

FALL 2017

SMART BEGINNINGS SOUTHEAST

CONNECTIONS



Smart Beginnings Southeast is a local coalition of public and private organizations and citizens working to ensure that the region's children enter school healthy, well-cared for, and ready to succeed in school — and in life!



OUR MISSION

We lead families and community partners in maximizing resources to assure that all children 0-5 are prepared emotionally, cognitively, socially and physically for school.

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SMART BEGINNINGS SOUTHEAST SUPPORTS AL'S PALS!

Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices is a nationally recognized, resilience-based early childhood curriculum and teacher training program that develops social, emotional and behavioral skills in children 3 to 8 years old. The Al's Pals interactive lessons and teaching approaches help young children learn to regulate their emotions and make healthy choices.



FREE TRAININGS AND MATERIALS

Two day training for individual participants to attend sessions held in centralized locations arranged by Wingspan for new teachers to get trained in Al's Pals ("face to face" or online). All new programs who participate in Al's Pals through SB Southeast will receive an Al's Pals kit (a \$725 value), support materials, and mentoring by a trained Al's Pals coach. Dates TBA. Stay Tuned!

Three hour face-to-face **Advanced Training** conducted on-site in Hopewell. Advanced Training is for teachers who have used Al's Pals for at least two years, previously had the basic Al's Pals training and are ready for fresh insights and exciting new strategies to fully infuse the program into the classroom. This training will take place **Saturday, September 23, 9:00-12:00, Hopewell Library, 209 East Cawson St., Hopewell, VA.** (See registration information in our training schedule.)



DIRECTOR'S CAFÉ SCHEDULE 2017-18

DIRECTORS GATHER FOR PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

Come and meet other directors in a casual and informal setting to discuss topics specifically chosen by directors to help support administrative work of child care centers. A light breakfast is served and friendships are encouraged!

All Director's Cafés will take place at **Eastside Enhancement Center**, 7301 Boydton Plank Rd., North Dinwiddie, VA 23803 from 9:00-10:30 AM.

(Note change of location from previous years!)

SCHEDULE OF CAFÉS

September 26, 2017

October 24, 2017

November 28, 2017

TOPICS

Safety in Child Care

Staff Evaluations

Everything You Want to Know about VA Quality!

CHILD CARE PROVIDER TRAINING SCHEDULE

OFFERED BY
SMART BEGINNINGS SOUTHEAST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Extending Language and Literacy in the Pre-school Classroom!

Enjoying books with children and using them to the fullest!
(Focus on Quackers by Liz Wong)

Presenter: Rhonda Lee • Time: 9:00 AM- Noon

Location: **Hopewell Library**, 209 East Cawson Street, Hopewell, VA

Deadline to Register: September 8

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

Al's Pals Advanced Training

(Students must have taken Al's Pals general training as a prerequisite)

Presenter: Yolanda Satchell • Time: 9:00-Noon

Location: **Hopewell Library**, 209 East Cawson Street, Hopewell, VA

Deadline to Register: September 15

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017

Extending Language and Literacy in the Pre-school Classroom!

Enjoying books with children and using them to the fullest!
(Focus on Quackers by Liz Wong)

Presenter: Rhonda Lee • Time: 9:00 AM- Noon

Location: **Southside Community College**, 109 Campus Dr., Alberta, VA

Deadline to Register: September 29

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

Observing and Managing Challenging Behavior

Observing children in the classroom helps in understanding challenging behavior and helps with creating successful management techniques for success.

Presenter: Taryn Traylor • Time: 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Location: **Prince George Library**, 6605 Courts Dr., Prince George, VA

Deadline to Register: October 27

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

Observing and Managing Challenging Behavior

Observing children in the classroom helps in understanding challenging behavior and helps with creating successful management techniques for success.

Presenter: Taryn Traylor • Time: 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Location: **Southside Community College**, 109 Campus Dr., Alberta, VA

Deadline to Register: November 21

TO REGISTER, email jmcneil@arls.org. Please include the following information: name and date of workshop, name(s) of those attending, center name, contact phone.



EARN YOUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE CREDENTIAL START NOW!

The Child Development Associate (CDA) credential is a national credential awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition to individuals who have successfully completed the CDA assessment process. Many view the CDA Credential as an instrument for career advancement in the early childhood care and education profession. In our local area, earning your CDA credential will give you a jump start in college towards an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood at John Tyler Community College, where you can earn up to 8 college credits by completing your CDA!

Smart Beginnings Southeast has helped nearly 100 candidates earn a CDA credential! Will you be next? Classes for CDA meet monthly and participants are provided with materials needed to complete module assignments at home. Completion of the course takes 12-15 months and the cost is \$25.00/month.

INTERESTED IN EARNING YOUR CDA?

A mandatory orientation class has been scheduled for **Thursday, August 24, 2017 at the Hopewell Library (HMA Room) from 7:00 - 8:30 pm**. Professional Development hours will be awarded for attending this FREE orientation event! Pre-registration is required by August 21, 2017. To register, contact Yolanda Richey at pace2u@comcast.net or (804) 721-8536.

