



FRANKLIN-GRANVILLE-VANCE

Volume 11 Issue 4

SMART START

December 2011

Building Brighter Futures for Children

Reach Out and Read: Immunizing Children Against Illiteracy

There is a crisis in the public education system in our country. **More than one-third of American children enter kindergarten without the basic language skills they will need to learn to read.** Those critical early literacy skills include recognizing the letters of the alphabet, understanding that books move from left to right, and being able to understand and tell stories.

Despite the billions of dollars Americans have invested in remedial reading programs, those millions of children who enter school unprepared are highly likely to never catch up. **In fact, 88% of first graders who are below grade level in reading will continue to read below grade level in fourth grade.** (Juel, 1988) And reading difficulty contributes to school failure, which increases the risk of absenteeism, dropping out, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy - all of which perpetuate the cycles of poverty and dependency.

The answer is to "immunize" children against illiteracy in the critical years before they enter school, when interventions can have the most dramatic impact. **Reach Out and Read** promotes early literacy and school readiness with a research-tested, evidence-based model that's proven to help children develop the language skills they will need to learn to read and succeed in school.

The Reach Out and Read Model

Pediatric healthcare providers (including pediatricians, family physicians, and pediatric nurse practitioners) are trained in the three-part Reach Out and Read model to promote early literacy and school readiness:

- In the exam room, doctors and nurses speak with parents about the importance of reading aloud to their young children every day, and offer age-appropriate tips and encouragement.
- The pediatric primary care provider gives every child 6 months through 5 years old a new, developmentally-appropriate children's book to take home and keep.
- In the waiting room, displays, information, and books create a literacy-rich environment. Where possible, volunteer readers engage the children, modeling for parents the pleasures - and techniques - of reading aloud.

FGV Smart Start will be working with Henderson Pediatrics and Franklin County Health department to offer the **Reach Out and Read** program beginning in January 2012.

Inside This Issue

- **Economic Impact of Child Care**
- **Race to the Top Grants Awarded**
- **Need Help Paying for Child Care?**

Our mission is to support and strengthen the abilities of families and communities to nurture child development so that our children can enter school healthy and ready to succeed.



Study: NC Child Care Generates Jobs and Billions in Revenue

Child care in North Carolina generates \$1.7 billion in revenue annually and accounts for at least 49,600 jobs—more than real estate, nursing facilities, and chemical manufacturing—according to a study released by the Insight Center for Community Economic Development and The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc (NCPC). The report finds that the early care and education industry is a significant economic driver, generating income tax through direct employment as well as by allowing 380,000 North Carolina parents with young children to work, earning \$12.5 billion annually in revenue.

Today, 445,000 North Carolina children birth through five live in homes where all parents work. That is 59 percent of the state's youngest children who rely on child care providers or other caregivers during a time of critical brain development. Science shows that before the age of three, the human brain develops faster than any other time in life. A recent study by Duke University found that young children in communities that had more funding for the Smart Start and More at Four early education initiatives, performed better on third grade reading and math tests and had fewer special education placements.

Economic Impact of Child Care in FGV Area

In Franklin County:

- 2,341 children under six live in families where their sole parent or both parents are working.
- Child care generates more than \$8,058,963 in revenue annually.
- Includes 41 licensed child care programs that directly employ 247 people.iii
- Provides safe learning environments for 867 young children.
- Provides high quality child care to 48% of all young children enrolled in child care, increasing their chances of succeeding in kindergarten.

In Granville County:

- 3,198 children under six live in families where their sole parent or both parents are working.
- Child care generates more than \$9,290,784 in revenue annually.
- Includes 52 licensed child care programs that directly employ 215 people.
- Provides safe learning environments for 1,013 young children.
- Provides high quality child care to 45% of all young children enrolled in child care, increasing their chances of succeeding in kindergarten.

In Vance County:

- 2,654 children under six live in families where their sole parent or both parents are working.
- Child care generates more than \$11,196,480 in revenue annually.
- Includes 72 licensed child care programs that directly employ 275 people.
- Provides safe learning environments for 1,483 young children.
- Provides high quality child care to 57% of all young children enrolled in child care, increasing their chances of succeeding in kindergarten.

NC Wins Race to the top Early Learning Challenge Grant

North Carolina was among nine winners chosen from 37 applicants. In addition to North Carolina, the winners included California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Rhode Island and Washington.

“This is incredible news for North Carolina! It is the result of decades of work building the nation’s most sophisticated early childhood system. Just think, two decades ago North Carolina had one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation, the worst child care standards in the country, and only 33% of children attending child care in high quality care. Today, we have turned that on its head; the infant mortality rate is the lowest in our state’s history, our child care standards are among the nation’s best, and two-thirds of children in child care are in high quality care. This grant will allow North Carolina to take our system to the next level, ensuring that all children have the experiences needed to build a foundation for learning and to grow into healthy, successful adults. We must continue to invest in our youngest children both at the federal and state level,” said Dr. Olson Huff, Board Chair of The North Carolina Partnership for Children.

From the U.S. Department of Education

The RTT-ELC grant competition will focus on improving early learning and development programs for young children by supporting States’ efforts to:

- increase the number and percentage of low-income and disadvantaged children in each age group of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are enrolled in high-quality early learning programs;
- design and implement an integrated system of high-quality early learning programs and services; and
- ensure that any use of assessments conforms with the recommendations of the National Research Council’s reports on early childhood. (§1832(b)(1), title VIII, Division B of P.L. 112-10, the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011).

Awards in Race to the Top will go to States that are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive early learning

CHILDREN’S OPPORTUNITIES—OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

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Franklin-Granville-Vance Smart Start

- ◆ administers Smart Start funds from the state legislature to support programs to benefit children age 0-5 and their families.
- ◆ is a catalyst for bringing different groups together for the sake of the children.
- ◆ educates the community on the critical needs of young children and helps develop solutions.

We're On The Web!
www.fgvpartnership.org

Need Help Paying For Child Care?

Child Care Resource and Referral is an in-house service provider for Franklin-Granville-Vance Smart Start. We provide referrals of healthy, safe, and quality child care to parents. We can help parents have peace of mind by knowing their child or children are being cared for by a quality child care or home child care provider. With our extensive referral database and child care resource subsidy information, we can be of great service. For more information on child care information call:

1-855-Early Ed (327-5933)

Early Intervention Tip Of The Month

Is your child meeting their developmental milestones during their first year?

- 1st Month— Lifts head when on tummy, looks at faces
- 2nd Month— Makes sounds, coos and gurgles, follows objects with eyes
- 3rd Month— Recognizes your face, holds head steady and upright

For more information about your child's early development, call the Durham Children's Developmental Services Agency at 1-877-396-8464.