

Smart Start of New Hanover County

Highlights Report / FY 21-22



The earliest years of a child's life are critical. It is during this time that experiences literally shape the structure of the brain, setting the course for all future development and how the child will interact with the world around them. Smart Start of New Hanover County programs provide hands-on support, training, and information to parents, caregivers, and early educators to help ensure children ages 0-5 have the supports they need to be successful in kindergarten and in life.

3,000 +

Children ages 0-5 directly benefited from a Smart Start of NHC supported program

Increasing the Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education

Coaching, workshops, and classroom support for childcare teachers and administrators. *Programs: Behavior & Inclusion Support, Child Care Health Consultation, Child Care Resource & Referral, Curriculum & Assessment (Grantee: NHC Schools), & Professional Development Connections*

125 Early childhood workshops/trainings were attended by **787** participants

121 Child care classrooms and family child care homes received technical assistance and support from a trained Smart Start consultant

68 Child care teachers received **743** supportive visits to help address challenging behaviors in their classrooms and/or inclusion of children with special needs

93% Educators surveyed reported improved understanding of how to implement behavioral strategies as a result of Smart Start in-classroom coaching

Family Support and Early Literacy

Strengthening families by helping individuals improve parenting skills, connect to peer supports, and better understand their child's developmental, social-emotional, and educational needs.

Programs: Circle of Parents (For parents of children with special needs), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Parents as Teachers, Positive Parenting Program/Triple P, Reach Out and Read, and Young Parent Support/Baby Steps (Grantee: Communities in Schools)

106 Parents/caregivers participated in **584** home visits made by parent educators

155 Parents/caregivers participated in a parenting support group, workshop, or one-on-one learning session

100% Parents/caregivers surveyed indicated they gained a better understanding of what they can do to help their child learn new skills and behaviors

3,467 Books distributed to families during well-child check-ups at local pediatrician offices

7,169

Children, ages 0-5, received at least one book from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at no cost to their families

94%

Early care educators reported increasing their knowledge because of SSNHC trainings they attended

Community Outreach, Education, and Advocacy

Connecting parents and educators to resources, sharing relevant information with the community, and advocating on behalf of young children. *Programs: Child Care Resource and Referral, Childcare Subsidy Program, Community Outreach & Education, SSNHC Resource Room Library, etc.*

56 Community agencies, organizations, and groups with which SSNHC collaborated with to coordinate services for families and children.

131 Parent and early educators visited the Resource Room & Library **306** times

1468 Kindergarten Registration Packets were prepared by staff and sent to **56** childcare centers for parents/caregivers with children entering kindergarten

457 Referrals made to connect parents/caregivers to other community resources



Smart Start of New Hanover County
3534 S. College Road, Suite F
Wilmington, NC 28412
(910) 815-3731

Birth to Kindergarten:
2,000 days that matter!
www.newhanoverkids.org