

SMART BEGINNINGS WESTERN TIDEWATER



STREAMIN3 TRAINING AND CURRICULUM PARTNERSHIP WITH UVA

This summer, early educators in Western Tidewater attended a two-part **Virginia Quality** workshop led by **University of Virginia** Early Childhood Education Coaches Melissa Williams and Tara Powell. **Come Dive Into the STREAM!** focused on **STREAMin3** core skills **relate** and **regulate**. Each attendee received **STREAMin3** educational resources and social emotional materials to use in the classroom.

Melissa and Tara will facilitate a **Virginia Quality Winter Series** in December, January, and February to discuss the remaining **STREAMin3** core skills; **think**, **communicate**, and **move**. Furthermore, Melissa and Tara plan to collaborate with a small group of 3-4 family day home educators in Western Tidewater to create a modified version of the **STREAMin3** curriculum! Stay tuned for more information!

END OF SUMMER READING PACKETS

Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater supplied 157 **End of Summer Reading Packets** to S.P. Morton students in grades K-3 reading below benchmark. Each packet included 5 Scholastic books and information about PreK screening and Kindergarten registration. Special thanks to the following community partners for assisting with deliveries: **Franklin City Public Schools**, **Franklin City Department of Social Services**, **Speaklife**, **James L. Camp Jr. Family YMCA**, **Children's Harbor**, **Franklin Community Health Center**, **Pathways Developmental Services**, **Preschool Development Grant Birth-5**, and **Yvonne Whitehead**.

FRANKLIN CITY SCHOOLS PRE-K RECRUITMENT SUCCESS

Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater, **Franklin City Public Schools**, and the **Western Tidewater Early Childhood Collaboration** worked diligently this summer to recruit preschool students for the **Bright Starts Virginia Preschool Initiative Pre-K Program** at S.P. Morton Elementary. Thanks to an increase in digital advertisements and a boots on the ground approach, a third Pre-K teacher was hired at the end of August!

CACFP SUMMER RECRUITMENT

This summer, **Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater** partnered with **Child Care Aware of Virginia** and **The Planning Council** to distribute **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** Root Vue Kits to non-CACFP family day homes and child care centers. We are thrilled to welcome family day home educator **Rhonda Holland Hayes** to the program!

Do you have questions about whether CACFP is right for your child care program? Get answers at **Ask the CACFP Experts, Monday, October 4, 1-1:30!**

This 30-minute webinar begins with a 5-minute introduction about CACFP followed by Q & A. Any CACFP questions are ok and anyone interested in CACFP for child care is welcome. Attendees can stay and listen for the entire 30 minutes or ask a question and go. Call 757-562-8594 or email maburgess@franklinva.com for registration information.

FALLING INTO PLACE LINKB5 AND CLASS OBSERVATIONS

The summer registration phase has ended in the **LinkB5** data portal and fall **CLASS** observations are underway for all **Preschool Development Grant Birth-5** participants. These observations allow feedback for improvement in infant, toddler, and Pre-K classrooms. Eligible early educators in Western Tidewater will once again receive a financial incentive through the **Teacher Recognition Program** for their dedication.

The **Preschool Development Grant Birth-5** and **Virginia Quality** are working together to prepare early educators for the implementation of Virginia's new statewide unified measurement and improvement system, **VQB5**. Our teams may have different roles but our objective is the same; to provide our young children with quality early education by qualified early educators!

Questions about the Teacher Recognition Program, the Preschool Development Grant, or Virginia Quality may be directed to Orange Greene at 757-562-8511 or ogreene@franklinva.com.

EARLY EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

The **Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater Early Educator Workshop Series** kicked off September 2, 2021 with a wonderful presentation on **Family Engagement**, presented by Jocelyn Gilchrist, M.Ed. Visit our website at www.smartbeginningswt.org for several upcoming workshops and community events!