

# Caswell County Partnership for Children Smart Start Final Activity Report: Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2015-2016



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Acknowledgements: 2015-2016 Board of Directors &  
Caswell County Partnership for Children Staff

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*This report is limited to funds provided by Smart Start which targets children birth to five, not yet in Kindergarten.*

**Partnership Mission:** Uniting the community to provide families with resources and services to enable all children to reach their fullest potential.

## I. Purpose

*“Experiences during early childhood literally shape the structure of the brain. Because today’s children are tomorrow’s leaders, parents and workers, everyone has a stake in making sure that all children have the experiences they need to thrive. **Smart Start brings together all the people involved in a young child’s life**—families, teachers, doctors, caregivers, social workers, and many others—to ensure every child has all they need for healthy growth and development.... **Smart Start was created in 1993 as an innovative solution to a problem: Children were coming to school unprepared to learn.**”<sup>1</sup>*

*“Smart Start’s network of early childhood partnerships provide expertise, guidance and infrastructure to ensure North Carolina’s children receive the care and nurturing they need to thrive.”<sup>2</sup>*

This report summarizes local programs designed to address this problem as well as their recent impact.

## II. Smart Start Program Outcome Summary

Collectively, progress is being made in all goal areas being addressed and in all focus areas with outcomes.

| Summary of Accomplishments by Topic Area: | ● = Achieved    | ◐ = Made Significant Progress | ○ = Not Achieved | Not available  | Total per Area |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| I. Early Care & Education                 | 10              | 1                             | 1                | 3              | 15             |
| II. Family Support                        | 5               | 2                             | 0                | 1              | 8              |
| III. Program Support                      | 1               | 0                             | 0                | 1              | 2              |
| <b>FY15-16 Overall:</b>                   | <b>16 (64%)</b> | <b>3 (12%)</b>                | <b>1 (4%)</b>    | <b>5 (20%)</b> | <b>25</b>      |

## III. Child Care Provider Success Stories

*“I am grateful to be able to participate in the **Smart Start Professional Development Incentives [and CCR&R]** programs. I have been employed at my current school for 18 years and the professional incentive funds increases my income and inspires me to continue teaching at my site. The funds allow me to attend trainings to ensure that I maintain a classroom environment that is inviting, respectful, inclusive, flexible and reflects knowledge of young children with and without disabilities. This program is important to me because as a teacher, I understand that change is constant and I must actively investigate and consider new ideas that improve my teaching. This program provides trainings based on research and data to best meet the needs of the students and families at my center.”*

*“What a wonderful year my **Pre-K** students have had due to your generosity. **Raising A Reader** program put books into my children’s hands and homes increasing the time children were read to... During shared reading I knew that bags were being opened and books were read because a child/children would say, ‘I had that book!’ I would ask what the book was about and they could tell me.... [At the Blue Book Bag Library Celebration,] children were so excited that they sat at the table and asked their parent to read to them before enjoying a sundae. Each child could tell the title of most books, author and illustrator.... Again thank you for helping to prepare our children for kindergarten and increasing their love for reading.”*

<sup>1</sup> From North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) website: [www.smartstart.org/about-smart-start](http://www.smartstart.org/about-smart-start)

<sup>2</sup> From NCPC’s 2015-16 Annual Report available on [www.smartstart.org/](http://www.smartstart.org/) or [indd.adobe.com/view/8cd98058-012f-4f2b-8bb3-edbb42d74d00](https://indd.adobe.com/view/8cd98058-012f-4f2b-8bb3-edbb42d74d00)

## IV. Selected Outputs & Outcomes

Who was served?

| Activity                            | FY15-16 Recipient  | Projected | Actual | Actual/Proj. |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------|--------------|
| Child Care Subsidy                  | Average # children receiving Smart Start subsidy funding each month  | 27        | 22     | 82%          |
|                                     | # of children 0-5 on a subsidy waiting list for at least one month   | No Proj.  | 117    | na           |
| Child Care Resource & Referral      | # direct teaching staff (of children 0-5) who attended non-credit based training or workshops  | 35        | 42     | 133%         |
| Professional Development Incentives | # of direct teaching staff who were awarded professional development incentives  | 25        | 22     | 88%          |
| Raising A Reader                    | # children served in Raising A Reader classrooms   | 72        | 71     | 99%          |
| Reach Out & Read                    | # annual well-child visits for children aged 6 months – 5 years (*approximation for # of children, but some duplication since infants receive multiple visits) | 205       | 110*   | 54%*         |

