



## Smart Start of Buncombe County

*Smart Start promotes high quality, affordable, early childhood care and education to ensure that our young children are healthy and prepared to succeed when they enter school.*

### How Does Smart Start Work?

Smart Start identifies early childhood needs and resources in the community and responds to those needs by developing and funding health, education, and child care programs. Most funding comes from the NC General Assembly.

### What Does Smart Start Offer Child Care Providers in Buncombe County?

- Provides child health and safety training, and medical consultation. Contact the Child Care Health Consultants by calling Alice Elio at 250-6961.
- Funds dental screenings and a dental health puppet show at child care programs. Contact the Early Childhood Dental Initiative by calling Melissa Coche at 250-6991.
- Provides on-site consultation to educators of children with social, emotional, and/or behavioral issues offering strategies for successful classroom inclusion. Contact the SUNSHINE Project by calling Janet Price-Ferrell at 277-1315.
- Provides training for early childhood educators and workshops for families on the transition to kindergarten. Contact the Supporting Children's Transition to Kindergarten program by calling Lesa Schirmacher at 225-5283.
- Offers grants to child care facilities that meet key criteria to help maintain and improve program quality. Contact the Sustaining Facility Quality – Facility Incentives program by calling the Smart Start SFQ line at 285-9333 ext. 129.
- Awards monetary incentives to individual caregivers who meet specific criteria related to professional development and continuity of care. Contact the Sustaining Facility Quality-Individual Incentives program by calling the Smart Start SFQ line at 285-9333 ext. 129.
- Provides technical assistance to child care programs preparing for re-licensing and ITERs and ECERs. Contact the Child Care Quality Enhancement project by calling Bettie O'Brien at 250-6700.
- Funds instructors at AB Tech to offer a wider range of early childhood education courses. Contact the Collegiate Education for Child Care Personnel Program by calling Pam Kirby at 254-1921 extension 474.

For more information about these programs, visit the Smart Start website:  
[www.smartstart-buncombe.org](http://www.smartstart-buncombe.org)



Supporting school readiness programs for young children and their families.

84 Coxe Avenue, Suite 1A, Asheville, NC 28801 • phone: 828.285.9333 • fax: 828.285.9933

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## Does Smart Start Work?

**Yes!** When Smart Start began in 1993, North Carolina had the worst child care guidelines in the nation and was in the bottom three for immunizations. Now, NC is in the top three for immunizations, and has a nationally recognized early care and education system. Research shows that children who benefit from Smart Start-funded child care programs are more likely to have better language, cognitive and social skills, and are more likely to have a primary doctor.

### Smart Start's Achievements In Fiscal Year 2005-2006:

- 174** directors and teachers enrolled in Smart Start-supported courses at AB Tech. Ninety percent successfully completed courses.
- 88%** of the 120 child care programs in Buncombe County participated in Smart Start-funded health care consultation and trainings enabling them to maintain rigorous health and safety standards.
- 74** child care facilities participated in the Sustaining Facility Quality – Facility Incentives program and received a total of **\$827,290**.
- 416** caregivers/directors participated in the Sustaining Facility Quality – Individual Incentives program and received a total of **\$383,158**.
- 100%** of children at risk for losing their child care placement because of social, emotional, and/or behavioral issues were successfully included in their classrooms through the intervention of the SUNSHINE project.
- 41** child care facilities received support from the Transition to Kindergarten program in developing and/or maintaining transition plans.
- 295** children on the waitlist for child care subsidies received Smart Start-funded vouchers, providing working families with access to high quality, affordable child care.

### Increases in 4 and 5 Star Rated Programs in Buncombe County

