

SSFC Team

#### Who are we?

- Smart Start of Forsyth County is a public/private partnership corporation that works to ensure that children, birth to five years of age, are prepared for success in school and life. We are the conveyer and funder of multiple early childhood and school readiness programs in Forsyth County. Smart Start of Forsyth County is responsible for ensuring all children receive equitable opportunities to succeed starting from 0-5.
- Our organization works with a diverse population and support multiple low-income families requiring assistance in quality childcare.



## Background History

- Since 1994, Smart Start of Forsyth County, Inc. (SSFC) has been serving the birth-tofive population by supporting kids, parents, educators, centers, and policy makers through collaborative programs, consumer education, and advocacy.
- Founded by a passionate team of education and community advocates, led by Dean Clifford, Ph.D., SSFC mobilizes resources and shape's public opinion to improve early childhood care, development, and education; provide parents and guardians with tools for raising healthy, successful children; and make sure children have access to preventative health, dental, and vision care.

# Some of the Programs/Services Provided

- Teaching and Learning Services
- Childcare Subsidies Family
   Childcare Scholarship Program &
   Emergency Childcare Scholarship
   Program
- NC Pre-K Program
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Educator Scholarships
- Child Care Health Consultation
   Services

### Referral Process

Smart Start of Forsyth County works closely with Family Services, Child Care Resources and Referral, Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools, and the **Department of Social** Services to assist other agencies to assist families.

## **COVID-19 Changes**

- COVID made a huge impact on child care in Forsyth County. In Forsyth County alone Smart Start of Forsyth County grew more and more concerned about the impacts on child and workers health, child development, and the employment of the Early Childhood Professionals.
- However, SSFC kept their doors open the entire way through the pandemic and worked from a staggered schedule in order to continue to provide services. We are now taking the public by appointments and face-to-face.





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