

Smart Beginnings

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In Virginia, one in five children isn't ready for kindergarten. Now, Charlottesville city schools are taking a new approach inside and outside of the classroom. A new grant is allowing city schools to partner up with social services to provide a little more family support.

It is called Smart Beginnings. The idea is to help families get all the resources they need from getting Medicaid to parenting tips. At Johnson Elementary a social worker is now in pre-school classes helping to open the lines of communication between the school and families.

Johnson Elementary Principal Vernon Boch stated, "The long term goal is really to nurture the parent and child and school connection. To really make sure that we are all working together for the best of the child. To really make sure that when they start kindergarten they're academically, emotionally and socially prepared."

The social worker has been working with the school and family for about 2 months now.

Reported by Leyla Santiago

