

CRAVEN SMART START NEWS

Craven Smart Start Newsletter

Fall, 2016

Smart Start for Every Child...Busting the Myth!

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, the agency that oversees Smart Start partnerships in North Carolina, recently rolled out a new logo and new tagline, **Each Child. Every Community.** Smart Start partnerships across the state are now following suit with similar logos and taglines. Craven Smart Start's new tagline will be **Every Child. Our Community.** The phrase "every child" may come as a surprise to some folks. Through the years, many North Carolinians have assumed that Smart Start was designed to serve only low-income children or children at-risk. When North Carolina's Smart Start program was created 23 years ago, its mission was "to ensure that **every** child reaches his or her potential and is prepared to succeed in a global community."

In this issue we intend "to bust" the myth that Smart Start serves only specific groups of children and to share information about the services that Craven Smart Start can provide to every child. While some of our Smart Start-funded programs are income-based, serving lower-income families, our partnership offers other services that are available to any Craven County family with children, birth to five years of age, regardless of family income. Although our budget and funding sources limit our direct service ability, we strive to serve as many Craven County children as possible, and are working to expand our services through fundraisers, like the Holiday Hustle. Please join us in our efforts to serve every child.

Save the Date ... 4th Annual Holiday Hustle 12/10/16
Craven Smart Start is seeking sponsors, runners and volunteers.
For information contact Maryjo MacLauren at (252) 638-3198 (Ext. 26)

Mission of Craven Smart Start: 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.



The 2015 Holiday Hustle Spirit Contest Participants -

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Four-year old Malik Twyford receives a certificate for his year-long participation in Play and Learn from CCR&R staff Cali Broughton and Bianca Chacon.

Play and Learn Parent/Child Groups

Children and their parents are invited to participate in Play and Learn activities each week at our Craven Smart Start office. Children will have fun while learning with music, art activities, and snacks. Led by Child Care Resource and Referral staff, the sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday each week from 9:30am to 10:30am.

Play and Learn is designed for children who have not started school and their parent or caregiver. Currently, children who participate range in age from 10 months to four years of age. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited to 8 children per session. Please call (252) 672-5921 to register.

Although there is no fee to participate, a valid CCR&R Lending Library Membership is preferred. Annual memberships can be purchased for \$10.00.

Our Resource Lending Library

Craven Smart Start's Resource Lending Library is a kid-friendly place where children, their parents and caregivers come to play and learn, while they play. It is organized in activity areas and is furnished with educational toys with the goal of providing youngsters and caregivers play-based learning opportunities. There is no charge to visit or play in the library. Sometimes described as New Bern's "mini children's museum," this facility includes a Thomas the Train table; a block area where children can build and create structures; a housekeeping dramatic play area with a play stove, sink, refrigerator, table, etc. for children's pretend play; a fine motor area where children can play with puzzles, games and manipulatives.

Well-stocked with developmentally appropriate books and toys, the library provides a resource/toy check out system for Lending Library members, enabling them to check out materials to use as home or in a child care setting for two week periods. In addition, Lending Library members can use other services of the library (laminating, book binding, faxing, etc.) for a small fee and can participate in Smart Start trainings at discounted rates. The annual library membership of \$10.00 goes back into the library to purchase new items. Donations of new and gently used books, toys and learning materials as well as monetary contributions are also accepted and much welcomed to help replenish library materials.

The Resource Lending Library is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is located in the Craven Smart Start/Child Care Resource & Referral office at 2111-F Neuse Boulevard in New Bern. To learn more about the Lending Library, visit www.cravensmartstart.org.

Parents, grandparents, and caregivers....Check out photos of our recently refurbished lending library on page 5. Better still, come visit us and bring the little ones with you. Hope to see you soon.



After Play and Learn, children enjoy free play in the Lending Library.

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Nadia Lowe, Raising A Reader Coordinator, leads child care staff, who will be implementing RAR in their centers, in an workshop activity at Craven Smart Start .

Trainings and Technical Assistance....

Looking for training to strengthen your parenting skills? Each month Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) offers a variety of training sessions in our office building. These trainings are required to meet state licensing requirements for child care staff; however, some sessions cover topics that would be of benefit to parents and grandparents. A good example is the training **It's SIDS**. This training is an introduction to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and covers best practices for prevention of SIDS. Trainings are conducted by CCR&R staff and Craven Smart Start's Child Care Health Consultant, all of whom have had extensive training in their respective fields. Fees for the trainings are very reasonable, with reduced fees for members of CCR&R's Resource Lending Library. A quarterly calendar, which includes details about the trainings, is available in the Lending Library and on Craven Smart Start's website. Call (252) 672-5921 for information.

Raising the quality of child care is a major goal of Craven Smart Start. In working towards this goal, CCR&R Quality Enhancement Coordinators provide countless hours of trainings and technical assistance to child care providers, helping them raise their level of care as assessed through the North Carolina star-rated licensing system. Their efforts have certainly had an impact, as more child care providers in Craven County are attaining and maintaining higher stars.

By raising the quality of care in child care facilities, Craven Smart Start directly impacts the children in care. **In FY 2014-2015, 1,318 children in 36 child care facilities benefited from 85 teacher and directors who received technical assistance from CCR&R's Q E Coordinators.**

Child Care Referrals ...

Do you need help finding quality child care or have questions related to child care issues and want information from a reliable source? Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) can help. CCR&R provides **free** child care referral services for parents who are looking for quality care or who have questions about what to look for in choosing quality care.

CCR&R's Parent Provider Specialist is familiar with the various types of regulated care and keeps track of the child care openings in the six county region of Craven, Pamlico, Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties. She can provide families with information necessary to make informed child care decisions and answer their questions in the CCR&R office or by phone. Parents can also request child care referrals on-line by clicking on the Child Care Search button on our website, www.cravensmartstart.org. For information, contact Bianca Chacon, Parent Provider Specialist, at (252) 672-5921 (Ext. 23).

The Child Care Resource and Referral office is located in Magnolia Plaza at 2111-F Neuse Boulevard in New Bern. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or questions about our services and programs.

Craven Smart Start, Inc.
2111F Neuse Boulevard
New Bern, NC 28560

(252) 636-3198 (Ext 29)

pmoore@cravensmartstart.org

Visit us on the web at
www.cravensmartstart.org

Craven Smart Start is a 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible.

Smart Start Funded Programs in Craven County—FY 2016-2017

- **Child Care Health Consultant (R.N.) - In-house Program**
- **Child Care Resource and Referral— In-house Program**
- **Child Care Subsidy—Implemented by Craven DSS**
- **Community Outreach—In-house Program**
- **Family Literacy Program—Implemented by Craven County Schools**
- **NC Pre-K Program— Implemented by Child Care Network #77**
- **NC Pre-K Program—Implemented by Coastal Community Action**
- **NC Pre-K Program— Implemented by Craven County Schools**
- **NC Pre-K Program—Implemented by Excel Learning Center VII**
- **Program Evaluation—In house Program**
- **Raising A Reader—In-house Program**
- **WAGE\$ - Implemented by Child Care Services Association**

In-house programs are operated by Craven Smart Start. For more information, visit wwwwww.cravensmartstart.org.

