



Resource & Referral Center

a publication of the Quality Child Care Initiative

Children Count

July / August 2010

Family Resource Center

Our offices are located at 1600 North Coalter St., Suites 11 & 12B, in Staunton. Resource Center hours are 8:30—5:00 daily. The Quality Child Care Initiative operates on a limited schedule; please call ahead. Additional information can be found at www.FRCenter.org.

Save the Date!!

Local partners, including Smart Beginnings Shenandoah Valley, in the recently awarded BEST FIT grant to the Child Development Clinic at James Madison University are planning an Infant and Toddler Provider Conference in the Greater Augusta Area!

Saturday, October 16, 2010—8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Blue Ridge Community College, Plecker Center

Thank You, Staunton Public Library

We feel very fortunate to have such a wonderful facility in which to hold our Spring & Fall Training Series, and we would like to thank the Library for the use of their training room.



Quality Child Care Initiative
(540) 245-5437

Family Resource & Referral Center
(540) 245-5899

1600 North Coalter Street, Suites 11 & 12B
Staunton, Virginia 24401

www.FRCenter.org



What is the Resource Center?

The Family Resource & Referral Center is located in Staunton and provides a wide range of services through three family-oriented programs --

- Information & Referral (2-1-1 Virginia)
- Project STAR
- Quality Child Care Initiative

Information & Referral (I & R): Our office houses one of six regional 2-1-1 VIRGINIA call centers, responding to over 600 calls per month requesting resource information on local health and human services.

Project STAR: The Project STAR (Supportive Training to Assist Parent-Child Relationships) program serves families with children 0-3 years of age through supervised visits, referrals and group meetings.

Quality Child Care Initiative: This program coordinates and subsidizes the cost of early childhood trainings for both center-based staff and family caregivers. Training videos, books, toys and other resources are available for loan through the Lending Library.

Staff members can be reached by dialing 540-245-5899 followed by their extension number.

- Alan Fairfield, Executive Director x101
- Faith Miles, I&R Manager..... x102
- Ginny Carter, I&R Assistant..... x103
- Crystal Harris, I&R Assistant x104
- Pat Hughes, Project STAR x106
- Linda Mohler, Project STAR..... x107
- Sarah Foster, QCCI Program Manager x108

The Resource Center is open from 8:30 am—5:00 pm. Please contact Sarah Foster about the Lending Library, as the QCCI program operates with limited hours.

BEST FIT Program Information

“Behavioral, Emotional, and Social Training For Infants and Toddlers (BEST FIT)” is a new program being offered to any child care provider – family day home or center-based – in the Smart Beginnings Shenandoah Valley region which has two main goals: to improve the access of child care providers to community resources and to increase the capacity of child care providers to recognize and address the social, emotional, and behavioral development of infants and toddlers in their care. While the focus of BEST FIT includes all children, special attention will be placed on children at risk and/or exhibiting challenging behaviors.

Providers are invited to apply to be a part of this program. Applications are available on our website at www.FRCenter.org under the “Info for Providers” section. If accepted into the program, providers will receive specialized training from an assigned Mentor who will address social, emotional, and behavioral development of infants and toddlers. Special emphasis will be placed on specific factors that can impact these areas of development and provide you with general strategies for addressing early issues or problems. Your assigned Mentor will also work with you to provide specific strategies for identified infants/toddlers.

For more information, please contact **Ginger Griffin** at the JMU Child Development Clinic, 540.568.3884, griffigl@jmu.edu or **Stacie Jackson**, Smart Beginnings, 540-568-8968, jacks2sc@jmu.edu.

PALS Pre-K Training Available

Smart Beginnings Shenandoah Valley is offering PALS Pre-K Training for Child Care Providers:

Monday, July 26, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Staunton Library

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 7:00 -9:00 pm, Atrium in Harrisonburg

Saturday, Aug. 7, 9:30am -11:30 am, Staunton Library

This vital tool will help you identify the individual needs of each child enabling you to provide the best instruction to ensure every child in your classroom enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. There will also be a chance for someone to leave each workshop with a PALS pre-K kit of their very own!

Registration for the PALS Pre-K sessions will be handled through HealthSource, 800-433-4580. The course is **free** with **donations accepted** for Smart Beginnings.

Resource Center Trainings

The QCCI Library has acquired 8 new training DVDs. Each one counts as one hour of training credit for DSS requirements. Please contact Sarah Foster at 540-245-5437 to check availability and reserve DVDs.

All of the QCCI trainings and workshops are listed on our website at www.FRCenter.org. Click on the section “Info for Providers”.

The Fall Training Series will be offered again starting after Labor Day. Information will be sent out shortly.

Provider Profile

Kelley Flanders is the Head of School at **Staunton Montessori School**, a local non-profit founded in the early 1980s. The program is open to children from preschool-age through grade 6 and had a total enrollment of 75 last year. In addition, the school operates an afterschool program as a benefit for working parents.

In past years, the school has rented space in various Staunton locations, including Stuart Hall and local churches. They have been searching for a permanent space since the program started, and finally found a new location when the public schools in Staunton were consolidated.

Staunton Montessori School will relocate to the former Genesis building in Fishersville this summer. Parents and staff are elated about the 20,000 square foot facility, which will provide much more space than previous locations. This will allow the program to add more students, enlarge the playground and add an indoor gym.

Congratulations, Kelley and SMS staff!! Good luck with the move. 😊