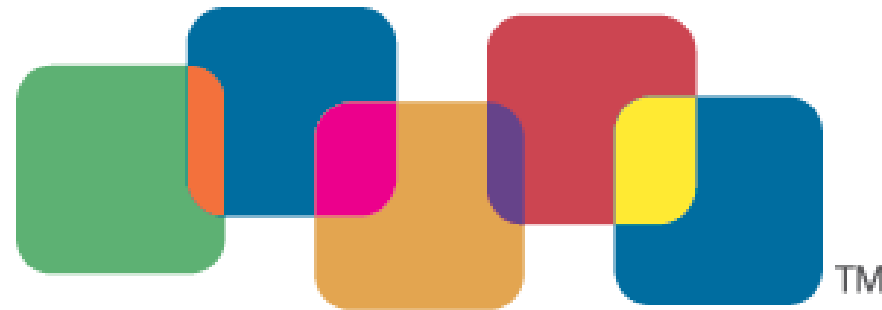


Craven



Smart Start

Each Child. Our Community.



Our Mission Statement

To ensure that **every child, birth through five**, in Craven County receives the education, health and family support necessary to arrive at school ready to succeed.

What problem do we address?

Many children in our community are unprepared to enter Kindergarten.

Craven Smart Start works everyday to improve

- Every child's access to safe, quality child care and early education,
- Increase the early literacy initiatives available in Craven County.



Craven Smart Start works everyday to improve every child's ACCESS to safe, quality child care and early education.

Having access to child care means that for each family:

Care is easy to find and reasonably close.



Care is affordable.



Care is supportive of children's healthy development.



Available care meets parents' needs and desires.



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Craven Smart Start offers Childcare Referral Services

To help empower parents in their quest to find childcare. We help them understand what quality childcare is, and give them the tools to recognize and explain what they need.

Craven Smart Start increases childcare options by funding NCPre-Kindergarten Classrooms

We fund (in part) NCPreK assistance for classrooms in Head Start Centers (Godette, FR Danyus, and Duffyfield); Childcare Network, Craven County Schools, and Excel Learning Centers in Craven County, this program increases the availability of quality, affordable childcare options.

Craven Smart Start improves lives of struggling families in rural Craven County by funding the Family Literacy Program.

The Family Literacy Program is a comprehensive effort for parents with young children, helping them complete their GED or English Equivalency, while providing quality childcare and parenting skills.

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Craven Smart Start funds Childcare Subsidy for many needy families across Craven County.

Craven Smart Start provides funding for childcare for a portion of Craven County families meeting the criteria for assistance.

Craven Smart Start Childcare Referral Services provide Parents the opportunity to make an educated decision on the best value for their childcare money.

Parents can count on unbiased support and tools for making decisions that are best for their family.

Craven Smart Start Supports NCPre-Kindergarten

NCPre-Kindergarten is a high quality educational program available for FREE to a limited number of applicants who qualify.

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Craven Smart Start offers quality enhancement services to childcare facilities and childcare providers.

Our Quality Enhancement Team of professional educators offer technical assistance and training in childcare health and safety, program improvement, and high quality performance standards for care.

Craven Smart Start improves early literacy with the "Raising A Reader" program

Raising A Reader introduce the importance of early literacy to families of children in childcare in Craven County.

Craven Smart Start supports Childcare Providers!

We fund WAGE\$ which provides monetary supplements to Childcare Providers who work to continue their education. If Childcare Providers are more educated, they will provide better quality care to our children.

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Craven Smart Start organizes regular collaboration meetings with area service provider partners.

Other service providers also address the needs of families and young children. When we work together, families in Craven County benefit!

Craven Smart Start seeks the feedback of parents.

We regularly seek the input and participation of parents of young children in Craven County, so we can better serve them and their changing needs. We provide the information we gather freely with childcare providers and our service partners.

Craven Smart Start is working with East Carolina State University to discover the Economic Impact of childcare on families in Craven County.

The report will be complete in Fall 2018.

How do we provide these services and funding?

