

HERTFORD-NORTHAMPTON SMART START PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, INC.

“Each Child, Every Community”



***“Babies born today have only 2000
days until they begin kindergarten”***

2016-2017
ANNUAL REPORT

About Hertford-Northampton Smart Start

Hertford County Partnership for Children established in 1993 as one of the first Smart Start organizations in the State, then on July 1, 2009 Hertford merged with Northampton County to become Hertford-Northampton Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.

Vision

The Hertford-Northampton Smart Start Partnership for Children believes that all children are valuable. The community will embrace and support this belief by providing families and children opportunities that impact school readiness through a healthy and nurturing environment

Mission

To network and advocate for children and families to ensure successful futures.

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Childcare of Hertford and Northampton County

- **Hertford County** has 22 DCDEE-licensed child care centers and home; all accept subsidize children.
- 140 Hertford County children were able to attend licensed child care 2016-2017 as a result of Smart Start Subsidies

- **Northampton County** has 13 DCDEE-licensed child care centers and home; all accept subsidize children.
- 27 Northampton County children were able to attend licensed child care 2016-2017 as a result of Smart Start Subsidies



Star Rating System- Based on Program Standards, and Staff Education -557 Hertford County children (birth to 5) are enrolled in license childcare and 358 in Northampton County

Hertford County

0 Facility with	★
2 Facilities with	★★
5 Facilities with	★★★
7 Facilities with	★★★★
6 Facilities with	★★★★★
2 GS110	

Northampton County

1 Facility with	★
1 Facility with	★★
1 Facility with	★★★
4 facilities with	★★★★
5 Facilities with	★★★★★
1 Provisional License	

NC Childcare programs are rated on a star system. All licensed programs have at least 1 star except GS110. As program quality increases, so do the number of stars awarded to a facility

Smart Start 2016-2017

The Hertford -Northampton Smart Start Partnership for Children is a non-profit organization that helps improve the safety, health and well-being of young children by enhancing the quality of childcare and supporting families.

We work collaboratively with like minded organizations and strive toward early childhood education and school readiness for children in Hertford and Northampton Counties.

There are no charges for the services we provide, with the exception of a minimal fee for classes and workshops to help childcare teachers meet the on going educational requirements for their jobs.

The Partnership for Children is a community partnership – a shared commitment to Hertford and Northampton Counties next generation. Please make a tax deductible donation today



Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

Services are community-based services designed to provide an effective child care delivery system; one which provides a link between early childhood professionals, families who need child care, employers, and community planners who address child care needs.

Basic “core” services provided by Hertford – Northampton Smart Start Child Care Resource and Referral include:

Referrals to legally operating child care facilities.

Collecting and analyzing information about child care needs and supply.

Recruiting to build the supply of child care to meet child care demands.

Developing and maintaining quality child care programs.

Supporting early childhood professionals through technical assistance and training.

Educating and encouraging communities to address child care needs and issues.

Services Provided to Parents and Child Care Providers

In addition to the basic core services that we provide, we also provide the following services:

Transition and school readiness information and materials.

Resource and Material Lending Library that is utilized by parents, child care providers, early childhood education students and agencies.

Parent trainings on topics such as: Child Abuse and Neglect, Shaken Baby Syndrome and Car Seat Safety.

Quality Enhancement, Quality Maintenance and Health Initiative Programs for Licensed Child Care Facilities.

Support to new or potential child care providers.

Educational Trainings/Continuing Education Units are developed and conducted for providers that meet the requirements for in-service hours.

Fun and Educational Community Events for families.

Early literacy trainings and resources. **“Today A Reader, Tomorrow A Leader”**

Programs Overview

The Hertford-Northampton Smart Start Partnership for Children works to provide Smart Start programs and services based on local needs and state spending guidelines for core service areas. In 2016-2017, the Partnership funded the programs and services listed below:

Core Service Area	Smart Start Funded Program	Contracting Agency
Childcare Affordability	Smart Start Child Care Subsidy	Hertford County Department of Social Services Northampton County Department of Social Services
	Smart Start Pre-Kindergarten	Hertford County Public Schools
Child Care Quality and Availability	Child Care Resource and Referral	Hertford-Northampton Smart Start, PFC
	Quality Enhancement/Maintenance	Hertford-Northampton Smart Start, PFC
	WAGE\$ Supplement	WAGE\$
Health and Family Support	Parents as Teachers	Choanoke Area Development Association
Other Support Services	Smart Start Programs and Evaluation	Hertford-Northampton Smart Start, PFC



Smart Start Subsidy

This activity provided needed child care subsidies for families with children birth to 5 who had been placed on a waiting list because of insufficient child care subsidy funds in the county. As per guidelines developed by the partnership and the Hertford County Department of Social Services, children of working parents or those going to school were afforded access to quality child care.

