



Partnership Press



News and Info about Smart Start in Lincoln & Gaston Counties

Autumn 2007

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Smart Start Awards Pilot Project Grant—"The Incredible Years"—to Lincoln & Gaston Counties

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPCC) has awarded the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, Inc. a two-year Smart Start project grant to participate in a statewide project to enhance parent education. The grant of \$16,438 for the first year is funded by the Duke Energy Foundation. This grant project is one of 26 Smart Start pilot grants across the state representing 45 North Carolina counties. The Partnership for Children is one of six partnerships across the state chosen to implement "The Incredible Years" BASIC Parent Training Program.



NCPCC is initiating the pilot project grant program to focus intense energy and action around four critical issues facing North Carolina children—childhood obesity/overweight, access to developmental screenings, family literacy, and parent education. Throughout the two-year program, Smart Start will closely track the impact of these grant dollars in communities across the state.

"This statewide pilot project is important work in addressing the critical needs of young children," stated NCPCC President Stephanie Fanjul. "We are very proud of the Smart Start partnerships who participated in the grant process. They have tremendous dedication to addressing issues important to North Carolina families."

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties will focus on parent education by introducing the "Incredible Years" BASIC Parent Training program to parents in the two-county area. "The Incredible Years" BASIC Parent Training program is a 14-week program designed to help parents who are seeking support and training to deal with their child's behavior. The Partnership has identified, through parent and educator surveys and panel discussions with early childhood professionals, that parents can receive more enjoyment in parenting by learning creative ways and new strategies to handle the challenging behaviors of normal preschool children. Evaluation of the "Incredible Years" training program has found that parent training remains one of the most effective treatments for young children with conduct problems.

For more information about this project, or if you are interested in participating in the "Incredible Years" parent training program scheduled to begin in early 2008, contact the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties at 704-922-0900 or email publicinfo@pfclg.com.

2007-2008 Partnership Programs Are Underway

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties will provide services to Lincoln and Gaston residents through 18 Smart Start programs this fiscal year. The



programs operate in partnership with 10 governmental and non-profit groups to impact the health and education of children ages birth through five.

2007-2008 Programs:

Adolescent Parenting Program (APP): APP provides services and support to young Lincoln County parents who have a child or children between the age of 0-5, or are expecting a child. This activity is operated by Lincoln County Department of Social Services.

Very Important Parents (VIP): VIP works with parents to demonstrate developmentally appropriate parenting practices that support positive parent/child interactions, and the program serves as a centralized source of support for parents of children ages birth through five. This activity is operated by Gaston County Cooperative Extension.

Parent Resource and Referral: This activity provides child care information to parents of young children and maintains a computerized database on child care supply and demand for spaces in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. This program is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Family Resource Center: The Family Resource Center provides free programs to all Lincoln County residents who are parents or guardians of children ages birth to five. Activities include parenting classes, English as a Second Language (ESL), General Educational Development (GED) classes, and child and adult literacy opportunities. This activity is operated by Communities In Schools of Lincoln County, Inc.

Early Intervention and Awareness: A Child Development Awareness Specialist provides information regarding the importance and availability of early intervention services in Gaston

and Lincoln Counties to area agencies and organizations that impact families, physicians and pediatric therapists. This program is operated by Community Health Partners.

Health Check Coordination: The Health Check Coordination Program supports two Health Check Coordinators to identify children ages birth to five who are eligible for Medicaid, and educate their parents/guardians on the importance of regular preventive care. This program is operated by Community Health Partners.

Children's Advocacy Center Therapy Support: This activity provides reimbursement of treatment/counseling fees to eligible families being served at qualifying Children's Advocacy Centers in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. This activity is administered by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Child Care Health Consultants—Two full-time North Carolina-certified Child Care Health Consultants work to improve the health, safety, and nutrition of children ages birth to five attending licensed child care centers and family care homes in Lincoln and Gaston counties. This activity is administered by the Health Departments serving each of the counties.

Child Care Subsidy: This subsidy program purchases child care for children whose families meet local, state and federal requirements. It is administered by the Department of Social Services office in each county.

