

partnershipforchildren
JOHNSTON COUNTY

*Together we can improve the economic sustainability of
Johnston County by ensuring that its future workforce is prepared
for success in school and life*

Annual Report

2009-2010

1406-A S. Pollock St., Selma, NC 27576
www.pfcjc.org

HISTORY & OVERVIEW

The Partnership for Children of Johnston County is a non-profit organization which works with community partners to ensure that Johnston's youngest residents and their families receive the best educational, health and emotional support services possible, helping to ensure those children enjoy life-long success.

The Partnership administers state Smart Start and More at Four funds which enable us to provide a variety of programs and services for families and young children in Johnston County.

As one of the fastest growing counties in the state, Johnston receives approximately \$3 million in Smart Start funds and an additional \$2.4 million in More at Four funds. Our Board makes funding decisions and assists staff in evaluating funded programs to ensure that every dollar is invested wisely and supports existing services for children and families in our community.

The Partnership monitors and evaluates funded programs annually to ensure program and fiscal accountability. In addition, the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor performs bi-annual fiscal audits according to state agency standards. We are very proud to report that the meticulous work of our staff at the Partnership has been rewarded with a clean audit for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Projects funded by the Partnership are targeted for children ages birth to five and their families with a focus on ensuring child care is high quality, affordable and accessible to those who need it. Looking beyond child care, we also focus on improving health services and resources for family support.

This year, the Partnership joined the Miracle League of Johnston County in "Partnership to Build a Miracle", a \$1.1 Million Capital Campaign working to bring an inclusive recreational complex to the children and families of Johnston County, including a Miracle League Baseball Field and an Inclusion Park for children of ALL abilities.



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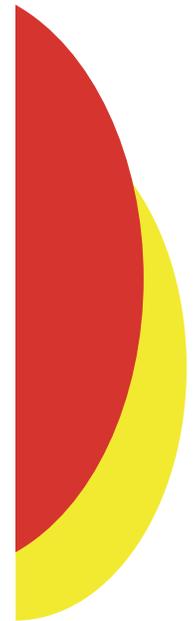
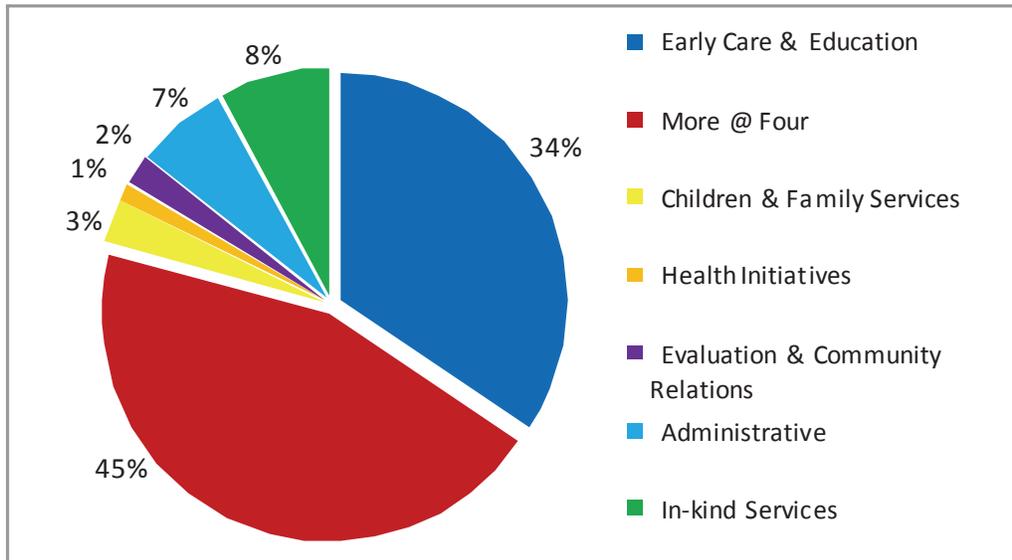
Dr. David Johnson
Johnston Community College

Earl Marett
Department of Social Services

Margaret Marshall
Johnston County Public Library

Dr. Marilyn Pearson
Health Department

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT 2009-2010



Resources

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Smart Start Proceeds | \$ 3,170,511 |
| More at Four Proceeds | \$ 2,410,200 |
| Other State Funds | \$ 15,144 |
| Federal Grants | \$ 33,940 |
| Private Contributions | \$ 22,762 |
| Other Proceeds | \$ 155,292 |
| In-Kind Contributions | \$ 486,391 |
| Total Proceeds | \$ 6,294,240 |

