

2010-2011

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Craven Smart Start Has a New Home

Craven Smart Start has a new home! Our administrative offices, Child Care Resource & Referral Program, including the Lending Library, and offices for other regional and local staff are now located in Magnolia Plaza (formerly Montgomery-Ward) at 2111 Neuse Boulevard, Suite F in New Bern. The move was made at the end of April. After a few weeks of removing walls and restructuring space, painting, and then unpacking & organizing thousands of children's books, toys, puzzles, the Lending Library opened on May 31st. Since then, we have had a steady stream of moms groups, as well as individual parents and children visiting the facility. We encourage parents with young children to come and see our Lending Library. It is open Monday through Friday 8am-5pm. For more information call 672-5921.



This group of moms & children helped to kick-off the opening of our Resource Lending Library.

Thank You Board Members

With the close of the 2010-2011 program year, we want to thank all of our board members for their support, time, and commitment over the past year. "Our board members have been very helpful to me", according to Pat Morrow, "as I have transitioned into the Executive Director position and I am very appreciative of their support and guidance. We, especially want to thank board members whose terms end this month and recognize them for their years of leadership and service. These board members include: current Board President, Wendy Chapman; Tonya Cedars, and Virginia Buchanan."

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Craven Smart Start, partnered with Promise Place, the Guardian ad Litem Program, and Craven County Department of Social Services to kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 1st at our office, at that time on Trent Boulevard. Representatives from these organizations spoke to the crowd about their work on behalf of children who have been abused and neglected and about the importance of child abuse prevention. Rep. Norman W. Sanderson also addressed the crowd. The event concluded with the unveiling of a Child Abuse Prevention banner and the planting of "pinwheels for prevention" by Rep. Sanderson and the children and parents in the crowd. The banner and pinwheels remained in front of Craven Smart Start's office for the month of April to remind the public of child abuse prevention. The event was followed by a legislative meeting with Rep. Sanderson and Rep. William L. Wainwright.



Planting "Pinwheels for Prevention"

CCR&R Awards Grants to Child Care Providers

Our Child Care Resource and Referral Program is committed to assisting people who want to become state licensed child care operators and to improving the quality of care in state licensed child care centers and homes in Craven County. One of the strategies that CCR&R uses to achieve this goal is to offer grants that focus on quality enhancement. Since late last year, CCR&R has offered three grants.

- 1) a Quality Enhancement Materials Grant to assist child care providers in improving quality and star rating in their facilities by allowing them to purchase new classroom materials furniture and equipment.
- 2) a Facility Licensure Grant to increase star rating up to a 3,4, or 5 star rating for licensed child care facilities
- 3) a Quality Maintenance Grant to support programs which have maintained a four or five star level of licensure.

The grants were well received by child care providers and many applications followed. CCR&R Quality Enhancement Coordinators provided technical assistance and worked very closely with grant applicants. All total, eight child care facilities participated in the Materials Grant; six facilities participated in the Facilities Licensure Grant; and 26 child care facilities participated in the Quality Maintenance Grants.

Craven Smart Start Direct Service Provider Updates

The Early Childhood Conference & Family Concert featuring Dr. Jean Feldman... held on March 25th and 26th was a huge success. Craven Smart Start & CCR&R teamed up with Garber Preschool who hosted the events in the Ministry Center of Garber United Methodist Church. Over 224 parents and children attended the concert and 191 early childhood educators—from child care centers and homes; preschool and elementary schools—attended the conference. We were pleased to learn that many conference participants have incorporated Dr. Jean's educational songs and activities into their classrooms....Tooty Ta. !

Craven County Family Literacy Program at J. W. Smith Elementary.... four of the parents/adult students at the J.W Smith Family Literacy Program in Cove City earned their GED's and participated at Craven Community College's graduation exercises in May. **Craven Cherry Point Child Development Center** had a very successful Walk with Me fund raiser in Havelock on May 7th.. With the support of Easter Seals and Carolina East Health Systems and 250 volunteers, they raised about \$15,000. They also received donations of food and water from businesses in the Havelock area.