What services were provided?

| Activity                            | FY15-16 Service  | Projected | Actual | Actual/Proj. |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------|--------------|
| Child Care Resource & Referral      | # trainings provided   | 6         | 8      | 133%         |
| Professional Development Incentives | # of total college credits earned by all providers   | No Proj.  | 112    | na           |
| Raising A Reader                    | # supplementary parent workshops   | 12        | 16     | 133%         |
| Reach Out & Read                    | # developmentally appropriate new children's books distributed during annual well-child visits | 185       | 110    | 59%          |

What impact was achieved?

| Activity                            | FY15-16 Program Outcomes   | Status | Actual Outcome                      |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Child Care Subsidy                  | By June 30, 2016, ...<br>The average star rating of children receiving Smart Start subsidized care will exceed <b>4.0</b> .  | ●      | 4.24                                |
| Child Care Resource & Referral      | <b>75%</b> of child care providers who visited the Lending Library will report having used or implemented information or resources gained from their Lending Library visit as reported by follow-up surveys.                 | ●      | 100%<br>8 of 8                      |
| Professional Development Incentives | When direct teaching staff enroll in for-credit courses, <b>92%</b> (12 of 13) of direct teaching staff earn credit hours in early childhood or early childhood related courses with a 2.0 grade point.                      | ●      | 100%<br>7 of 7                      |
|                                     | The median salary plus supplement for teachers with a 2 yr degree in Early Care & Education or its equivalent will be at least <b>\$10.25</b> /hr AND for teachers with a 4 year degree will be at least <b>\$13.27</b> /hr. | ●      | \$16.29<br>& \$17.38                |
| Raising A Reader                    | There will be a <b>significant increase</b> in the number of times children look at books at home.*  | ●      | 5.7 to 6.98<br><b>(Significant)</b> |
| Reach Out & Read                    | <b>50%</b> of returning parents, including those who had completed at least one previous Reach Out & Read well-child visit, already use the recommended reading strategy, compared to <b>25%</b> of new ROR parents.         | ◐      | 67%, 6<br>Returning &<br>53%, 8 New |

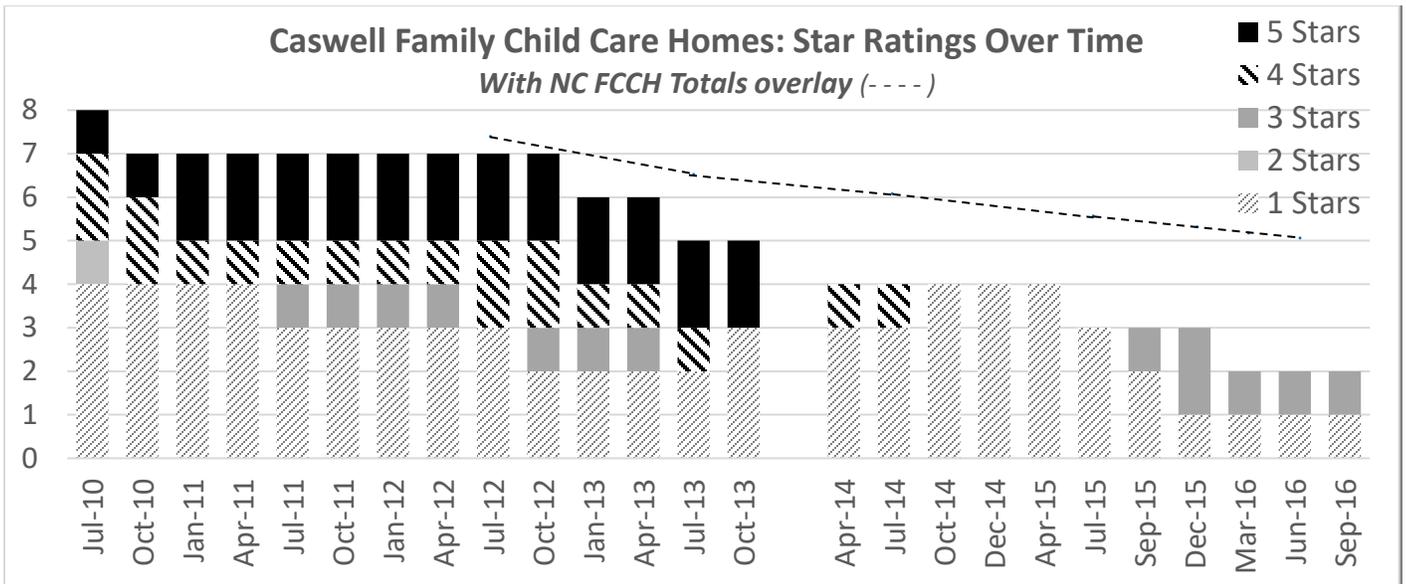
● = Achieved; ◐ = Made Significant Progress; ○ = Not Achieved \*RAR has it's own survey tool with statistical significance included.