Who Benefitted?

- 140 Hertford County children were able to attend quality child care with help from Smart Start child care subsidy.
- All families were able to go to work or school while their children attended licensed child care.
- 21 licensed Hertford County child care facilities received subsidy payments for children who could not otherwise afford to attend.
- 27 Northampton County children were able to attend quality child care with help from Smart Start childcare subsidy.
- All families were able to go to work or school while their children attended licensed child care.
- 13 licensed Northampton County child care facilities received subsidy payments for children who could not otherwise afford to attend.

Public Pre-Kindergarten

PBIS: Early Care and Education

Through the Hertford County Schools, the Partnership for children funded two Pre-Kindergarten classes at two local elementary schools to meet the educational needs of pre-school children. Each class had a teacher and a teacher assistant. 36 children were afforded an age appropriate instructional environment. This activity provided youngsters with valuable learning experiences as well as essential preparation needed for a formal kindergarten program. Stressing collaboration between parents and teachers, the programs made every effort to encourage parent involvement in the educational, social, and emotional development of their children.

Who Benefitted?

- 36 Hertford County children were able to attend pre-kindergarten who otherwise might not have been able to participate.
- 36 families were served.
- 2 early childhood teachers and 2 assistant teachers were able to utilize their skills to prepare young children for school success.

Outcome:

89% of the children participating in the Smart Start funded Pre-K classes gained 1 or more year of development as evidence by performance on the Peabody Picture vocabulary Test (PPVT)



Childcare Resource and Referral Services (CCR&R)

Program provided core and extended services to target populations of parents and child-care providers a basic purpose of core services is to function as liaison between the child care community and the public, especially parents. Parents related services were offered to provide information on child care options, quality indicators, cost, the availability of subsidies, and the importance of parental involvement, in order for the parents to make informed child care choices. The referral service assisted families in locating and accessing available child care options.

Core CCR&R services offered included technical assistance, workshops and information on other training opportunities. Technical assistance was also made available to facilitate the development of potential daycare homes and centers and expansion and or upgrading of existing facilities. Extended services included workshops on state licensing regulations, health and safety requirements, and subsidies. Partially funded through separate DCD grants, CCR&R services also made possible the partnership's lending library services, a regional training conference, and sponsorship of the Child Care Food Program.

Who Benefitted?

- 29 workshops were held serving 180 child care providers who attended.
- 35 child care centers and homes were served.
- 18 TA sessions were held with potential providers.
- 30 families received referrals and information about quality child care.

The Partnership staff provided technical assistance sessions to child care providers, enabling them to improve the child care environment. Examples of TA provided include the environmental rating scales, room arrangements, developmentally appropriate lesson plans, and appropriate health and safety practices.

Quality Enhancement/Quality Maintenance PBIS: Early Care and Education

Quality Enhancement is design to support child care facilities in improving their star ratings and overall quality of care for children. This activity is conducted on-site at local child care facilities and at different training locations, throughout the year. In addition to being provided with much needed supplies and materials, Quality grants participants learned how to evaluate their own child care environment and work to improve on factors that can lead to better services to children and higher licensure or maintain their stars. Technical assistance and training is provided to help teachers learn appropriate used of materials, the development of curriculum, quality child/teacher interactions and parental involvement.

Who Benefitted

- 6 centers and homes participated in consultation and coaching.
- 3 workshops were held serving 19 early childhood teachers for the purpose of maintaining quality.
- 90 children benefited from this activity.

Health Initiative



Color Me Healthy! is developed to teach children ages four and five fun ways to be physically active and healthy eating habits. The program is design to stimulate all of the senses of young children: touch, smell, sight, sound, and taste. Color Me Healthy uses color, music, and exploration of the senses to teach children that healthy food and physical activity are fun! Participating facilities:

Learning Unlimited Child Care Center (Center)
Ahoskie Christian Center Child Care Center (Center)
Tina's University Child Care Center (Center)
J & B's Child Care Center (Center)



Be Active Kids! is a program founded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina to educate you on how to teach children zero to five good eating habits, ways to become physically active and food safety. Also, Be Active Kids trainings relate to the following NC Division of Child Development topic areas: (1) Planning a safe, healthy learning environment; (2) Children's physical & intellectual development; (3) Child growth development; and (4) Productive relationships with families. Be Active Kids goal is that 32,000 young children will become more active, more often. The following facilities participated in the "Be Active Kids" curriculum:

Cynthia's Child Care Home (Home)
Rainbow Wonders Child Care Home (Home)
Kids Are Us Child Care Center (Home)

All providers were excited and glad to participate in the Health Initiative and pledged to continue using the curriculum, materials and activities in the future to keep our children physically active.

