

SUMMER 2018

SMART BEGINNINGS SOUTHEAST

# CONNECTIONS



**Smart Beginnings Southeast** is a local coalition of public and private organizations and citizens working to ensure that the region's children enter school healthy, well-cared for, and ready to succeed in school — and in life!



## OUR MISSION

We lead families and community partners in maximizing resources to assure that all children 0-5 are prepared emotionally, cognitively, socially and physically for school.

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Congratulations to **April Jarrett, Lil' Angels Daycare, Stepping Stone Academy** and **Tidewater Academy**.

These VA Quality centers have moved to the next level during 2017-18! Your hard work and dedication bring rewards and improvements in quality of care and education to your teachers, children and the families you serve.



Many other centers are ready to move up to the next level. Smart Beginnings Southeast is here to help. Please contact **Jean McNeil** at [jmcneil@arls.org](mailto:jmcneil@arls.org) or **Katie Sloan** at [ksloan@arls.org](mailto:ksloan@arls.org) for assistance. Loading your information on the website can be challenging but help is available!

Congratulations to all of the participating VA Quality centers in Smart Beginnings Southeast!

Exemplary care and education for young children changes the world one child at a time!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER!

The teaching staff of St. John Child Development Center located in Sussex County, VA has achieved either a CDA, most requirements of an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood or a Bachelor's Degree. Professional development is a priority for this staff! We congratulate these great ladies on their SUCCESS!



(L to R) Stephanie Scott, Teacher Assistant; Brittany Myrick, Lead Teacher; Maxine Jones, Director; Tenishia Smith, Lead Teacher/Administrative Assistant; Nautica Jenkins, Teacher Assistant

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# RESOURCE ROUND UP

Resources will save you time, energy and money!  
Here are a few we have chosen to share with you.



**SAVE TIME**  
**SAVE MONEY**  
**RAISE QUALITY**

**The VA Shared Services Network**

An easy-to-use website offering exclusive discounts and resources related to program administration, human resources, marketing and compliance.

For a **FREE** demonstration of the site and possible scholarships, call 1-866-KIDS-TLC.

## THE VA SHARED SERVICES NETWORK

Fill out the online form to request access by visiting [www.vasharednetwork.org](http://www.vasharednetwork.org).

For questions, contact Jodi Roberts at [TheTeam@VASharedNetwork.org](mailto:TheTeam@VASharedNetwork.org)

Smart Beginnings Southeast offers scholarships to join VA Shared Services Network! The annual subscription rate is \$120 per year for center-based child care and \$60 per year for family child care. Contact **Katie Sloan** at [ksloan@arls.org](mailto:ksloan@arls.org) for information about availability of scholarships.

*"We have saved thousands of dollars through discounts available on the platform, but the biggest savings is in time for the many helpful administrative tools now all in one place and right at our fingertips."* **Center Director**

## CDA RENEWAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

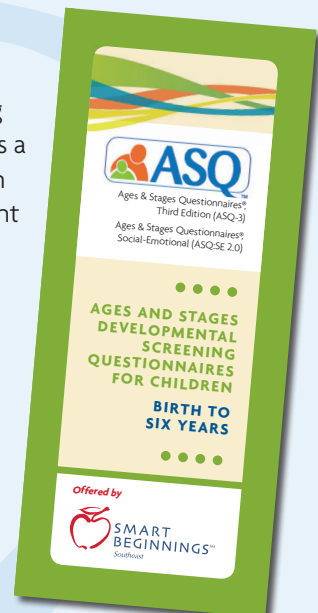
**Southside Association for Early Childhood Education (SAECE)** is merging with Richmond Association for Early Childhood Education. As a result of the merger, SAECE has donated \$1000 to Smart Beginnings Southeast for CDA renewals. Many thanks to SAECE for this generous gift! If you need to renew your CDA and could benefit from the use of these funds, please contact **Yolanda Richey** at [pace2u@comcast.net](mailto:pace2u@comcast.net).

The Child Development Associate (CDA) is a national credential recognized in all 50 states as a competency-based credential for early childhood educators. The certificate can be used to become a Head Start assistant teachers as well as a great way to get started in your professional development in the child care field! If you are interested in pursuing this certificate, please contact **Yolanda Richey** at [pace2u@comcast.net](mailto:pace2u@comcast.net).



## AGES AND STAGES DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TOOL KITS NOW AVAILABLE FOR YOU!

Drawing on Parent's and teacher's expert knowledge, this developmental screening tool is especially useful on home visits, as a part of your registration packet, and as an ongoing tool for tracking the development of the children in your center. Kits are available through Jean McNeil free of charge but you and your staff must receive or have received training to be eligible for the kit. Contact **Jean McNeil** at [jmcneil@arls.org](mailto:jmcneil@arls.org) or **David Williams** at [dwinrva@gmail.com](mailto:dwinrva@gmail.com) for training schedules.