Program Expenditures

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Early Care & Education | |
| Child Care Resource & Referral | \$ 474,398 |
| Head Start Wrap-Around | \$ 35,973 |
| Subsidy/Bonus Incentive | \$ 909,941 |
| Subsidy Administration | \$ 148,500 |
| Teacher Incentive Program | \$ 168,077 |
| Professional Development | \$ 11,979 |
| WAGE\$ Project | \$ 323,336 |
| Johnston Inclusion Support Services | \$ 65,135 |
| Total Early Care & Education | \$ 2,137,339 |
| Health Initiatives | |
| Child Care Health Consultant | \$ 30,678 |
| Early Intervention Awareness & Education | \$ 41,326 |
| Total Health Initiatives | \$ 72,004 |
| Children & Family Services | |
| Parents As Teachers | \$ 193,257 |
| Total Children & Family Services | \$ 193,257 |
| Evaluation & Community Awareness | |
| Program Coordination & Evaluation | \$ 67,724 |
| Community Awareness | \$ 66,515 |
| Total Evaluation & Community Awareness | \$ 134,239 |
| More at Four | \$ 2,767,214 |
| In Kind Contributions | \$ 486,391 |
| General Administration | \$ 403,853 |
| Total Program Expenditures | \$ 6,194,297 |



SPECIAL STORIES

Parents As Teachers

“Jane” has been enrolled in Parents As Teachers (PAT) for two years. At first, her mother and father both participated in monthly PAT visits, but due to a varying work schedule, Jane’s father has been unable to consistently participate in monthly visits. To continue Jane’s father’s involvement in PAT, her mother started keeping all of the handouts given during visits in a notebook. After each visit, she shares information about the PAT activity, Jane’s development, and any special issues discussed during the visit. Jane’s mother recently told the Parent Educator that Jane’s father reads the monthly handouts and tries the suggested follow up activities to continue learning between visits. Initially, both parents were concerned about how much to expose Jane to, since this was their first child, but the Parent Educator assured them that as long as the child did not get frustrated it was ok to expose her to many new activities and experiences. The Parent Educator referred the family to the Partnership’s Resource Center and now they have access to a variety of learning materials that they use on a regular basis to make sure she is ready for Kindergarten. Through PE’s flexible, family –oriented approach to service delivery, both of Jane’s parents can play an important role in being their child’s first teacher.

Teacher Incentive Program

Especially in today’s times, everyone is looking for ways to cut costs. For one particular child care teacher in Smithfield this could have been a life or death decision. Because of the Teacher Incentive Program, her employer is able to offer affordable health insurance to its employees, who without the Partnership’s health insurance program would not be able to afford any type of health coverage. One employee in particular, almost dropped her Health Insurance Coverage to cut household expenses, but because it was so affordable she decided it was not worth risking. Soon after deciding to keep the insurance coverage she found out that she had a tumor in her pituitary gland behind her eyes. In addition to being out of work for nearly 4 weeks, she now has to be on medicine for the rest of her life and continue to go to specialists every 6 months to watch for any other signs that may follow after the surgery. Without good health insurance coverage, she may not have gone to the doctor as soon and her condition could have been much worse. The Partnership for Children’s incentive program has encouraged her to continue her education, and is also vital in allowing her to continue to receive the care she needs.

Johnston Inclusion Support Services

“Savannah’s” parents were desperate to find child care for her so they could continue to work. In past experiences, “Savannah” had displayed violent outbursts towards the teachers and administrators. When she was angry, she would throw and/or flip furniture in the classroom which put the other children at risk for injury. The parents were called numerous times to pick her up from care and she had been dismissed from two previous child care centers. Knowing the situation before hand allowed me to work with the Partnership’s Inclusion Specialist who had been working with the child and the family. She encouraged us to become a part of a team with the family and therapists who were involved in her care. Before accepting “Savannah” into care, I was able to fully understand the circumstances surrounding her behavior and was able to talk with the teachers to make sure they understood and were prepared to help “Savannah” work through her anger when it escalated in the classroom. The teachers, while very patient, loving and well educated individuals, needed the support provided by the Inclusion Specialist to feel confident in implementing the individualized education plan that would be offered for “Savannah”. Since enrolling in our program, “Savannah” has been diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder (O.D.D.), possibly depression and Attention Deficit Disorder (A.D.D.). The team of Caregivers and Therapists continue to work with her, including weekly therapy appointments in the classroom. We have learned a great deal about working with children who are struggling with disorders such as “Savannah’s” and feel much more confident in providing care for children who are expressing some of the same emotions and behaviors. “Savannah” does continue to have episodes, but we are proud to be a part of the team that is helping her to become a happy, well-adjusted child and a successful student. Savannah’s parents are confident that she is well cared for and are not missing work due to her behaviors.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Family support services funded by the Partnership can make a significant impact in the early years of a child's life. Studies show that 85% of a child's intellect is formed by the age of 3.

