net) / 910-254-4168

NHC Schools Early Childhood Department provides support to publicly-funded preschool programs, including NC Pre-K and Head Start classrooms, through the purchase and implementation of a unified curriculum, an on-line assessment system, professional development, and coaching by a trained team.

### **Professional Development Connections / Smart Start of New Hanover County**

Contact: Mindy Davis / [mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org](mailto:mindy.davis@newhanoverkids.org) / 910-815-3731

Professional Development Connections promotes high quality early learning for young children by recognizing both early childhood sites, that maintain optimal educational standards, and early educators, who have attained educational milestones, through monetary bonuses.

## How Smart Start Helps to Build a Resilient Community:

### **Community Outreach and Education / Smart Start of New Hanover County / 910-815-3731**

Contacts: Jennifer Gallo / [Jennifer.gallo@newhanoverkids.org](mailto:Jennifer.gallo@newhanoverkids.org)  
Kim Boyce / [kim.boyce@newhanoverkids.org](mailto:kim.boyce@newhanoverkids.org)

The Community Outreach and Education team works to build awareness of early childhood development and strives to strengthen relationships that increase cooperation, resources, and services that support a trauma-informed community. A variety of support services are offered to families with young children including a space for open play with developmentally appropriate materials and the opportunity to learn about child development and community resources.

### **Early Childhood Family Festival**

Smart Start of NHC hosts their annual **Early Childhood Family Festival** each Fall. This **FREE** event celebrates young children and provides important resources for families. Date TBD.

### **Annual Community Summit**

This annual event brings together policymakers, County Commissioners, local leaders, City Council members, school board members, faith leaders, educators, and non-profit leaders to talk about our community's on-going efforts to support young children. Date TBD.

### **Breakfast for Children's Champions Fundraising Event—March 22, 2022**

The amount raised in sponsorships, gifts and pledges each year supports Smart Start of New Hanover County's work to increase the capacity of adults who work with young children in their first 2000 days of life – from parents to pediatricians and social workers to early educators. Want to attend or become a sponsor? Please visit our website or contact Jennifer at 910-815-3731 for more details. Event will be held March 22, 2022, 7:30-9:00am at the Country Club of Landfall. Registration is required.

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in the  
  
Smart Start  
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