- **Annual State appropriation** for Smart Start statewide.
- **Grants.** We have received thousands of dollars in grants to provide specific services, like Grab and Go Emergency Kits for childcare homes and centers provided by a generous grant from the Harold H. Bate Foundation.
- Generous support of our **Board, Direct Service Providers, and Volunteers.**
- Generous support and **Sponsorship of our Annual Holiday Hustle.**



Duffyfield Head Start Class, New Bern



Craven Smart Start

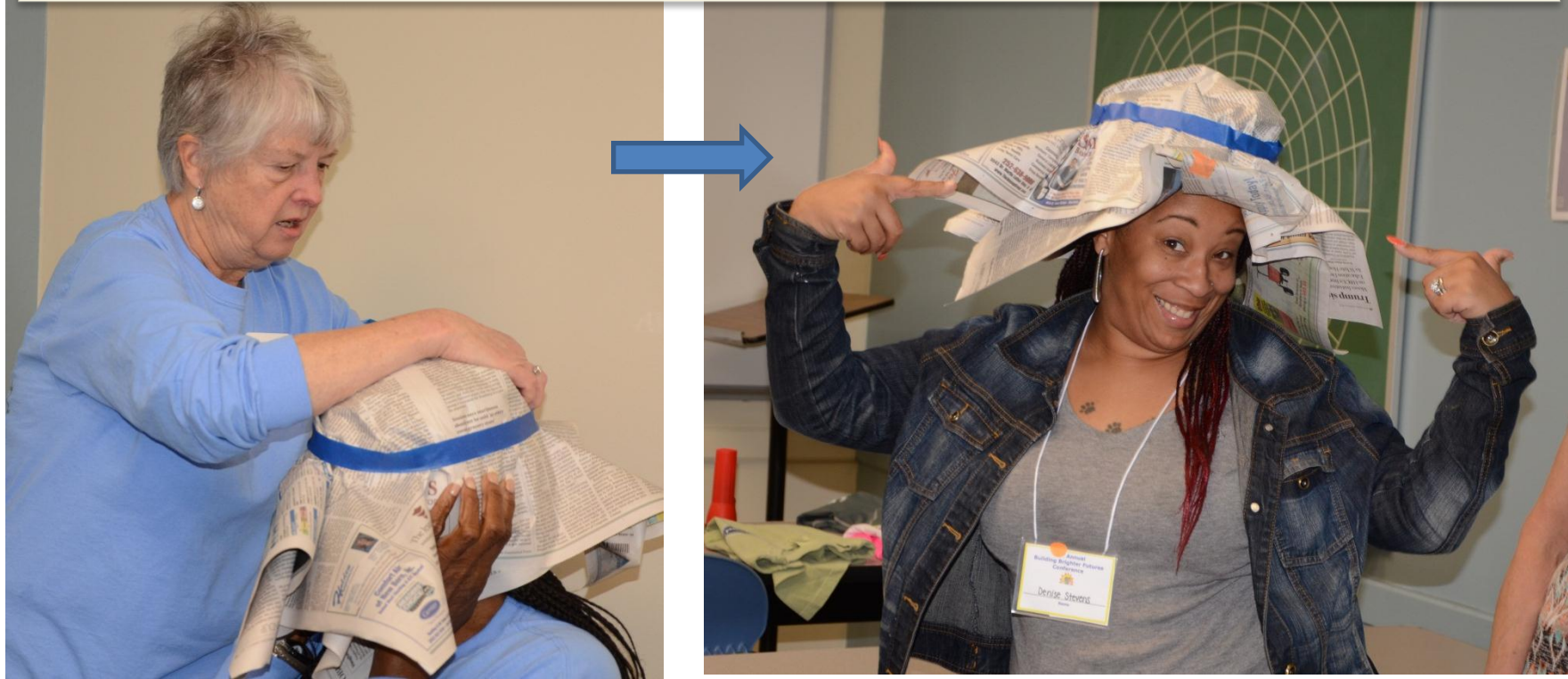
PROGRAMS



Raising A Reader

Nadia Lowe brings the love of books to toddlers and preschoolers! She uses weekly visits, parent education, fun crafts, and a weekly book rotation to improve early literacy skills before children enter kindergarten!

“Sunbeatables” Skin Cancer Awareness and Prevention Training for Childcare Providers to learn about to protect our children when they are outside



Childcare Resource and Referral Training and Technical Assistance

Quality Enhancement Professionals provide technical assistance and training to childcare providers to maintain and improve the high quality childcare available in Craven County.