The Parents as Teacher program uses a National intensive home visitation model using the Born to Learn Curriculum. Depending on the needs of the families, they may receive monthly, bi-weekly or weekly visits by their parent educator.

During these visits parents receive information on child development and parenting skills. This information helps promote child language development, intellectual growth, physical skills development and social-emotional development.

Parent Educators also provide basic developmental screenings for children to detect possible delays and assist families with accessing services and community resources to meet their needs.

"The Smithfield-Selma Chamber of Commerce sees early childhood initiatives as important components of the economic development strategy for our community."

*Keith Brinson,
Board Chair
Smithfield-Selma
Chamber of Commerce*



RESOURCE & REFERRAL

In addition to Parents As Teachers, the Partnership provides a number of services to assist families through the Child Care Resource and Referral Program.

A variety of workshops for parents have been developed and are being offered throughout the community.

Referral Specialists are available to help families locate community services and resources to meet a variety of needs. A detailed database of child care programs in the county is kept to assist families in finding child care to meet their specific needs.

The BRIDGES program assists families with young children in emergency situations. Donated supplies, such as diapers, formula and children's clothes are available to eligible families. Funds are also periodically available to assist with utilities.

The Early Learning Resource Center provides resources to families and community partners to support the development of young children. With locations in Selma and Clayton, the Resource Center has a large selection of items which can be checked out, just like a regular library, including many educational toys, puzzles, games, children's books and professional resources. Themed kits provide an array of activities and ideas that can easily be incorporated into classroom lesson plans or used for individual learning.

The new Tots and Tales Literacy program offered to members of the Early Learning Resource Center provides monthly interactive story times for parents and children at both locations.

Family Support Highlights

- 293 individuals benefited from Resource Center memberships checked out 10,155 items in 2,250 visits
- 82 families received in-home visits by a certified parent educator
- 96% of families receiving in-home visits reported feeling more competent and confident in their parenting skills
- 85% of parents participating in in-home visits reported an increase in the number of times they engaged in literacy activities with their children
- 185 families received assistance in finding quality child care for their children
- 218 car seats were inspected and 176 of those were replaced because they had been recalled, broken, expired, or inappropriate for size or age of child.

HEALTH

Protecting children's health is a priority for the Partnership for Children. Trainings and on-site technical assistance are available through a Child Care Health Consultation funded by the Johnston County Health Department, as well as Technical Assistance staff at the Partnership for Children. Both have specialized training and assessment tools to assist in the areas of children's health, safety and sanitation standards. It helps providers structure their facilities and practices to encourage a healthy environment.

Areas of specific need are appropriate diaper changing and hand-washing techniques to reduce the spread of germs, and safe sleep practices for infants and emergency preparedness, which includes administering practice drills with the children.



Highlights on Health

- 55 children with special needs enrolled in 19 Johnston County child care facilities received Inclusion Support Services
- 96% of the special needs children served by the Inclusion Specialist remained enrolled because of supports put in place in the child care environment, as well as external services accessed by the families.
- Health/safety training was provided for 744 participants
- 8% of licensed child care programs have an approved Emergency Preparedness Plan on file with Johnston County Emergency Services Management Team
- 80% of low-income children 0-5 received an annual well-child exam
- 18.6% of children 0-5 are Obese
- 5 Primary Health Care Practices in Johnston County, serving approximately 7,853 children are working to implement high quality developmental screening practices to detect and identify possible delays as early as possible.
- 4.6% of children 0-2 are receiving Early Intervention Services
- 5% of children 3-5 are receiving Early Intervention Services

INCLUSION SUPPORT SERVICES

The Johnston Inclusion Support Services (JISS) Program provides consultation, technical assistance and training to child care providers and families of children in care when there is a developmental, behavioral or social-emotional concern. The Inclusion Specialist assists the child care providers with implementing techniques to better serve the child's individual needs as well as provides referral and resource linkages for families in order for them to access needed services within the community.

