



PARTNERSHIP PRESS

News and Info about Smart Start in Lincoln & Gaston Counties



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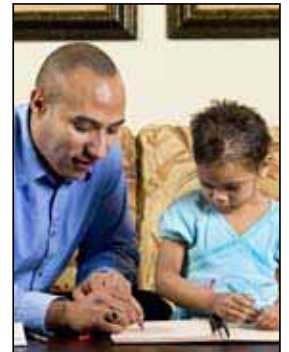
PARENTING: REWARDING AND CHALLENGING.

The Very Important Parents Program (VIP), supported by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties, can assist you to be the best parent you can be. Belinda Bogle, Parent Educator at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Gaston County Office said she loves it when she sees parents learn new skills. Some of the people she meets leave an impact on her heart.

A male parent was taking the eight session program called Parenting Matters to help him with his anger issues enjoyed the program so much that he decided to take it again. The class helps parents learn to communicate effectively and understand the ages and stages of child development.

“He committed himself with his fiancée for the second time, so he could be there with her for support,” Bogle said.

Bogle has also been complimented in the grocery store outside of the work environment. People have recognized her and come up to her to tell her how much they appreciate the program and the difference it has made in their lives. “It all comes back to the foundation of parenting,” Bogle said. “Children learn from the example we show them.” The Very Important Parents Program provides families with children ages 0-5 with information to demonstrate developmentally appropriate parenting practices that support positive parent/child interactions. Parent Educators offer family support through parent training workshops, helping with referrals to appropriate agencies and finding resources.



VIP is an effort of the Gaston Cooperative Extension Services and funding is provided through a grant for the Lincoln and Gaston Counties Partnership for Children.

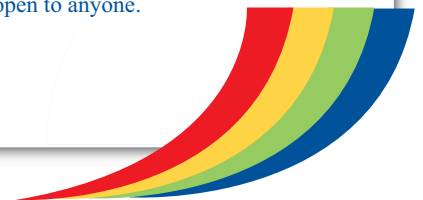
The program emphasizes six areas that include: care for self, understanding, nurturing, motivating, advocating and guidance. Also offered by the VIP program is the 1,2,3,4 Parents program, a three session Active Parenting program offered to parents of children 0-18 months. This class teaches fundamental attitudes and skills. For families who are dealing with divorce there is a class to help, Children in the Middle: Divorce Education for Parents. The skills-based program helps children and parents deal with children’s reactions to divorce. For parents who are seeking a support group, the Circle of Parents is an excellent place for parents to connect with other parents who share common experiences.

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If you are interested in starting your own support group contact Bogle, 704-922-2122 or belinda_bogle@ncsu.edu.

Bogle can also help if you are interested in any of the other classes, which are free and open to anyone.





CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS HONORED AT STATE OF THE YOUNG CHILD EVENT

On Wednesday, June 18, business professionals, community leaders, and child care professionals came together to celebrate the advances that have been made for young children in Gaston and Lincoln Counties last year. The annual "State of the Young Child" event was held at the Citizens Resource Center in Dallas. Over 100 people were in attendance.

Melinda Houser, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Partnership for Children, served as emcee. Katie Tyler, President of Tyler 2 Construction served as keynote speaker. Tyler spoke about the importance of continuing one's education and continuing to learn. She shared her personal success story and said if she can do it, anyone can. She praised the Partnership for Children by remarking, "You all are influencing the lives of those who will lead the world and what you do every day makes a difference."

There were a number of awards presented to child care centers. The Lighthouse Day Care Center, Inc. received the Helen R. Marvin Award, which is given to a child care facility or family home for outstanding efforts in improving child care. Lincoln and Gaston County Health Departments each received the You Make A Difference award, which is presented to a recipient who has made a difference in the lives of young children.

The Partnership also presented a new award this year, the Jayle Cline Business with a Heart Award. This award is in honor of the dedication of Jayle Cline to provide the highest quality services to young children. The Partnership established the Jayle Cline Business with a Heart Award to recognize owners of early childhood businesses who provide high quality services. Jayle and her husband Scott held the first five star rating for a child care facility in Gaston County and they pioneered the first More at Four classroom at a child care center. This year's award was presented in honor of Jayle Cline. She passed away Feb. 13, 2008 at her home in Hawaii. Her children accepted the award on her behalf.