## V. Child Care in Caswell County

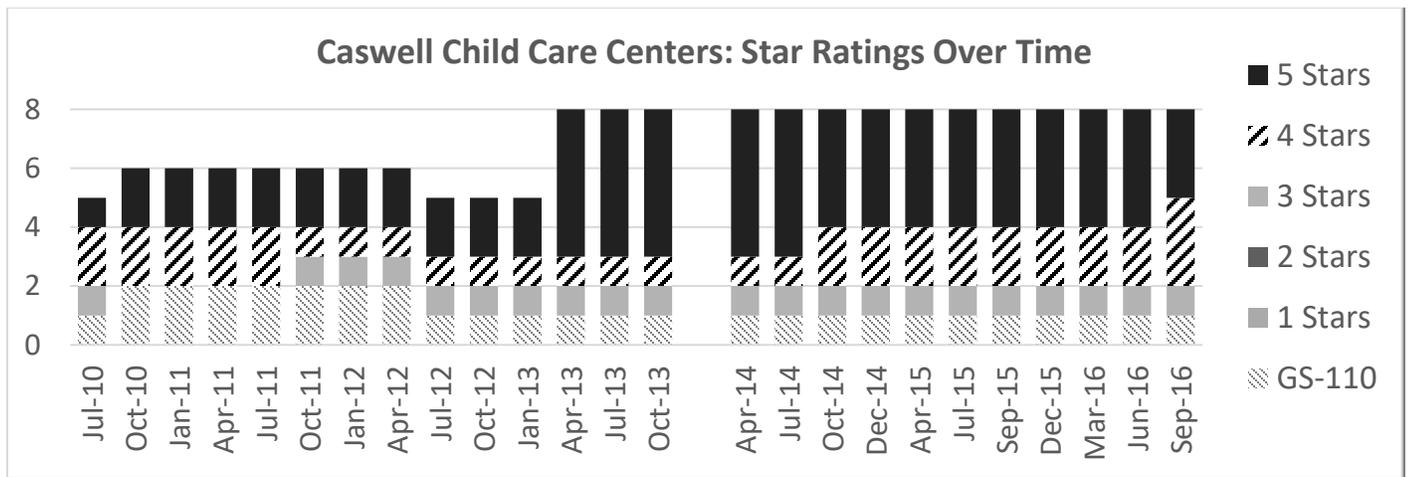
As of June 2016, there were ten child care programs in Caswell County: five child care centers, three Pre-K classrooms located in the public schools, and two family child care homes.

The struggles for Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) continued with yet another home closing, for a total of seven FCCHs closed since 2012.

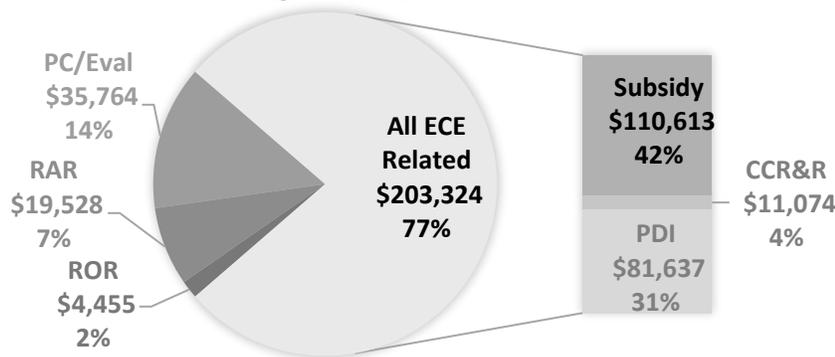
This is similar to the statewide decline of recent years from nearly 3,000 FCCHs in July 2012 to just over 2,000 in July 2016.



