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Coordinator

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## OUR MISSION

Serving as a leading advocate and collaborative resource to provide access to high quality services for young children.

## OUR VISION

A community where young children will reach their full health and educational potential.

## CONTACT US

Receive our newsletter twice a year by US Mail. If you want to receive our newsletter, please contact:  
Amy Wadsworth at 704-736-9008 or 704-922-0900, or send an email to publicinfo@pfclg.com.  
120 Roechling Street,  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# PARTNERSHIP PRESS

Summer 2012

News and Info about Smart Start in Lincoln & Gaston Counties

## Partnership welcomes new Executive Director, Michael Linker



The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties is proud to introduce Michael Linker as our new Executive Director. Mr. Linker's selection is the result of an extensive and thorough executive search process. Linker assumed leadership effective March 26, 2012.

Linker joins the Partnership with a strong non-profit and fundraising background. His diverse career includes 20 years of senior level management experience as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

He has worked on several successful capital fundraising campaigns and operating fundraising activities including grant writing. Most recently, he served as Executive Director of Hospice of Union County in Monroe.

"I am honored to be a part of the leadership team of the Partnership and look forward to working with members of the Board of Directors and staff in pursuit of its vision of young children in Lincoln and Gaston counties reaching their full health and educational potential," Linker said.

Linker holds a combined Master's degree in Business Administration and Healthcare Administration from Pfeiffer University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Appalachian State University. His community involvement includes being a past Board Member with Union County Smart Start for over 7 years of which he also received the Volunteer of the Year Award.

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW FULLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE, AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!**

**WWW.PFCLG.COM**

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## PFCLG MEETS WITH LEGISLATORS

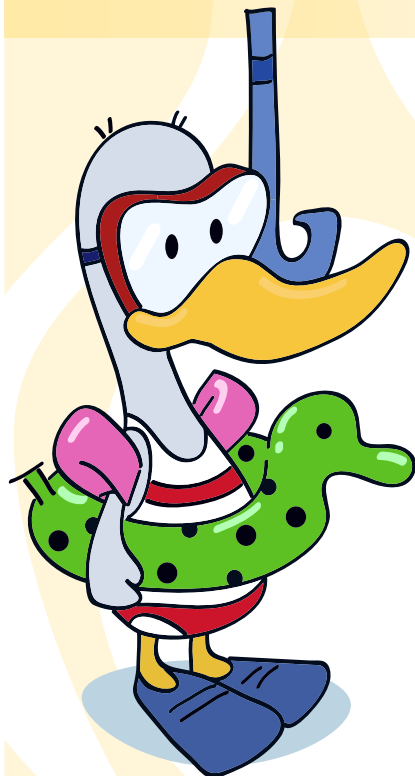
Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties' Travel to Raleigh to Ask Gaston and Lincoln County Legislators to Maintain Investments in Early Childhood Programs.



On Tuesday, May 22, child advocates from Lincoln and Gaston Counties traveled to the North Carolina General Assembly as part of Smart Start's statewide "Tuesdays for Tots" initiative. The constituents met with the legislative delegation from each county and asked members to restore \$18.8 million to Smart Start. In 2011, Smart Start funding was reduced by 20% (\$37.6 million), disproportionately more than any other component of the education system. As a result thousands of children are no longer benefiting from much-needed early childhood programs. "There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when that child shows up for the first day of kindergarten," said Michael Linker, Executive Director of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties. "We're meeting with legislators to discuss the needs of children in our community, the research that supports programs like Smart Start, and why investing in our youngest citizens is a wise investment for families, the economy and our society as a whole." State funding for Smart Start has been cut by \$80 million over the last decade. These cuts are occurring at the same time that economists, military leaders, law enforcement and business leaders are advocating that investments in young children are one of the strongest investments for sustained growth and job creation, protecting our national security, and providing children with the opportunity to reach their potential.

Local residents traveling to the North Carolina General Assembly included: Michael Linker, Executive Director of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, Amy Wadsworth, Public Information Coordinator of the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, and Amy Simmons, Director of the Grace School in Stanley and PFCLG Board member. The group met with the following members of the Lincoln and Gaston County legislative delegation. They included Representative William A. Current, Sr., Representative Kelly E. Hastings, Representative John A. Torbett, Representative Jason Saine, Senator Chris Carney and Senator Kathy Harrington.

