

## SMART BEGINNINGS WESTERN TIDEWATER



### EVMS MINUS 9-5 NAMED LEAD FOR READY REGIONS SOUTHEASTERN

We are excited to announce that **EVMS Minus 9-5** has been selected to lead **Ready Regions Southeastern**! Over the next 6 months, Minus 9-5 will work collaboratively with partners to grow and envision ways that we can work together while honoring the existing and valued early childhood work in Smart Beginnings communities. As early childhood stakeholders, your voices and perspectives are needed to create the vision and build a system that meets the needs of all families in this diverse region.

Over the course of the next few months, Minus 9-5 will be working on building relationships, meeting new partners, and collaborating with **Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater** to determine structures and processes for moving this work forward. A consultant has been engaged to help facilitate and navigate this expansion. Please be on the lookout for more information on upcoming opportunities to meet, share and create Ready Regions Southeastern!

For more information about Minus 9-5 and Ready Regions, please visit [www.minus9to5.org](http://www.minus9to5.org) and <https://vecf.org/ready-regions/>.

### CACFP ASK THE EXPERTS

Do you have questions about whether the **Child and Adult Care Food Program** is right for your child care program? Get answers at **Ask the CACFP Experts**, Monday, **February 14, 2022** from 1-1:30pm! 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. Call 757-562-8594 or email [maburgess@franklinva.com](mailto:maburgess@franklinva.com) for registration information.

### ARPA CHILD CARE STABILIZATION UPDATE

Since its launch in November, the **Virginia Department of Education** has awarded over \$298 million dollars in **American Rescue Plan Act Child Care Stabilization Grant** funding. New applications received between March 1-March 30, 2022 are eligible for quarter 3 funding. Grant recipients should be prepared for random monitoring in the spring. Visit our website at [www.smartbeginningstwt.org](http://www.smartbeginningstwt.org) for a list of free monitoring resources.

### WESTERN TIDEWATER EARLY EDUCATORS DIVE INTO STREAMIN3

This winter, family day home and center based educators in Western Tidewater attended a three-part **Virginia Quality Winter Series** led by **University of Virginia** Early Childhood Education Coaches Melissa Williams and Tara Powell. **Come Dive Into the STREAM!** focused on **STREAMin3** core skills **think, communicate, and move**. Each attendee received **STREAMin3** educational resources (activity cards, curriculum guides, and more) to use in the classroom.

The **Virginia Department of Education** recently announced that the **STREAMin3 Curriculum** will be available at low or no cost to all publicly funded child care programs beginning in March 2022! Programs participating in the **Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5)** who are without a curriculum will receive priority for cohort enrolling and onboarding, which will include training and materials.

### COMFORT & JOY PROJECT

This holiday season, Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater partnered with **The Children's Center** to collect items of comfort and joy for 14 pregnant moms in Western Tidewater. The goal of the project was to encourage rest, nourishment, and mindfulness while celebrating the joy of motherhood. The **Western Tidewater Early Childhood Collaboration**, the **Franklin Southampton Wellness Coalition**, and several community members responded generously with items like water purifiers, blankets, heating pads, slippers, bath and body items, cookbooks and more. Due to an abundance of resources, additional items were shared with **Nurse Family Partnership** to distribute to their pregnant moms!

We would like to thank each and every community member, organization, and agency for their heartfelt contribution. In addition, we would like to express gratitude to **Donna Lloyd, Early Head Start Family Advocate** and **Sleeptight Hampton Roads Safe Sleep Trainer** for her collaboration and assistance on this project!

### IP FOUNDATION FUNDS TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Thanks to the **International Paper Foundation**, eligible **family day home** child care programs in Western Tidewater will receive technology resources in the form of laptops, printers, and tablets this winter! Laptops and printers with scanners will provide family day home educators with the equipment needed to run a successful and organized business. Tablets will create dynamic learning opportunities and provide children with the essential skills needed to enter school ready to learn. We are proud to partner with the International Paper Foundation to support family day home early educators!

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