While two school based sites who underwent re-licensing maintained 5-stars last year, another site went from 5-Stars down to 4-stars at the beginning of the new fiscal year.



**VII. FY2015-16 Program Expenditures:**



**Cash & In-Kind Match:**  
 Required: 17%, \$58,775  
 Reported: 16.5%, \$57,145

Last fiscal year, **all but one of the child care sites were impacted directly by Smart Start through at least one funded activity**, with many benefiting from more than one. An additional site in Alamance was impacted by CCR&R Trainings and additional sites were served through Subsidy in other counties.

We estimate that at least **46 unduplicated child care providers** were impacted by Smart Start programs; we estimate there are 60 providers in the county, so **77%** were impacted by Smart Start funded activities.

We also estimate that approximately **245 children enrolled** in these Caswell County sites (**88%** of 278 total children enrolled) were impacted via Smart Start services and programs.

Only one center inside Caswell County qualified for Smart Start Subsidy and participated.

## VI. 2015-16 Caswell County Partnership for Children Smart Start Logic Model

| Needs  | Target Populations  | Programs/ Activities   | Recipient Outputs   | Outcomes Areas Addressed  | PBIS <i>(not selected nor required in italics; Official data not available in "[ ]")</i>   | Long Term Goals  |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Insufficient high quality child care available for parents in Caswell county: not all staff have adequate higher education in Early Care & Education field; teachers not all compensated adequately; families not able to afford high quality care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,123 Caswell county children age 0-5 not yet in Kindergarten,</li> <li>• their families,</li> <li>• ~60 child care providers &amp; staff of children in Caswell at 11 licensed child care facilities (3 <i>family homes, but 1 closed during year &amp; 8 child care centers</i>) plus additional in surrounding counties;</li> <li>• potential child care providers</li> </ul> | <b>1. Expanded Child Care Subsidy</b><br><br><b>2. Child Care Resource &amp; Referral (CCR&amp;R)</b><br><br><b>3. Professional Development Incentives (PDI)</b> | ~ 245* children enrolled in child care in Caswell County plus more who live in Caswell & receive Subsidy in other counties<br><br>- 46 providers reached in Caswell County<br><br>- 10 child care facilities reached; 3 family homes & 7 child care centers <i>(additional in other counties)</i> | <b>I. Early Care &amp; Education</b><br>A. Placements, Supply<br>B. Placements, Quality | % children receiving Subsidy in Regulated Child Care Programs<br>Avg. child star rating; % children in 4 & 5 star facilities<br>Avg. child star rating- subsidy; % children in 4 & 5 star facilities   | Children have access to high quality early childhood education.  |
|  |   |  |   | C. Staff Education  | <b>Lead Teacher</b> - % of children enrolled in 1-5 star rated child care centers that have at least 7 of 7 lead teacher edu pts<br><b>Administrator</b> - % of children enrolled in 1-5 star rated child care centers that have at least 7 of 7 administrator edu pts<br><b>Family Child Care Homes</b> - % of children enrolled in 1-5 star rated family child care homes that have at least 5 of 7 provider educ points | Children are enrolled in child care facilities that provide a consistent high quality early education program by retaining competent, qualified staff. |
|  |   |  |   | D. Staff Compensation   | <i>[2 year degree &amp; 4 year degree Teacher - Median Salary + supplement]</i>  |  |
|  |   |  |   | E. Staff Stability  | <i>[Stability/Turnover]</i>  |  |
|  |   |  |   | Early childhood literacy skills need improvement  |  |  |
| <i>(*Not addressed in FY 2015-16 due to funding constraints)</i>   |   |  |   | <b>III. Health &amp; EI*</b>  |  |  |
| <b>Evidence Based or Evidence Informed</b> programs need support for ensuring best practices and evaluating results  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service providers,</li> <li>• partnership board &amp; staff,</li> <li>• local community</li> </ul>   | <b>6. Program Coordination &amp; Evaluation</b>  | 6 programs  | <b>IV. Program Support</b>  | <i>(Audit findings)</i>  | Programs provide services according to model fidelity & using best practices.  |