

Announcements from our Collaborators



Summer Registration: March 13

Fall Registration: April 24

PDCCC will be offering a new Infant Toddler Career Studies Certificate that will give early childhood professionals the credentials needed to work for Early Head Start or other infant toddler programs. For more information contact Toni Johnson, Dean of Occupational & Technical Programs at 757-569-6772 or ajohnson@pdc.edu.



Reserve your child's space at Camp Crescent today! Camp Crescent is available for school age children ages 5-12. Financial assistance is available by applying for Open Doors. Register today at ymcashr.org or call the James L. Camp Jr. YMCA at 562-3491.



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Blackwater Regional Library will celebrate National Library Week

April 9-15, 2017. Visit www.blackwaterlib.org to learn more about your local library!

Children's Book Week is observed May 1-6, 2017. Blackwater Regional Library has many wonderful storytimes, after-school programs, and BOOKS waiting to be discovered! Visit our calendar <http://www.blackwaterlib.org/library-calendar/> to plan your next visit to the library!



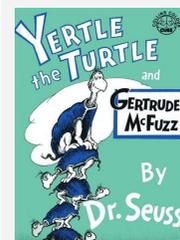
Healthy Families Suffolk/Isle of Wight, will be helping to promote Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. We are encouraging everyone to wear blue on April 4 to bring awareness to this important issue. HF Collaborators-- Western Tidewater Health District and Sentara Obici Hospital-- will provide displays with educational materials for the community. Churches will be encouraged to observe Blue Sunday on April 30 (see www.bluesunday.org for more info).

301 N. Mechanic Street, Ste. 301
Franklin, VA 23851
757-562-8594



Ready for School Ready for Life

Spring 2017



The first graders at SP Morton Elementary enjoyed a presentation by Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater Director Lorraine Greene Whitehead. The interactive session included readings from two Dr. Seuss books, Yurtle the Turtle and Gertrude McFuzz.

Students discussed the topics of survival, happiness, and self pride.

Spring Workshops

April dates TBA

Classroom Takeaways

Presented by: Linda Drake



May 3 & 4, 2017

Behavior Management, Special Needs, and the Home/School Connection

Presented by: Leslie Brittle



Community Events

6th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Golf Tournament

Southampton Department of Social Services & Joyner Gray Yale Ruritan Club

April 8, 2017 at 12pm

Healthy Kids Day

James L. Camp Jr. Family YMCA

April 29, 2017 from 9am-12pm

13th Annual Child Abuse Awareness Fair

Southampton Department of Social Services

April 29, 2017 from 11am-4pm

COMING SOON



Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater will sponsor community workshops in the City of Franklin and Southampton County in the Spring. These workshops will take place in and around apartments & housing developments and will provide resources and books to families.

Virginia Quality Learning Communities

May 16 **6-8pm**

June 27 **6-8pm**

Virginia Quality Coordinator Antoinette Johnson and Co-Coordinator Jocelyn Gilchrist will present Learning Communities Trainings in May and June at the Franklin Business Center. Virginia Quality directors, supervisors, and teaching staff are invited to attend. You may RSVP by calling 757-562-8594 or email maburgess@franklinva.com.



Who Reads? We Read!

- ◆ Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater donated books to The Children's Center for the National Reading Month Challenge. Twelve families are currently participating in the challenge. The winner of the challenge will be announced on April 6 and will receive a Scholastic bag filled with books and other SBWT goodies!
- ◆ Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater has provided free books for children in both the Franklin and Southampton Department of Social Services lobbies.
- ◆ Be on the lookout for Kindergarten Registration yard signs and newspaper ads in April. Registration information will be updated on our website at www.smartbeginningswt.org as it is made available. SBWT will provide books for children who register at all participating schools in Western Tidewater.

STEM in the ECE Classroom

As Early Childhood Educators we must be aware of the importance of fostering children's creativity, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. STEM activities are a perfect way to help cultivate these important skills.

According to Susan Friedman in May 2016 NAEYC publication; "Although it might sound small, tinkering couldn't be more important. It is one of the ways children learn about the world. The STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, math) offer many opportunities for children to use their minds and hands to play, explore, and learn. Research shows that giving children exposure to quality, hands-on STEM learning opportunities is so important and familiarity with STEM concepts early on is a key predictor of children's school success."

Submitted by Jeff Zeigler

Community Relations Coordinator