Individual Professional Development Program (IPDP): Through this program, child care professionals are able to

receive professional development planning assistance, financial incentives for completing college courses, and other professional support opportunities. This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Quality Enhancement: This project provides on-site technical assistance, training opportunities, and incentives to child care providers to improve quality in child care centers and family child care homes rated four stars or below in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. This activity is administered by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Quality Sustainability: This activity provides financial and technical support to qualified high quality four and five star facilities that serve children ages birth through five years that meet specific goals and high-quality indicators. This activity also requires participants to meet specific program and education point levels as identified in their state license. This program is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Gaston County More at Four Pre-kindergarten Program Subsidy: The Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties provides supplemental funding to child care centers providing More at Four services in Gaston County. The Partnership also provides supplemental funding to child care centers providing More at Four services for up to the number of slots approved for Gaston County child care facilities.

Lincoln County More at Four Pre-kindergarten Program Administration: The Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties serves as the More at Four administrator for Lincoln County, and is responsible for verification of the child's eligibility and the More at Four site's compliance with More at Four program guidelines. (continued on page 3)

SUPER STARS

The following child care centers and family child care homes increased to a three, four or five level star rating during June-September 2007. Congratulations to these centers and homes!

Two Stars

Loving Hands Day Care,
Gastonia

Four Stars

Children's Land,
Lincolnton

Mini Academy,
Mount Holly

Five Stars

Learning Land Children's
Center, Lincolnton

Gaston College Child
Care, Dallas

The Partnership for Children Goes to the Apple Festival

Over 200 children and their parents visited the Partnership for Children's booth at the Lincoln County Apple Festival, held September 15 in Lincolnton.

The Partnership provided a "Tot Spot", a 100-square foot area equipped with toys so that toddlers could have a chance to play after walking or riding in a stroller through the festival. A stamp art area was also set up for children to design their own Apple Festival artwork. Information was on hand for parents to learn about Smart Start and the Partnership's programs.



A survey was conducted asking parents about their choice of child care options and if they would like to receive parenting information from the Partnership. All those completing surveys were eligible to win an umbrella stroller. Leslie Eller of Denver was the raffle winner.

The Partnership will also be at Dallas's Cotton Ginning Days on Saturday, October 13. Come out and see us!

2007-2008 Smart Start Programs (con't from page 2)

WAGE\$: WAGE\$ is designed to provide incentives to early childhood professionals to increase teacher education levels and decrease turnover. WAGE\$ is administered by the Child Care Services Association.

Program Coordination and Collaboration: This activity, operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, provides a variety of tools to help other Smart Start funded programs work efficiently. Staff bring together community organizations to work toward common goals, improve

the service delivery system, evaluate service effectiveness, identify needs and remedies, maximize the use of resources, and identify underserved populations.

Community Outreach Services: Through this activity, citizens are connected to Smart Start services through a variety of methods, including participation at community fairs, publications, and informing the public through the Partnership's website, www.pfcg.com. This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Welcome New Board Members!

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties is pleased to welcome our newest board members:

Elizabeth Dampier, Gaston County Museum of Art & History

Linda Greer, Gaston College

Bill Gross, Gaston County Health Department

Cindy Holman, Gaston County Department of Social Services

Tina Hurdt, City of Lincolnton

Dr. David Martin, Lincoln County Schools

Ron Johnston, Lincoln County YMCA

Paul Locke, Timken Corporation

Partnership Website Adds New Features

Have you visited www.pfclg.com lately? The Partnership for Children's website looks the same, but now has more information to assist parents, child care professionals, and direct service providers.

The home page features information about the Partnership for Children, but also provides a quick link to frequently viewed documents. The calendar section has been updated and includes information about all training opportunities available in the next two months. You can also link to the Partnership's quarterly training calendar through the Child Care Providers private section, accessible on the left side of the page.

One of the newest and most exciting additions to the site allows parents and caregivers to locate child care information and a list of openings through the Partnership's Child Care Resource & Referral Service (CCRR). Simply go to

the Parent Info section, click on "Online Child Care Search", and a new window will open. Simply register and provide the requested information, and you can search our database for openings in licensed child care centers and family child care homes. There is also a list of quality indicators that can be used to identify what to look for in a child care setting.

If you aren't web savvy or have any questions, the Partnership's Parent Information Assistants are ready to help. You can reach a Parent Information Assistant during normal business hours at 704-922-0900, at 704-736-9008 or 704-862-6651. Services for Spanish-speaking citizens are also available at 704-862-6651.

Please take a chance to check out www.pfclg.com and let us know what you think by calling Stacy Bryant at 704-922-0900 or by email at publicinfo@pfclg.com.

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