Children who are eligible for services may have been diagnosed with a developmental delay or disability, be at risk for a significant developmental delay, have specific concerns of a possible delay or disability or exhibited a challenging behavior.

Preschool children (3 and 4 yrs old) in regulated care are three times more likely to be "expelled" than children in grades K-12. In North Carolina, 13 preschoolers (3 and 4 yrs old) per 1000 preschoolers in child care are "expelled". These children in turn are more likely to continue exhibiting behavioral problems and are at higher risk of expulsion than their peers.

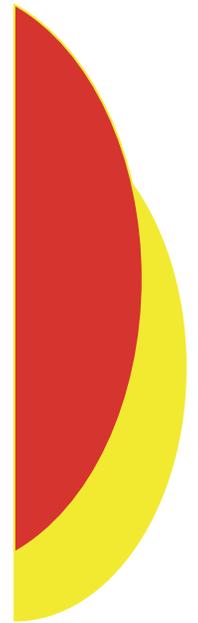
Early identification of special needs and behavioral concerns are a key component to children's success in school and in life. Many times, environmental changes can be made in the classroom to assist the child and teacher to make the experience a success. These modifications and plans are also shared with the school system prior to Kindergarten enrollment to assist the child in making a smooth transition.



ABCD

Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) is an initiative that improves the quality of child development services in primary care medical practices, by enhancing the developmental screening and referral process for children ages 0-5 in the context of the medical home. The project provides training and on-site technical assistance to facilitate the identification of children who may benefit from early intervention services.

Services support the integration of standardized, validated developmental screening and referral into designated well-child visits, the provision of information and education to families regarding their child's development, and collaboration with community partners to ensure follow-up to the practices regarding referral and treatment plans.

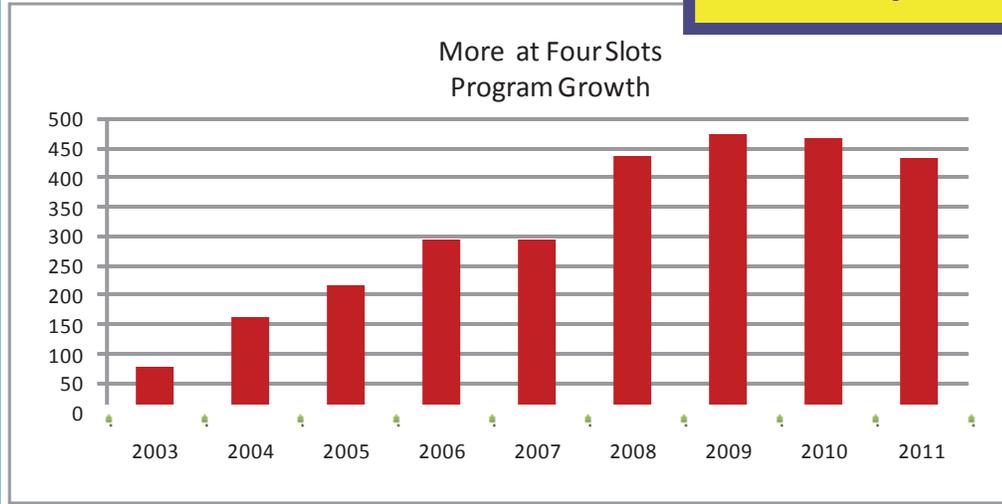


MORE AT FOUR

The focus of the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program is to bring a high quality pre-kindergarten experience to four-year olds who are identified as being at risk of school failure. The community based, voluntary program is administered by the Partnership and is made possible through collaborations and support of our many community partners.

2010 At a Glance

- 473 Children
- 34 Classrooms
- 9 Private Facilities
- 8 Public School Sites
- 4 Head Start Sites
- Johnston Community College Child Development Center



CHILD CARE

Child Care Subsidy

This program is provided via the Department of Social Services (DSS). In an effort to help working parents afford suitable, quality child care, this program provides subsidy assistance to families meeting family size and income eligibility requirements.

