



smart start

*Mecklenburg Partnership
for Children*

Funded Programs



Updated August 2019

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About Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

Smart Start's mission is to mobilize resources, forge partnerships, and support families to improve early childhood health, education and development and ensure children are prepared for kindergarten.

Smart Start serves Mecklenburg County's youngest children and their families. In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly created Smart Start, appropriating \$20 million to 18 pioneer counties to begin the work of improving the quality of child care, strengthening families, and supporting healthy child development. By 1997, the funding had increased to \$97 million and all 100 North Carolina counties were being served by Smart Start.

Since that time, Smart Start has become a nationally recognized leader in early childhood and healthy development. The statewide network of early childhood partnerships provides expertise, guidance and infrastructure to ensure North Carolina children receive the care and nurturing they need to thrive. Tailored to meet the specific needs of each community, local partnerships invest in early education, literacy, health and family support so that children are ready to succeed, lead productive lives and contribute to a strong, vibrant North Carolina.

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County (SSMC) administers approximately \$29 million annually in state, county and private funds to programs serving children ages birth to five, their families, and their caregivers.

The following pages describe the programs that SSMC currently fund on behalf of young children and their families.

Health

Supporting a young child's growth, education and development is critical to kindergarten readiness. Smart Start of Mecklenburg County funds programs to enhance children's health and well-being and provide access to community resources and services.

Early Childhood Intervention

Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center

Provides early identification, referral and enrollment of children aged birth to 36-months with developmental delays and established medical conditions in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County area. Services are offered at all Novant Hospital locations.

Location: 200 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, NC 28204
Phone: 704-384-4000
Website: www.novanthealth.org

Guiding Parents to Services (GPS)

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

Designed for Mecklenburg County parents with children 0-5 who are part of the complex world of autism. GPS offers a range of services including: parent education, support, referrals to early intervention services, monthly workshops addressing related topics of interest, trainings for professionals, and collaborations with local agencies working with young children.

Location: 601 E. 5th St., Suite 500, Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-377-6588
Website: www.smartstartofmeck.org/GPS

Healthy Futures Starting in the Kitchen

Central Piedmont Community College

Culinary and nutrition training sessions and workshops featuring hands-on activities designed to educate early childhood professionals as they learn more about children's nutrition and healthy eating habits. The program provides instruction for child care facilities in Mecklenburg County in the purchase, preparation and serving of healthy food.

Location: Van Every Culinary Arts Center, Room 127
1201 Elizabeth Ave., Charlotte, NC 28204
Phone: 704-330-2722 ext. 7672
Website: blogs.cpcc.edu/healthyfutures

Polliwog Project

Thompson Child & Family Focus

Provides specialized therapies and child-centered behavioral intervention for children whose therapeutic needs do not qualify them for Charlotte Mecklenburg School's Pre-K Exceptional Children's program, the NC Infant/Toddler program, or whose challenging behavior impacts their child care placement.

Location: 1645 Clanton Rd., Charlotte, NC 28208
Phone: 704-817-1600
Website: www.thompsoncfff.org

Sound Beginnings and APPLE A Day

Charlotte Speech and Hearing Center Inc.

This early language intervention program uses a parents-as-teachers model to promote brain development, build stronger family relationships and enhance mother-child interactions. It has three main objectives: parent education, early intervention and social support. The speech-language pathologists also provide direct intervention with participating young children, focusing on early communication skills and emerging receptive and expressive language.

Location: 741 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28079
Phone: 704-376-6697
Website: www.childcareresourcesinc.org

Family Support

Some families need additional support and resources to optimally raise their young children. Adolescent parents, adults with limited English literacy and first-time parents have specific needs for support and information to help them prepare their children for school success. The following programs offer encouragement and support, empowering parents to be confident leaders in their children's lives.

