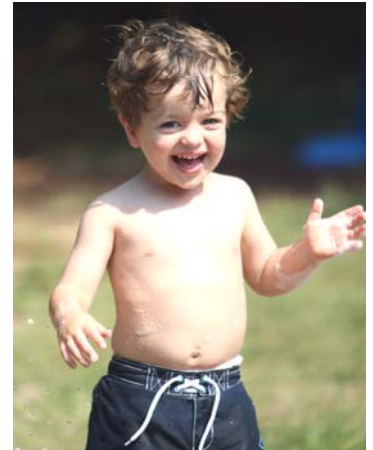


Smart Beginnings Highlights – 2010

A public/private collaborative to make our community a place where children grow up healthy and arrive at school prepared to succeed. **Ready for School. Ready for Life.**

Enhancing Quality Child Care and Early Education

- 1,800 children are served by 21 child care providers participating in the local Seal of Quality Child Care/Virginia Star Quality Initiative.
- Local Seal of Quality Child Care joins and adopts name of new statewide program, Virginia Star Quality Initiative. 12 local child care centers are ranked in the first phase of the state’s program.
- New *Star Quality Award* implemented by business leaders to recognize exceptional child care center teachers and quality child care centers.



Supporting Families

- 107 families supported with school readiness skills training, parent education and resources between July – December 2009.
- Five Smart Beginnings Kiosks bring parenting information and resources to libraries, schools and community events.
- Two mothers’ playgroups in northern and southern Albemarle reach Latino parents with education, English language training and resources.

School/Community Partnerships

- 3 school partnerships, at Crozet, Jackson-Via and Greenbrier Elementary schools, strengthen children’s successful transition into kindergarten.
- Business leaders, educators and community service providers join new School/Community Partnerships action team to support transition into kindergarten initiatives.
- English and Spanish *Getting Ready* booklets and toolkits developed for parents.

Community Engagement

- The *Ready for Kindergarten: The State of School Readiness in Charlottesville and Albemarle* report, a first in Virginia, provides community recommendations and Smart Beginnings leaders track progress.
- Public preschool programs collaborate to align data and report on local children’s language, literacy and social/emotional development.
- Over 20 business leaders actively work to increase awareness of the economic and workforce benefits of school readiness.
- Smart Beginnings receives a \$100,000 two-year sustaining grant to build on successes and increase local support for needed school readiness services.