Eleven centers were also honored with Shining Star awards, given to child care facilities or family child care homes for providing consistently high quality child care- The Grace School Child Development Center, Gaston College Child Care, First Baptist Church Childcare Ministries, First Baptist Day Care Center, First Baptist Children's Ministry, Children of Excellence Christian Childcare, Lynn's Lil'Angels, Nana's House Child Care, Tonya Helms A to Z Child Care, Walker's Home of Love and Learning and Children's Land.



THE PARTNERSHIP AT THE APPLE FESTIVAL

Hundreds of children and their parents visited the Partnership for Children's booth at the Lincoln County Apple Festival, held September 20, in Lincolnton.

The Partnership provided a toddler area equipped with toys so that children could have a chance to play at the festival. A stamp art area was also set up for children.

Information was handed out for parents to learn about Smart Start and the Partnership's programs.

A survey was conducted asking parents

how they obtain parenting information and their preference for child care. Of the 142 surveys that were completed, 65 people opted to receive the Partnership's newsletter. The majority of the surveys were from residents of Lincoln County and other counties. The majority of the surveys were completed by parents of a child ages 0-5.

All those completing surveys were entered into a drawing to win a \$20 gift card from Wal-Mart. Renee Starnes of Newton was the raffle winner.



SHOULD YOU BE PROFESSIONALLY CERTIFIED?

The NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development and Child Care Services Association are working with North Carolina's early childhood partners to create the first early educator certification system in the United States.

The Early Childhood Educator certification is the process of verifying college education. A professional certification level will be assigned using the education documentation submitted and an existing scale. To qualify you must return your application and official college transcripts for all courses taken and degrees earned to the North Carolina Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development. Everyone will benefit from this certification including individuals, children and programs.

Here at the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, our Technical Assistants are being encouraged to discuss the Early Childhood Educator certification with directors at our local child care centers and homes.

Diane Hines, Early Childhood Educator Director, is also excited about this certification. "I would encourage all childcare providers to think of certification as an extension of their professional development," Hines said.

For more information about the certification, visit the NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development at www.nchildcare.org, and click on Early Education Certification.



PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE BEING UPDATED (www.pfclg.com)

Stay informed with the Partnership for Children's website, www.pfclg.com. There are many changes that have occurred to our website.



To become familiar with the Partnership for Children, visit our home page where you will find information about the Partnership including the list of programs we offer.

The calendar section has been updated and includes information about current training opportunities available. You can even register for these trainings online! We have a diverse selection of approved professional development workshops offered in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. These sessions are state approved and can be applied toward the NC requirements for child care in-service training. Some of the

topics include: Outdoor Games for Kids, CPR & First Aid, Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Infant Toddler Interactions. Also on the calendar is a list of our standing meetings held at the Partnership office such as our Board of Directors and Finance Committee meetings.

Don't forget you can still continue to locate child care information and a list of openings through the Partnerships' Child Care Resource & Referral Service (CCRR.) Go to the Parent Information section, click on "Online Child Care Search," and a new window will open. Register and provide the requested information, and you can search our database for openings in licensed child care centers and family child care homes.

Our most recent newsletter can be viewed under the Newsletter tab. There are also timely news releases being posted after they are released to the media. Click on the news releases tab to view these.

An Employment Opportunities link has also been added to keep you informed of any openings we may have at the Partnership.

There are also updated links under the Links tab that consist of web pages of local, state and national organizations.

Have any ideas of items to add to the website? Contact Amy Wadsworth, Public Information Coordinator at 704-922-0900 or by email at publicinfo@pfclg.com.

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KIMBERLY WARD
Technical Assistant

OUR MISSION

To serve as a leading advocate and financial resource, in collaboration with other community agencies, to provide affordable access to high quality services for young children.

OUR VISION

A community where young children will reach their full health and educational potential.

CONTACT US

Now you can receive our newsletter two ways, US Mail or Email. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, please contact

Amy Wadsworth at
704-736-9008 or 704-922-0900,
or send an email to
publicinfo@pfclg.com.

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