Outcomes for the 2016-2017 Health Initiative

- 199 Children participated (eager to learn new activities)
- 28 Adults participated (eager to implement new ideas and activities)
- A variety of the "Color Me Healthy" Curriculum lesson plans were utilized
- A variety of the "Be Active Kids" curriculum lesson plans were utilized
- Parents were given newsletters to promote "Active Families"
- Parent Survey's were distributed and some were returned
- Smart Start Staff members became more active by participating in the "Color Me Healthy and Be Active Kids", Fun, Fitness and Nutrition Day activities.

Child Care WAGE\$@Project

Salary supplements that are linked to the education level of participants are paid every six months as long as participants remain in child care program.

PBIS: Early Care and Education

- 43 childcare providers participated in the WAGE\$ Supplement Program.
- 19 childcare facilities were served.
- 546 children benefited from WAGE\$ Supplement

"We truly appreciate the supplement. It has helped me personally and my center tremendously." (Hertford, director)

"Thanks for the Support." (Hertford Childcare Provider)

"Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!" (Northampton County Teacher)

"I truly thank you for your support." (Northampton family childcare Provider)

Outcomes 2016-2017

86 child care providers maintained employment at the same child care facility for at least 6 months, increasing workforce stability and the consistent delivery of child care services.

Retention

- 20% turnover rate of WAGE\$ participants (vs. 25% PBIS goal).

Education

- 97% of active participants have permanent levels on the education scale (AAS ECE or higher)

Compensation

- 43 child care professionals were issued supplements
- \$655 average six-month supplement



Parents as Teachers

PBIS: Family Support

The Partnership teamed with the Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA) to fund two parent educators to provide individualized and group parent training sessions. Utilizing the Parents as Teachers curriculum, the parent educators routinely visited the homes of children birth to 5 demonstrate appropriate learning activities for children and provide training for parents in parenting skills, child development, self-esteem, motivation and assuming their roles as the first teachers of their children.

Who Benefitted?

- 22 children benefitted from PAT's services.
- Of the 22 children none had developmental problems.
- 23 families participated in group connections

Outcome 2016-2017

Results of surveys showed that 100% of PAT's participants was happy with the program and services

Other Program Support

Programs and Evaluation

The Programs and Evaluation are essential to the partnership in that this function provides monitoring and evaluation of Direct Service Providers and In-house core services through the development and review of monthly reports received from contractors and on-site visits.

Who Benefitted?

- Program Evaluation directly impacts how well programs are planned, implemented and evaluated.
- Technical assistance is provided to all DSPs and In-house services
- The Partnership relies on Programs and Evaluation function is to ensure that reports are completed and sent in on time.

Outcomes:

Met all Smart Start reporting requirements. Completed on-site monitoring visits to contracted services to ensure program consistency with contractual agreements.

Hertford-Northampton 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fall Literacy (Book-A-Treat)	60 adults were educated on the importance of reading to their children at an early age. 90 children receive literacy bags 16 volunteers
Toys for Tots	66 children received Toys 28 families were served
Health Initiative	199 children were affected by this Initiative and 28 adults
Week of the Young Child: Literacy Activities: Stories Time	6 schools 250 children 36 teachers
Providers Appreciation Dinner	37 teachers attended
Child Passenger Safety Seat Training	11 parents received carseats and were educated on how to install them properly.
Emergency Preparedness Response (EPR)	6 facilities participated 15 teachers trained
Professional Development	29 trainings/workshops were held 158 providers and teachers participated



“Provider of the Month”

2016-2017 Donors and Volunteers

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PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, INC.**

Volunteer with us: Smart Start Activities

Share your connections: Like us on Facebook

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The Partnership for Children is a community partnership – a shared commitment to Hertford and Northampton Counties next generation. Please make a tax deductible donation today.

Complete this card care return to:

Hertford-Northampton Smart Start Partnership for Children

711 East Vance St.

PO Box 504

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Need more information?

Call (252) 398-4124 or check our website at [Http://northamptonsmartstart.org](http://northamptonsmartstart.org)

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