Child Adult Relationship Enhancement Safe Alliance

CARE was adapted from Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). PCIT is an intervention approach for children with behavioral problems aged 2-12 and their parents, caregivers, and/or teachers. Services will provide shelter staff with training and mentoring to assist the interaction between mothers and their young children residing at the shelter.

Location: 601 East 5th Street, Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-332-9034
Website: www.safealliance.org

Family Education & Support

Thompson Child & Family Focus, Family Service Center

Provides a series of parent education classes, parent and grandparent support groups and community referrals for parents of children ages birth to five referred from Department of Social Services. Thompson uses three evidence based models, Nurturing Skills for Families, Incredible Years: BASIC Parent Training Program and the Circle of Parents Family Support. Parents participate in role-playing/group discussion and practice activities within sessions and at home to learn additional approaches to support positive parenting outcomes.

Location: 769 N. Wendover Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211
Phone: 704-376-7180, ext. 161
Website: www.thompsoncfff.org

Nurse-Family Partnership

Care Ring

Intensive nurse home-visiting model designed to improve birth outcomes, child development and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents. Mothers receive home visits from registered nurses beginning prior to the 28th week of pregnancy until the child is two years of age.

Location: 601 E. 5th St., Suite 140, Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 704-248-3737

Website: www.careringnc.com

Child Care Consumer Education & Referral

Child Care Resources Inc.

Helps families select quality child care arrangements that meet their needs and preferences. Parents are informed about child development issues, quality indicators, program options and features. Provides referrals to programs and information, financial assistance and community resources.

Location: 4600 Park Rd., Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28209

Phone: 704-348-2181

Website: www.childcareresourcesinc.org

Safe Journey's Parents as Teachers

Communities in Schools

Provides case management and educational support using the evidence-based Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum for adolescent parents. Services include: group meetings, home visits, leadership training, high quality child care, and referrals to community resources.

Location: 601 E. 5th St., Suite 300, Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 704-943-9432

Website: www.cischarlotte.org

YMCA Parents as Teachers

YMCA of Greater Charlotte

Provides case management and educational support using the evidence-based Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum for parents. Services include: group meetings, home visits, leadership training, high quality child care, and referrals to community resources.

Location: 400 E. Moorehead St., Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 704-995-1471

Website: www.ymcacharlotte.org

Meck Basics

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

Meck Basics is a public education campaign built on five evidence-based parenting and caregiving principles important for healthy brain development for children from birth to age three. Eighty percent of brain growth happens in the first three years of life, and every child from every background can benefit from routinely engaging in these fun, simple, and powerful learning experiences. The Meck Basics brain development campaign is working through a variety of local partners to ensure that every parent and caregiver is fully supported by family, friends, and the community to use 'The Basics' practices in everyday life.

Location: 601 E 5th Street, Suite 500, Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 704-377-6588

Website: meckbasics.org

Early Education

70% of children under 5 in Mecklenburg County live in families where all parents or care givers work outside the home. This fact drives Smart Start's investment in quality enhancement initiatives designed to improve the quality of child care countywide.

Charlotte Bilingual Preschool

A 5-star program that provides high-quality preschool education to low-income, at-risk Hispanic/Latino children, ages 3-5. Charlotte Bilingual Preschool prepares students for a successful transition to kindergarten and offers parent training and engagement.

Location: 6300 Highland Ave, Charlotte, NC 28215
Phone: 704-535-8080
Website: www.bilingualpreschool.org

Child Care Health Consultants

Mecklenburg County Health Department

Through consultation, health education and technical assistance, nurses and health educators work with individual child care facilities to help create environments that best support the healthy growth and development of young children.

Location: 2845 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216
Phone: 980-314-9342
Website: <https://bit.ly/2YqyGkH>

Child Care Subsidy

Mecklenburg County Dept. of Social Services (DSS) & Child Care Resources Inc. (CCRI)

Helps low-income families pay for quality care in 4 and 5 star child care centers, which allows them to work or attend school. The program is administered through Child Care Resources Inc.