## IMPACT

### HERE IS THE PLACE TO TRACK YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT!

**Innovative Model for Professional Advancement and Career Tracking (IMPACT)** is a voluntary tool set up for your use! The tool documents and recognizes the professional achievements of providers and trainers who work in the early childhood and school-age care profession within Virginia. This is a great tool for maintaining records of your training and professional development! Check it out today!

Contact IMPACT staff for questions at [info.impactregistry@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:info.impactregistry@dss.virginia.gov).

To subscribe and set up your registry go to [www.vaimpactregistry.org](http://www.vaimpactregistry.org).



### ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS OR THOSE INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASSES!

Pathfinders and Department of Social Services Scholarship applications may be filed for fall 2018 classes. The application enrollment period is June 15 through August 1, 2018.

Pathfinders:  
[pathfinders@vecf.org](mailto:pathfinders@vecf.org)

DSS Scholarships:  
<http://egov.virginia.gov/DSS/VCCPSP>

## INFANT TODDLER SPECIALIST NETWORK OFFERS INFANT TODDLER ENDORSEMENT

This program offered by the **Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network** is a collaboration between VDSS, the Virginia Community College System, Child Care Aware of Virginia, and the Community College Workforce Alliance.



### Benefits of obtaining the VDSS INFANT AND TODDLER ENDORSEMENT:

- Entry-level certification for employment in the field of early childhood
- Demonstration of foundation of knowledge working with infants and toddlers
- Supplement to a degree or credential outside the field of early childhood

Successful completion of courses can also fulfill requirements for teaching licensure renewal, annual licensing, training for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, and professional development for those participating in Virginia Quality.

### The Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network is providing incentives to each participant:

After you successfully complete courses\* with a final grade of 70% or greater you will be awarded a gift card to use as funding allows!

#### If you attend all courses, you will receive a total of \$100 in gift cards!

Three Courses – \$10 Gift Card  
Six Courses – \$20 Gift Card  
Nine Courses – \$20 Gift Card  
Twelve Courses – \$50 Gift Card

*\*Courses must have been completed between July 2018 – June 2019*

For questions or more information, contact **Mary Sheldon**, Professional Development Coordinator at (757) 378-3172 or [marys@cdr.org](mailto:marys@cdr.org).

If you would like an Infant Toddler Specialist to visit your center for support in your infant and toddler classrooms, please contact Kellie Alarcon at [kalarcon@va-itsnetwork.org](mailto:kalarcon@va-itsnetwork.org) OR Terry Tusing at [ttusing@va-itsnetwork.org](mailto:ttusing@va-itsnetwork.org)



## MEET YOLANDA T. RICHEY

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CONSULTANT

If you've been involved in child care anywhere throughout the state of Virginia, chances are you have attended a professional development workshop facilitated by Yolanda T. Richey! Dedicated to the field of early childhood,



Yolanda combines her knowledge and 25 years of experience to create fun, cutting-edge, evidence based workshops that inspire and educate child care professionals. In addition to providing workshops for various Department of Social Services Agencies, she has also worked with many state initiatives to include Project SEED, Nemours Health Initiative, VCU- ExCELL Program and Child Care

Aware -Prevent Child Abuse Now (PCAN). Yolanda received her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Virginia Commonwealth University and is endorsed as a Level II Infant Mental Health Specialist. Currently, she serves as Central Virginia's Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultant through Child Development Resources. Through Virginia Quality, she serves as a coach and Central Virginia's Technical Assistant Specialist for High- Quality Environments. Yolanda also consults with Smart Beginnings Southeast to facilitate the Child Development Associates (CDA) Program. If that weren't enough, she is also an adjunct professor with John Tyler Community College. When asked how she manages to juggle her many rolls, she simply says, "When you understand the importance of what you do, doing it becomes so much more than a career...it becomes a PASSION that continually fuels you to keep moving forward!" Look for Yolanda as she continues to facilitate professional development workshops in our region. You're sure to leave filled with new information ...and a SMILE!

## MEET DAVID WILLIAMS

### AGES AND STAGES NAVIGATOR

Greetings! I am David Williams, ASQ Navigator for Smart Beginnings Southeast. My mission here is to provide high-quality training and support to early childhood



professionals in the implementation of ASQ and ASQ-SE. These tools will increase the quality of services to families, support teachers in planning and assist administrators in securing direct service to children as they prepare for kindergarten. Before

my tenure at Smart Beginnings, I taught Kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten, and Head Start. Also, I served as a Title I Family Advocate and both Head Start Education Coordinator and Head Start Director. Throughout my career, I have held onto the fundamental belief that "every parent is the best parent they can be, and they are sending us the best child they have." Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about ASQ/ASQ-SE or have any additional questions. Thank you for your commitment to early childhood education and remember "Children are always the only future the human race has; teach them well."

SUMMER 2018

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RESOURCE  
ROUND UP  
SMART BEGINNINGS SOUTHEAST

INSIDE

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