## WATER SAFETY



Summer is a great time to spend outdoors, especially at the beach or lake. It's important to keep safety in mind, when children are around water. You should always know where your child is at all times. Do not be distracted by phone calls, text messaging, reading or talking to others. Jim Landis, Safe Kids Gaston County Coordinator/Gastonia Fire Educator said parents should enroll children in swimming lessons at a young age so they can learn to swim. Also, parents should learn CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation), which can restore circulation of oxygen-rich blood to the brain. Without oxygen, permanent brain damage or death can occur in several minutes. Other tips include making sure gates are latched/closed around the pool area and double checking that the drain cover on a pool is compliant. During the summer months last year (June-September 2011), there was one near drowning incident that was treated at CaroMont Health, that is a 50 percent decrease from the previous year. However, the Trauma Services Department warns to not let your guard down! Landis said drowning's can occur in water less than 1 to 2 inches such as a bucket of water. Empty all buckets and containers immediately after use. Store them upside down! Keep doors to bathrooms and laundry rooms closed around the house. Also, keep toilet lids closed and use toilet locks. Once bath time is over, drain the tub!

Other tips at the pool/lake:

- Always follow the rules at the pool, they help keep you safe.
- Wear a lifejacket if you do not know how to swim.
- Never play in or near water alone. Only go to a pool if a grownup is with you.

Want to learn CPR?

Contact your local health department, or local American Red Cross chapter that offer courses. For swimming lessons, contact your local parks and recreation department or your local YMCA.



### Summer Book Recommendations

Canoe Days,  
by Gary Paulsen

Come on, rain,  
by Karen Hesse

Hooray for Summer,  
by Kazuo Iwamura

Summer Wonders,  
by Bob Raczka

Summertime in the Big Woods,  
by Laura Inglass Wilder

Summertime Waltz,  
by Nina Payne

One hot summer day,  
by Nina Crews

Touch the Sky Summer,  
by Jean Van Leeuwen

A Summery Saturday Morning,  
by Margaret Mahy

How I Spent My Summer Vacation,  
by Mark Teague

Congratulations to the following centers/homes who increased their star ratings in our Quality Enhancement Program (centers/homes rated 4 stars or below)

#### Gaston County

All About Me, increased to a 4 star  
A Mother's Love, increased to a 4 star  
Advantage, increased from a 1 star to a 4 star  
Angel's Little Angels, increased from a 1 star to a 4 star  
Anointed Hands, increased from a 1 star to a 3 star  
Brite Blessings, increased from a 1 star to a 3 star  
Cora's Tiny Tots, increased from a 1 star to a 3 star  
First Presbyterian Weekday School, increased from a 4 star to a 5 star  
PJ's, maintained a 4 star  
Smile of a Child, increased from a 1 star to a 3 star  
Our Future, increased from a 1 star to a 2 star

#### Lincoln County

A Place to Grow, increased to a 5 star  
Chesterbrook Academy, increased from a 4 star to a 5 star  
Country Club, increased from a 4 star to a 5 star  
G.E. Massey Elementary School, maintained their 5 star  
Iron Station Elementary School, maintained their 5 star  
Love Memorial Elementary School, maintained their 5 star

Congratulations to the following centers/homes who increased their star ratings in our Quality Sustainability Program (centers/homes who have sustained four and five stars)

#### Gaston County

A Toddler Tech, maintained their 4 star  
Bessemer City First Baptist, maintained their 4 star  
Childcare Network #144, maintained their 5 star  
Cline's 2, maintained their 5 star  
Ms. Brenda's, maintained their 5 star  
New Horizons, maintained their 5 star  
Smart Kids, increased from a 4 star to a 5 star  
Sonbeam, maintained their 5 star  
Toddler Time, maintained their 4 star

#### Lincoln County

The Learning Express, maintained their 4 star  
Ms. Em's, maintained their 4 star  
Precious Times, maintained their 5 star

## SAVE THE DATES:

### Apple Festival

Saturday, September 15, 2012,  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lincolnton

Visit our Booth in the Kids Apple Orchard

### Spooktacular

Saturday, October 27, 2012  
More details coming soon!



## SOCIAL MEDIA

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