North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program

Craven Smart Start supports childcare centers in their effort to provide NCPRE-Kindergarten programs with funding, technical assistance, and training.



WAGE\$ - Childcare Provider Supplement Program

Childcare providers are one of the lowest paid professions in the United States! 103 childcare providers in Craven Co. making \$13, or below, per hour and who are continuing their education are eligible to receive a monthly income supplement to encourage longevity in their childcare place of employment and encourage higher education.



Craven County Family Literacy Program

Craven Smart Start is one of the strongest supporters of the Family Literacy Program located in the western, rural portion of Craven County. Countless families over the years have attended and improved their family's lives by receiving parent education and GED education and assistance and while their children benefited from high quality childcare.



Child Care Health Consultant

Along with the Quality Enhancement professionals at Craven Smart Start, the Childcare Health Consultant also works with Childcare Centers, Homes and Providers to maintain and improve the quality of health and safety procedures.

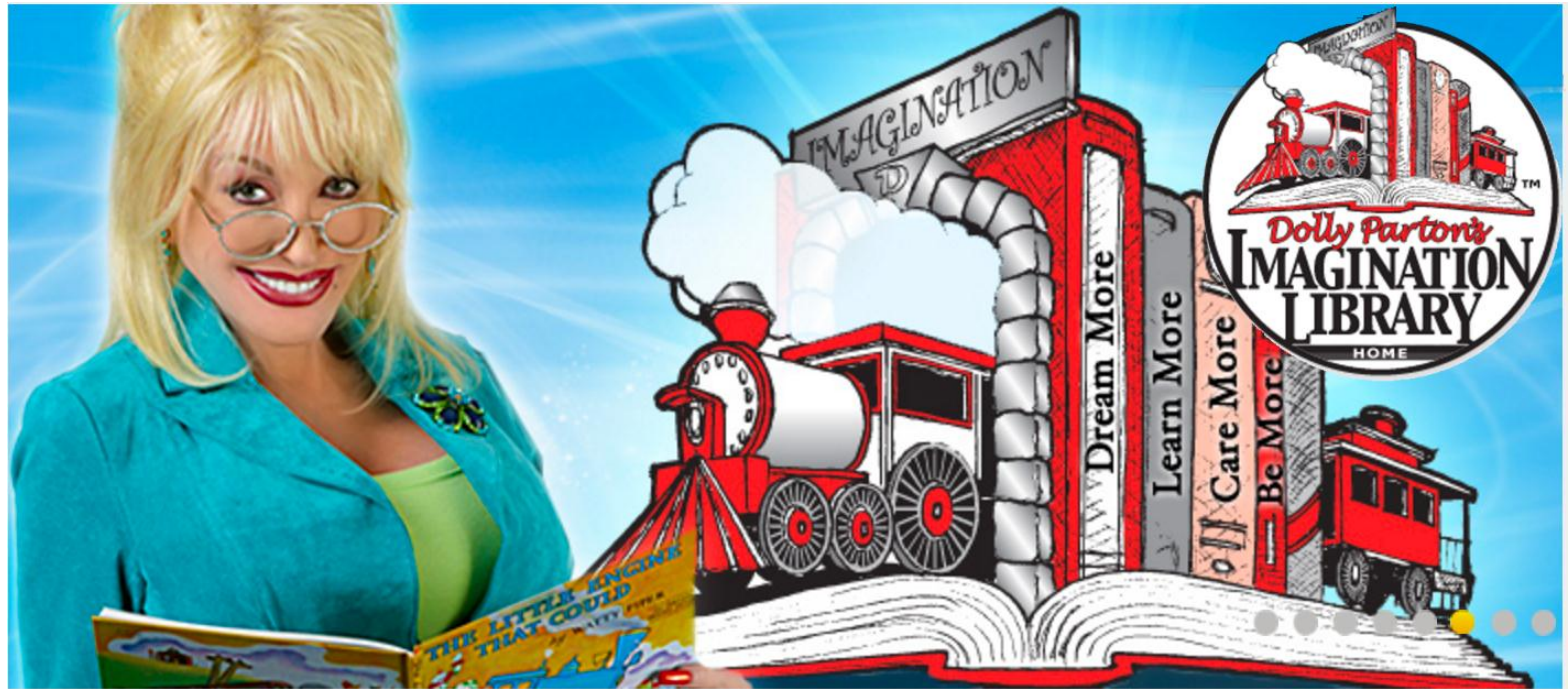


Childcare Subsidy

Craven Smart Start provides funding for Childcare Subsidy in cooperation with the Department of Social Services. Families who qualify choose a childcare facility, and the facility receives graduated payments depending on their star level rating of childcare quality.