Location: 4600 Park Rd., Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28209
Phone: 704-376-6697
Website: www.childcareresourcesinc.org

Early Childhood Teacher Education

Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC)

Offers courses designed to prepare early care and education teachers to work in their field. Activity supports a coach/recruiter and a variety of classes for early childhood professionals.

Location: Harris Campus, Building I, Charlotte, NC 28235
Phone: 704-330-4762
Website: www.cpcc.edu/ec

Lakewood Preschool Cooperative

Provides tuition-free, quality care and education to at-risk families in or near the Lakewood Community. This 5 star preschool prepares 3 and 4-year-olds for successful entry into kindergarten and focuses on family involvement.

Location: 3115 Kalyne St., Charlotte, NC 28208
Phone: 704-391-0600
Website: www.lakewoodpreschool.com

Mecklenburg County Pre-Kindergarten (MECK Pre-K)

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

MECK Pre-K is a Mecklenburg County-funded program that offers a high-quality Pre-K experience to ensure children are academically and developmentally prepared for kindergarten. Classrooms are located in 4 and 5 star child care centers and children attend a 6.5 hour school day program. This program is free to qualifying families.

Location: 601 E 5th Street, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-943-9585
Website: www.meckprek.org

North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Offers a high-quality pre-k option for at-risk children and prepares them for success in school. Children attend a 6.5 hour school day program following the CMS schedule. Classrooms are located in 4 and 5 star child care centers and Head Start programs.

Location: 1600 Tyvola Rd. - Smith Administrative Bldg
Charlotte, NC 28210
Phone: 980-343-5950
Website: www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/ci/pre-kservices

Quality Every Day

Child Care Resources Inc.

Program delivers intensive, year-long teacher and administrator coaching paired with training focused on teacher-child interactions, ongoing assessment, and lesson planning supports to enhance young children's learning across the five domains of development. Program directors and staff engage in reflection, data informed critical thinking and problem solving, and improvements to practice.

Location: 4600 Park Road, Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28209
Phone: (704) 376-6697
Website: childcareresourcesinc.org

The Learning Collaborative

Serves preschool children from at-risk families through a 5 star, tuition-free program with literacy-rich activities that address their educational and social needs. A Family Support Specialist builds and nurtures relationships with parents to lay the foundation for on-going involvement in their child's education.

Location: 3241 Sam Drenan Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Phone: 704-377-8076
Website: www.tlccharlotte.org

Thompson Child Development Center

Thompson Child Development Center

Provides high-quality developmentally appropriate care and education for young children at risk for school failure due to developmental delays, disabilities, or poverty. Families receive support and guidance in child development and kindergarten readiness.

Location: 1645 Clanton Rd., Charlotte, NC 28208
Phone: 704-817-1600
Website: www.thompsoncfc.org

WAGE\$®

Child Care Services Association

The Child Care WAGE\$® Program provides education-based salary supplements to qualifying teachers, directors and family child care providers working with children between the ages of birth to five. The program is designed to provide preschool children more stable relationships with better-educated teachers by rewarding teacher education and continuity of care.

Location: PO Box 901, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: 919-967-3272

Website: www.childcareservices.org/wages-nc

Literacy

Developing language and literacy skills begins at birth through everyday loving interactions, such as sharing books, telling stories, singing songs and talking to one another. Parents, grandparents and teachers play a very important role in preparing young children for future school success and helping them become self-confident and motivated learners.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

Provides books, free of charge, to children living in Mecklenburg County until their 5th birthday. Enrolled children receive one age-appropriate book in the mail each month until their 5th birthday.

Location: 601 E 5th St, Suite 500, Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-377-6588
Website: www.meckdpil.org

Raising a Reader Child Care Resources Inc.

Promotes literacy between parents and children by providing rotating bags of high quality books to children enrolled in child care centers and by offering onsite early literacy workshops.

Location: 4600 Park Rd., Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28209
Phone: 704-376-6697
Website: www.childcareresourcesinc.org

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