

Investing in Our Future



2,982
children
were impacted
from Partnership
programs
this year

541
families were
impacted through
Family Support
Programs

337
teachers were
impacted by
Training and
Technical
Assistance



Making a Difference for Children and Families

The partnership helps build many successes for children, families and educators in Polk, Rutherford and McDowell Counties. Each of our funded programs works toward achieving our shared goal of building a strong foundation for our children's learning and development.

The investment in our 3 county region has strengthened families, the early education system and our communities at large.

The Partnership's successes and accomplishments are rooted in our commitment to support child care providers and educators by providing them with opportunities to continue learning, to support quality child care by providing assistance in maintaining and increasing quality, to support families by providing quality early learning experiences and to improve the health of our children ages birth to five by providing access to health services. Here are some

accomplishments from 2012-2013:

Support of Educators

- 344 early childhood professionals attended a Partnership training or workshop like the Healthy Menu Series

Support of Quality Child Care

- 212 families with 248 children received child care subsidies

Support of Families

- 544 families received family support services such as mother team child care, Even Start, Family Literacy and Circle of Parents

Support of Health

- 1,023 children received oral health assessment

Annually, the Partnership for Children of the Foothills invests more than 2.1 million into our local economy by supporting 14 programs in 10 local agencies and organizations.

Impact of Investing in Early Education

Early learning investments have a profound impact on children and the communities in which they live.

This broader societal impact is so significant that military leaders, business executives, and law enforcement officers are calling on greater investments to ensure our

national security, our global competitive edge, and our safety.

High quality early education yields:

- Higher graduation rates,
- Reduced crime,
- Higher earnings,
- Less reliance on social services, and
- Better jobs.

Early Investment is Essential to the Future

There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when that child begins kindergarten.

Experiences during that time have a lasting impact on later learning, health and success.

Why We Do What We Do

The first few years of a child's life are the most critical years of brain and personality development. It is crucial that children receive high quality early care and education to ensure that they enter school ready to succeed. This is why quality child care - care that provides a loving, nurturing, and stable environment - helps children enter school ready for success, improves their skills, and keeps them safe while their parents work. Our partnership works closely with licensed child care centers



and family child care homes and provides unique services to families of preschool children to give at-risk children in Rutherford, Polk and McDowell Counties what they need to be prepared for success in school.

What is Smart Start?

Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally recognized and award-winning early childhood initiative designed to ensure that young children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start is a public-private initiative that provides early education funding to the state's 100 counties. Smart Start funds are administered locally through non-profit organizations such as the Partnership for Children of the Foothills.

ABOUT PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF THE FOOTHILLS

Our Partnership for Children builds and sustains partnerships with community agencies and service providers. By partnering together to provide creative and unique programs for preschool children, the families of preschool children and licensed child care centers and family child care homes, our partnership improves the quality of child care, makes child care more affordable and more accessible, provides health education and provides family support services.

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