Community Outreach ...has participated in nine community events during the last quarter from western Craven County to MCAS Cherry Point to share resource guides and parenting information with parents and the public. Our community resource guide (the 4th edition) was recently updated and will be available in July. For information call (252) 671-0689

Raising a Reader.... 63 children at F.R. Danyus Head Start participated in the program...18 children, their parents and siblings, attended the story time program and Blue Bag presentation at the New Bern Library on May 18th

Professional Development ...Education Incentive Grants will be awarded to 12 child care providers at a training session on June 28th.

Thank you to the following who spoke or took part in the Kick-off for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

- Kent Flowers Jr.
- Gail Horne
- Mary Moore
- Pat Morrow
- Rep. Norman Sanderson
- Rep. William Wainwright
- Carolyn Wynne

Month of the Young Child Supporters

Many thanks to the following businesses who sponsored the Month of the Young Child commemorative page in the Sun Journal in April:

A Catered Affair

Child Care Networks, Inc
Children's Learning Castle
Excel Creative Learning Centers, LLC

Kiddie Kollege

Noah's Ark Preschool



Many thanks to Garber Preschool for hosting the family concert and early childhood conference. Special thanks to Peggy Faulkenberry and her staff for their support and assistance during the event. What a wonderful collaboration to share Dr. Jean Feldman's educational songs and activities with families & early childhood educators!

PICTURE THIS... Our Family Concert & Early Childhood Conference Featuring Dr. Jean Feldman



Letha Ricks, CCR & R Schoolage Specialist, (left) with "Dr. Jean"



Lots of Fun.... and lots of learning for all ages



Legislative Meeting



A workshop for child care providers taught by Terri Walls, Childcare Health Consultant (left)

A "Blue Bag" with books for a participant in Raising a Reader (right)



Smart Start staff & Board members read to children in childcare during the week of the Young Child



GED graduates & staff from the Craven County Literacy Program at J. W. Smtih Elementary on CCC graduation day.

Craven Smart Start, Inc.

A PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



2111 Neuse Boulevard, Suite F, New Bern, North Carolina 28560 • (252) 636-3198 • www.cravensmartstart.org

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Why Smart Start and High Quality Pre-K Programs? By: Wendy Chapman, Craven Smart Start Board President

MISSION STATEMENT:

To ensure that every child, birth to five, in Craven County receives the education, health and family support necessary to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

Editor's Note: The following excerpts are from a letter to the editor that Board President Wendy Chapman sent to the Sun Journal in April. Her letter was in response to an earlier letter in which the writer had questioned the value of pre-K programs, describing them as "nice but not necessary" and contended that "protecting the core education of K-12 is sufficient". We take this opportunity to share her thoughts on behalf of our partnership.



Neuroscience has literally changed the way we think about development in the early years. Experiences during the first five years literally shape the wiring of the brain and lay the foundation for success in school and beyond. A child's brain grows to about 80 percent of adult size by three years of age and 90 percent by age five, which means the preschool years are the most critical years for learning. Programs and interventions begun during these years are more likely to be effective than those begun in the K-12 years.

There is also a wealth of research that supports the cost-effectiveness of early learning initiatives and programs. Longitudinal studies have shown that children who participate in early learning and early intervention programs prior to kindergarten were more likely to graduate from high school and hold jobs—and to avoid teen pregnancy, delinquency, violent crime and incarceration.

A recent study from Duke University found that the "achievement gap" appears long before children reach kindergarten. Other research shows that third-graders who participated in early childhood initiatives like Smart Start and More at Four in their preschool years had higher standardized reading and math scores and lower special education placement rates than children who had not participated.

The writer (of the original letter to the editor) is well-meaning but his solution doesn't cut costs. It merely transfers them from the preschool-early learning programs to the K-12 special education and remediation programs, where the price tag per child will be monumentally more expensive.

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*Wendy Chapman is the Director of the New Bern Children's Developmental Services Agency, which is part of the North Carolina Early Intervention Program.

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