TRAININGS BY VIRGINIA QUALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINERS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017 Child-Driven

This workshop will help you create classrooms where children have lots of opportunities to try new things, make decisions and gain independence.

Presenter: Dawne Stirling • Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: **Big Blue Marble**, 13711 Village Mill Drive, Midlothian, VA 23114

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 Increase Children's Enthusiasm

Come prepared to create something new to add to your learning environment and maximize children's interest.

Presenter: Angela Comer • Time: 4:00-6:00 PM

Location: **Speech, Hearing, Learning Services Building**, 201 High Street, Farmville, VA 23901

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 Let's Talk About It

This workshop will support teachers in strategies to keep conversations with children going throughout the day.

Presenter: Angela Comer • Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: **Kidco Academy**, 4821 Prince George Dr., Prince George, VA

THURSDAY OCTOBER 12, 2017 Learning Community - The Power of Positive Play

Take a deep dive into discovering various ways and strategies to engage children in positive play. The purpose of this learning community is for participants to take leadership in learning, in leading group discussions, and meeting agendas.

Presenter: Angela Comer • Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: **Especially Yours CDC**, 1605 Jefferson Davis Highway, Richmond, VA 23224

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017 What Are Early Learning Domains?

This workshop will help teachers identify, explore and enhance their knowledge of the Early Learning Domains through resources and interactive experiences.

Presenter: Rhoena Haithcock • Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

Location: **St. John Child Development Center**, 9402 Sussex Dr., Stony Creek, VA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 What is Intentional Teaching?

This workshop will help teachers gain a definition of Intentional Teaching, review lesson planning for intentional teaching, identify your teaching style and expand the quality of your Intentional Teaching.

Presenter: Rhoena Haithcock • Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: **To be announced**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017 Let's Make a Connection

This workshop focuses on the importance of real world applications and helping children understand concepts.

Presenter: Angela Comer • Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: **Stepping Stone Academy**, 10210 Melvin Alsbrooks Ave., McKinney, VA

REGISTER for these VA Quality trainings at trainings@childsavers.com one week in advance of the training. Leave the name and date of the training, names of attendees, name of center and contact phone and e-mail.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

SO MANY GOODBYES

Ways to ease the transition between home and groups for young children

“Good feelings are contagious! If you are genuinely enthusiastic about an upcoming change, your child will look forward to it too.” If you are satisfied with the quality of the care you have chosen you will feel more comfortable with your choice. High quality programs know how to transition children as a part of their program and you as a parent will want to ask how the center or program manages transitions.

Children between the ages of 5 months and 3 years often experience separation anxiety. This may involve the child screaming, crying or clinging. “The bright side, however, is that separation anxiety marks a big step in your child’s development: Your child has already learned to care about you and is aware that she or he is separating from you!” This is the beginning of meaningful relationships.

“From birth, your children grow closer to you and independent at the same time. How you handle the situation can set the stage for how well your child adjusts to other challenges in life. Be sure your actions and words are a good example!”

All children feel more comfortable when they know what to expect. “A few days to anticipate a change in caregiver or setting will be sufficient for infants

and toddlers, while preschoolers may appreciate a week or two to get ready. Kindergarten or primary-school children may start asking months in advance.” Drive or walk past the new building. Try to meet the caregiver or teacher in advance in the location where the child will be. Many programs encourage this transition opportunity and have a transition procedure set up for you.

“At last, the long anticipated day is about to arrive. The night before you will probably start some new routines. These rituals, like bedtime stories, add predictability and are comforting in unfamiliar situations. They add continuity to each passing day.” Taking familiar pictures or objects to the center helps children transition from one familiar situation to a less familiar one.

Allow lots of time on the first day to alleviate additional stress. The commute to the new environment brings an opportunity to talk and should be a positive part of your new routine.

Get to the center early so you will have plenty of time to help your child settle in and get involved in play before you leave. Engage in conversation with the caregiver as they welcome your child.



ALL CHILDREN FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WHEN THEY KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.

“Early childhood professionals know children are interesting, likable people, and every family is respected.”

“When it is time for you to go no matter how tempting it might be to slip out unnoticed, you will violate your child’s trust if you leave without saying goodbye.”

Be sure to tell your child how and when you will pick them up. Offer comforting words like “I know it’s hard to say goodbye.” In summary, be positive in thought and word about the change, prepare for the change, engage in the transition with the new care provider and always say “goodbye!”

For more information go to **NAEYC.org** and click on the Family Resources tab at the top.

The ideas presented in this are taken from the above cited brochure by Janet Brown McCracken, Copyright 1990, 1997 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children

CALL SMART BEGINNINGS FOR HELP WITH COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND CLASSES!

Smart Beginnings Southeast, in collaboration with Department of Social Services and Project Pathfinders, will help you with enrollment, financial assistance and support as you make that important decision to start college classes in Early Childhood Development. Our coalition works directly with Dr. Belinda Hooper and the staff at John Tyler Community College to help you in planning your goals and aspirations as you progress in your professional training. Contact us for more information, to help you get started or to guide you in the resources available to you!

From an Early Childhood Career Studies Certificate to an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development, we are ready to help! Call or e-mail us today!

Katie Sloan, Coordinator of Programs for Smart Beginnings Southeast
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