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.

Alison Noble  
DIRECTOR  
Smart Beginnings Southeast  
804.314.3497 • anoble@arls.org

Katie Sloan  
COORDINATOR  
Programs & Community Impact  
Smart Beginnings Southeast  
804.458.6329, ext 2022  
ksloan@arls.org

Jean McNeil  
COORDINATOR  
Virginia Quality  
804.458.6329, ext 2023  
jmcneil@arls.org

WWW.SMARTBEGINNINGSSE.ORG

Smart Beginnings Southeast Celebrates Success!

ON NOVEMBER 6 over eighty child care directors, providers and special guests came together at the John Randolph Foundation in Hopewell to Celebrate the Success of those in our Smart Beginnings Southeast region who have set goals for higher levels of quality care and education for the children they serve. VA Quality peers and friends in child care joined together for a great evening of dining and celebration!

Alison Noble, Director of Smart Beginnings Southeast welcomed everyone and Katie Sloan, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, gave the invocation. Yolanda Richey, Smart Beginnings Child Development Associate instructor, explained the Child Development Associate credential to the audience and the impact it has had on improvement in quality child care in our region. As we approach the completion of credentials for the 100th CDA student, there is much to celebrate! Many CDA students were recognized by Ms. Richey for outstanding achievement and commitment to professional development. Jean McNeil, Local Coordinator of VA Quality, went on to describe the “small successes” accomplished each day for young children in our VA Quality program. “Each day when we greet a child and help them get off to a great start, we have achieved a small success,” Ms. McNeil expressed as she went on to give many enlightening examples.

Smart Beginnings Southeast and our many partners have much to celebrate! Many thanks to all of our friends and participants in VA Quality! When we work together, all children benefit.
MESSAGE FROM ALISON NOBLE

DIRECTOR OF SMART BEGINNINGS SOUTHEAST

Every year I continue to be impressed by the number of providers enthusiastically dedicating themselves to improving quality. Whether it be attending a Saturday training or deciding to continue your education at community college, we know these actions are not easy! We appreciate everything you have sacrificed for quality improvement in your program and we trust it will all be worth it when children are ready for school, ready for life!

Keep up the good work!

Alison

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.

SCHEDULE OF CAFÉS & TOPICS

JANUARY 30, 2018
Health Issues in Child Care

FEBRUARY 24, 2018
Parent Involvement and Marketing

MARCH 27, 2018
Legal Issues in Child Care

APRIL 24, 2018
Supporting Positive Staff Moral

CHILD CARE PROVIDER TRAINING SCHEDULE

OFFERED BY SMART BEGINNINGS SOUTHEAST

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018
Early Detection of Developmental Delays
Understanding the appropriate way to screen for a child’s developmental level and how to discuss developmental delays with parents.
Presenter: Heather Coleman • Time: 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM
Location: Prince George Library, 6605 Courts Dr., Prince George, VA
Deadline to Register: January 12
(Snow date to be determined if needed)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018
Al’s Pals Presents:
Healthy Al – Healthy Me!
Presenter: Yolanda Richey • Time: 9:00 AM-11:30 AM
Location: Hopewell Library, 209 East Cawson Street, Hopewell, VA
Deadline to Register: January 31, 2018
(Snow date to be determined if needed)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018
Early Detection of Developmental Delays
Understanding the appropriate way to screen for a child’s developmental level and how to discuss developmental delays with parents.
Presenter: Heather Coleman • Time: 9:30 AM- Noon (note time change)
Location: Brunswick Library, 133 West Hicks St., Lawrenceville, VA
Deadline to Register: February 9, 2018
(Snow Date March 10, same time and location)

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018
Designing Behavior Plans for Children with Challenging Behavior
Creating management techniques for classroom success by designing plans for challenging behavior. This workshop will help you understand the need for and how to implement behavior management plans.
Presenter: Taryn Traylor • Time: 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM
Location: Prince George Library, 6605 Courts Dr., Prince George, VA
Deadline to Register: March 16, 2018

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018
Designing Behavior Plans for Children with Challenging Behavior
Creating management techniques for classroom success by designing plans for challenging behavior. This workshop will help you understand the need for and how to implement behavior management plans.
Presenter: Taryn Traylor • Time: 9:30 AM- Noon (note time change)
Location: Brunswick Library, 133 West Hicks St., Lawrenceville, VA
Deadline to Register: April 6, 2018

TO REGISTER, email jmcmill@arls.org. Please include the following information: name and date of workshop, name(s) of those attending, center name, contact phone.
FOCUS ON FAMILY CHILD CARE

EVENTS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

DECEMBER 9, 9:00-10:30 AM

Family Child Care Breakfast

Family child care providers will gather to share breakfast at the Eastside Enhancement Center, 7301 Boydton Plank Rd., Dinwiddie, VA 23803. Jean McNeil welcomes all of our family child care providers to come together for discussion and fellowship.

