

Spring 2019 Newsletter

SMART BEGINNINGS WESTERN TIDEWATER

VIRGINIA QUALITY MINI-GRANTS AWARDED

Submitted by Antoinette 'Toni' Johnson
Virginia Quality Technical Assistant & Presenter

Four Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater (SBWT) early childhood programs have received a Virginia Quality mini-grant in the amount of \$1,000. These programs are: Family Day Home Provider Mary Bellamy, Gingerbread House Day Care Center, SP Morton Elementary Bright Starts, and Southampton Academy Enrichment Program. Each program is voluntarily participating in Virginia Quality which shows their staff, families, and the community that they are committed to providing quality care for young children. The grant afforded the programs the opportunity to select equipment that would assist them in progressing through their established Virginia Quality goals. The programs have indicated that the grant funds will assist them in providing materials for hands on learning experiences and to enhance the overall learning process of their children.

If any local area Department of Social Services (DSS) Licensed Child Care Centers, DSS Licensed Family Day Homes, or DSS Religious Exempt Child Day Centers who are approved subsidy providers are interested in joining the Virginia Quality community, please contact the SBWT office at 757-562-8594.



New Playground at SP Morton

Pictured from left to right: Franklin City Schools Director of Instruction Felicia Burkhalter, Bright Starts Lead Teacher Tessa Blow, and Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater Executive Director Lorraine Greene Whitehead.

Last summer, Virginia Quality Technical Assistants Antoinette 'Toni' Johnson and Jocelyn Gilchrist assessed four SP Morton Bright Start classrooms. In their report, they revealed the playground, an environment essential to gross motor development, as an area in need of improvement. Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater Executive Director Lorraine Greene Whitehead worked closely with Franklin City Schools Deputy Superintendent Kelvin Edwards to secure funding from Franklin-Southampton Charities to renovate the space. Bright Starts Lead Teacher Tessa Blow was instrumental in the process by selecting a variety of equipment to support aerobic exercise and creative play.

May is Water Safety Month

Visit www.redcross.org for drowning prevention and safety tips.

Need swimming lessons? Call your local YMCA or go online at www.ymcashr.org for program offerings.

Need a summer job? Franklin City Parks & Rec is hiring lifeguards. Call 757-562-2475 for more info!

Free 1st Aid & CPR Training for Child Care Providers

Provided by Child Care Aware Eastern Virginia
Hosted by Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater

June 15, 2019, 9am-2pm

Franklin Business Center
601 N. Mechanic Street
Franklin, VA 23851

Contact Susanne Rakes at 757-738-4995 to register. Be sure to include name, phone number, date and location of class. Priority will be given to subsidy child care providers. All other providers will be wait listed and may be registered if space allows.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT IN HIGH QUALITY CLASSROOMS

Submitted by Jocelyn Gilchrist
Virginia Quality Technical Assistant & Presenter
Presented in Smithfield (5/1/19) & Franklin (5/2/19)

Questions to ask when incorporating Music & Movement into the classroom

- Can I incorporate movement into this activity?
- Can I take this lesson outside? Ex. sidewalk chalk, hide and seek-colors, letters, pictures
- Am I utilizing my entire center?
- Are my kids capable of doing this activity?
- Do I have to teach team how to do it?
- How do I prepare them for the activity?
- Does the activity enhance the lesson?
- What type of movement do I want to incorporate?



Preschool Development Grant Birth-5

The Virginia Department of Education in partnership with the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and University of Virginia, received a 9.9 million Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five. “With this funding, Virginia can accelerate the development of an equitable mixed-delivery system that delivers stable, affordable and quality early childhood care and education for the state’s families and children, particularly those who are most vulnerable and will benefit the most,” Bill Ermatinger, Board Chair of Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer of Huntington Ingalls Industries.

To learn more about this project, visit www.vecf.org.

Foodbank Partnership

On May 1, 2019 the Western Tidewater Early Childhood Collaboration convened at the Franklin Business Center to discuss partnership opportunities with Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Regional Outreach Coordinator Nicole Belote presented a PowerPoint on food insecurity and support programs to increase food access.

Community Outreach Manager Taylor Miller met with several community organizations to discuss services and avenues of collective impact as Foodbank expands its services in Western Tidewater.

Stay tuned for exciting partnership opportunities in the coming months!



Save the Date!
Family Wellness Funday
June 22, 10am-2pm
920 Armory Drive Franklin, VA