

# Smart Beginnings Greater Roanoke

## Quarterly Report (July-September 2015)

### News & Accomplishments

- ❖ 50 local preschools, childcare centers and Head Start programs are now participating in Virginia Quality Rating and Improvement System in the Greater Roanoke area, which includes 8 new applicants from Roanoke City. This year, in addition to providing ongoing quality improvement support to these programs, SBGR will be helping providers understand and use the revised Virginia Quality standards, which are expected to be phased in during the 2016 year. This revised process will make it easier than ever for programs to participate at their own pace and will open the door for Family Day Home providers across the area. For information about the revisions to the Virginia Quality standards, visit [www.smartbeginnings.org](http://www.smartbeginnings.org)
- ❖ This summer, TAP Head Start, working collaboratively with SBGR & SBNRV, was awarded a 5 year grant for the Federal Early Head Start–Child Care Partnership Grant (EHS-CCP). This partnership will include expansion of Early Head Start to 13 childcare partners in the Roanoke/NRV areas that serve low income children & families. It also requires that all EHS-CCP partnership sites meet higher quality standards, and become Virginia Quality programs if they aren't already participating. We are excited to be a part of this regional partnership and to be offering professional development and technical assistance to participants.
- ❖ The Infant Toddler Specialist Network is helping us to enhance quality in the learning environments of our youngest children. Our ITS is currently working with 5 Family Day Home Providers and 7 child care centers in the Greater Roanoke and New River Valley Region. She is providing one on one coaching, trainings, assessments and helping them to implement quality improvement plans. In addition to her personal mentoring, we also have developed an extensive lending library filled with professional development materials and equipment that can be checked out. For more info, please contact [Jodie@uwrv.org](mailto:Jodie@uwrv.org).
- ❖ Innovative Partnerships! SBGR was chosen to continue its work around the collection and sharing of PALS Pre-K data. VECF is supporting our work and helping to continue its growth as we help to train, provide materials, online access and technical support to Virginia Quality programs. This support will allow us to track the children in our Virginia Quality centers through Kindergarten and beyond. We will be able to use this valuable data to develop future professional development opportunities and coaching.
- ❖ This quarter, SBGR continued to promote the importance of quality early education. The statewide VECF campaign "**Back to School with Q: School Readiness Starts with Quality**" was highlighted in the Roanoke Times and in Growing Up in the Valley Magazine.
- ❖ This quarter, SBGR distributed over 300 books to children around the Roanoke Valley!



Why invest in quality early childhood education like TAP Head Start?

Leading local & national experts in this field explain why in this compelling video. <http://vimeo.com/104678688>

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