JANUARY 13, 9:00-10:30 AM

Family Child Care Provider Discussion

With Cybil Faulks-Brown and Jean McNeil

The discussion topic is “Everything You Want to Know about VA Quality!”

Eastside Enhancement Center, 7301 Boydton Plank Rd., Dinwiddie, VA 23803.

(Meet these two presenters in articles on back page.)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINERS

TRAININGS BY VIRGINIA QUALITY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018

Powerful Teacher-Child Interactions

This training will focus on getting the most out of your conversations and interactions with your students. Good teacher-child interactions form the foundation for all early learning!

Presenter: Cristin McKnight • Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: Hopewell Library, HMA Room, 209 East Cawson St., Hopewell, VA

Registration Deadline: Jan. 4

(Snow Date: Jan. 18. Same time and location)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

Building Brains with Brilliant Books!

High quality environments create opportunities for children to explore and experience a wide variety of developmentally appropriate books. This helps participants understand how to select books and ways to make books accessible to children. Receive FREE BOOKS for your classroom when you attend.

Presenter: Yolanda Richey • Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: Angels at Play, 5810 Boydton Plank Rd., N. Dinwiddie, VA

Deadline to Register: January 18

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

Lesson Planning: Relevant, Interesting and Individualized!

Bring a copy of your lesson plan. Identify and evaluate the three major characteristics of a “Teacher Sensitive” lesson plan process. Practice making sure lesson plans are inclusive of all children.

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

Location: James Child Development Center, 4224 Branchester Pkwy, Prince George, VA 23875

Deadline to Register: March 1

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

Powerful Teacher-Child Interactions

This training will focus on getting the most out of your conversations and interactions with your students. Good teacher-child interactions form the foundation for all early learning!

Presenter: Cristin McKnight • Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

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

Registration Deadline: March 8

REGISTER for these VA Quality trainings at training@childsavers.org 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.

WWW.SMARTBEGINNINGSSE.ORG
MEET CYBIL FAULKS-BROWN
REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA FOR VA QUALITY

I have the pleasure of being the Regional Coordinator of Central Virginia for Virginia Quality. I am responsible for recruitment, supporting programs, and overseeing a grant budget. I coordinate trainings and help increase public awareness of the need for quality child care. I am originally from the Tidewater area and came to Richmond in 1992 to attend VCU. I worked for five years for Richmond Social Services as the Quality Child Care Coordinator for the Richmond Early Childhood Development Initiative. I provided trainings, published a quarterly newsletter and served on boards advocating for professionalism in the workforce. Prior to working in the City of Richmond, I was a District Trainer and a Curriculum Specialist for KinderCare Learning Centers. I enjoyed seven years as a preschool teacher at Westminster Canterbury CDC. My B.S. is in Psychology from VCU, and I earned a certificate in ECE from Reynolds. I have graduate credits in curriculum & instruction, special education and early childhood education. In my spare time I enjoy reading, writing poetry, baking and spending time with my family. I am married with 3 children ages 19, 15 and 4 years of age. I look forward to working for you and hopefully seeing you at a Director’s Café or other Smart Beginnings Southeast event.

MEET DR. BELINDA HOOPER
DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
JOHN TYLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Belinda Hooper is a Professor of Early Childhood Education at John Tyler Community College. She received her doctoral degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and her education specialist degree from The George Washington University at Foggy Bottom, Washington, D.C. Dr. Hooper brings a unique perspective to her current position at JTCC having begun her career in education as a paraprofessional before becoming an elementary school teacher and later, an early childhood special education teacher. In response to a community need, she also owned and operated the first childcare center in a small rural community. Before coming to JTCC in 2013, Dr. Hooper spent 10 years at Virginia Commonwealth University in the School of Education, Early Childhood Special Education Program. In addition to preparing master’s level early childhood special educators, she was the co-director of a U.S. Department of Education teacher preparation grant. Dr. Hooper believes strongly that young children need high quality early care and education teachers. Her goal at JTCC is to graduate well trained teachers who are prepared to appropriately support the developmental needs of all young children. She encourages you to register for early childhood classes at John Tyler and looks forward to meeting you in the classroom or online!