

BOOGIE WITH BOOKS IN THE PARK

On Saturday, May 31, children came out to Lineberger Park in Gastonia to enjoy a day of storytelling, dancing and bonding with family. The first Boogie with Books in the Park, sponsored by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, had an estimated 200 participants. Every child who attended received a free book. Brenda Craig, Mayor Pro Tem in Gastonia volunteered as a storyteller. She was honored to participate. "The event was a real benefit to our community," Craig said. "It warmed my heart that so many children went home with a free book."

Thank you to our Supporters and Contributors of the event including: Aaron's, Inc., Business Sorority, Child Care Connections of Cleveland County, FirstBook, Gaston County Public Library, Gaston Learning Academy/Diane Holland, Guilty Pleasures Catering, Kaplan Early Learning Company, Life for Kidz, The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., Ollie's Bargain Outlet, QSC Food Mart/Jaya Gupta, Rob Lowery, Röchling Engineering Plastics, Truliant Federal Credit Union/Tammy Kane.

In addition special thanks to all of our Storytellers including:

-From Gaston County Public Library, Annette Aldin, Debra Livingston, Laurel Hicks, Rene Crump, Sarah Miller, Brenda Craig, Mayor Pro Tem of Gastonia, Capt. Bill Melton of Gaston County Police Department, and Pam Pegram with A Place to Grow Child Care Center in Lincolnton

Forest Heights Event

On July 23, the Partnership for Children participated in the Forest Heights Elementary School's "Family Night." The event which had over 100 participants was a huge success. There were roughly 75 books handed out to children to take home from the Partnership.

A book is a gift you can open again and again.

~ Garrison Keillor











THERE ARE ONLY 2,000 DAYS!





Did you know there are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when that child begins kindergarten?

Experiences during this time have a lasting impact on later learning, health and success. A child's earliest experiences determine how their brains are wired and lay the groundwork for future health and form the foundation of the social and emotional skills needed for academic and workplace success.

These are just some of the reasons why quality early childhood education is critical:

Investment-Every dollar invested in early childhood education produces a 10 percent per annum return on investment.

Economy- Participants in high quality early childhood programs have increased median earnings by as much as 36 percent, pay more taxes and depend less on welfare.

Science- In the first few years of life, 700 new neural connections are formed every second.

Worker Readiness- Research shows that the learning and development that occur in a child's earliest years have a strong impact on later outcomes, including the mastery of skills a productive worker needs!

Health- High quality early childhood programs improve nutrition and health.

Education- High quality early childhood programs increase graduation rates by as much as 44 percent; NC's graduation rate was 65 percent before Smart Start; now it's 77.7 percent.

Jobs- Early education programs make it possible for 380,000 North Carolinian parents to work.

Crime- Enriched early childhood programs appear to reduce future crime, and in the long run, they are the most cost-effective way to reduce crime.

For more information visit www.first2000days.org.

WHAT IS SMART START?



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! Policymakers recognized that progress would require tapping into the same innovative spirit that inspired private sector advances, and therefore, established Smart Start as a public/private partnership. Independent, private organizations work in all 100 North Carolina counties through The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and 76 Local Partnerships. The power of Smart Start is that it delivers outcomes by giving communities local control to determine the best approach to achieving them.