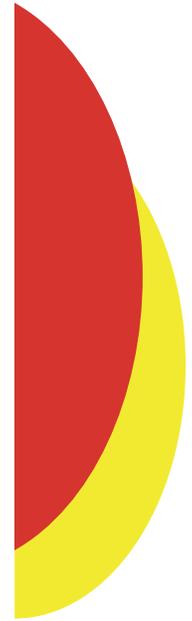
Subsidy Incentive

This program provides for an enhanced subsidy amount to be paid to child care centers and homes who have achieved a four or five star license. This additional incentive increases the ability of all working parents to secure high-quality child care services.

Head Start Wrap-Around

This program provides high quality before and after school care services for Head Start qualified children at the Smithfield Center. This helps working parents secure consistent, cost-effective, quality services for their children.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION



“The expectations for children are only going to continue to grow. By the time students reach middle and high school, it is often too late. We must continue to invest early, where our dollars will make the biggest impact.”

H. Edward Croom, Ed.D
Superintendent
Johnston County Schools

Child Care Resource and Referral

The Child Care Resource and Referral service provides technical assistance and training to child care providers in an effort to support improved quality of care for children. In addition, parent referral specialists assist parents in accessing child care services through their referral program and educating families in the selection of high quality child care that meets their family’s needs.

Early Learning Resource Center

The Resource Center provides a wide variety of developmentally appropriate toys, as well as, resource materials, books, curriculum guides, access to a die-cut machine, copier and lamination services. Membership is available for a nominal fee to Johnston County’s families, child care providers and other community members.

Teacher Incentive Program

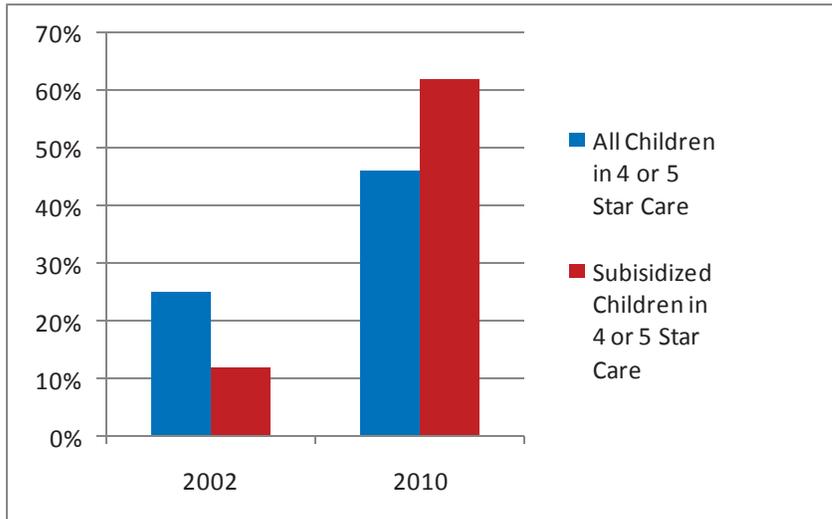
Teacher Incentive Program (TIIP) reduces teacher and director turnover and supports increased teacher education standards by supplementing health insurance costs for staff who meet enhanced educational standards or are continuing their education.

Professional Development

Professional development assists child care programs with increasing the levels of education of their staff. This is done through the support of a Professional Development Coordinator who helps child care providers develop and advance along a career ladder. Individuals may move from completion of the NC Credential to an Early Childhood Associate Degree, to a Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood and Child Development and even to B-K licensure. Through this process, facility Professional Development Plans are also developed to ensure center director and staff work collaboratively to improve the education of all program staff and increase star licensure.

Child Care WAGES Project

The WAGES project provides tiered, education based salary supplements to low paid teachers, directors, and family child care providers who attain higher levels of education. The supplements act as an incentive for improved quality of care, continuity of care, and help children benefit from more stable relationships with better educated teachers.



Highlights on Child Care

- 114 workshops offered to child care providers
- 965 Teachers attended non-credit based professional development training
- 1420 children benefited from Smart Start funding a portion of their teacher’s health insurance costs as a part of the Teacher Incentive Program
- Average star rating of Johnston County Child Care facilities is 3.54
- 46% of children are in 4 and 5 star rated facilities
- 62% of Subsidized (low-income) children are in 4 and 5 star rated facilities.



Special thanks to our 2009-2010 Benefactors

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The Partnership for Children of Johnston County is a private, not for profit 501 (C) (3) agency that is supported with public funds, private grants and individual contributions.

Photos contributed by Carrie Ann Studios and Small Blessings Child Care Center