Over the past 20 years, our funding helped to incentivize childcare centers and homes to gradually improve the quality of care from an average of 2.8 in 2001 to a 4.74 out 5 stars in 2017.

NEW!



Dolly Parton Imagination Library

This year we were awarded a grant to provide the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in conjunction with other Smart Start partnerships throughout the state. This wonderful program provides age appropriate books for children ages birth through five every month to their home.

We have already met our goal of 390 children signed up in the first year, and we haven't even launched it yet!

NEW!

**Reach
Out
& Read[®]**



where great stories begin[™]

Reach Out and Read

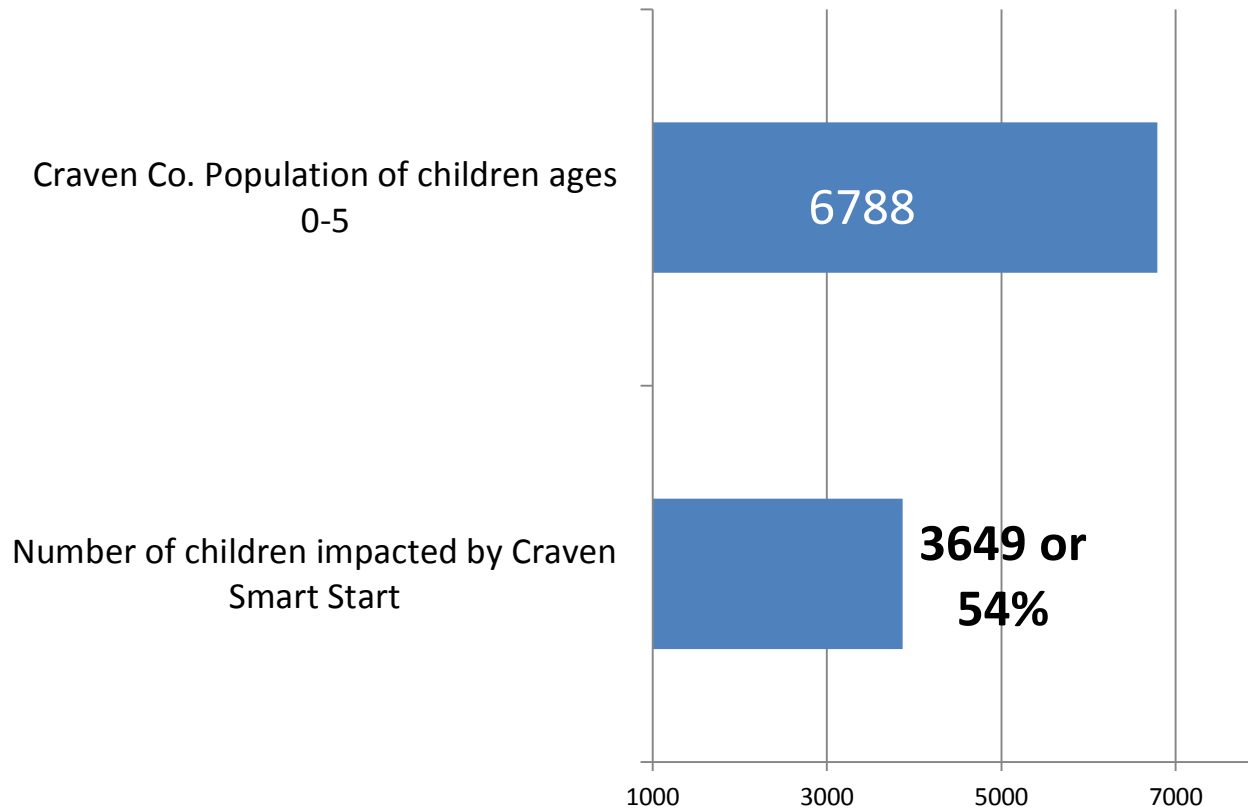
This year we were awarded a grant to provide Reach Out and Read in conjunction with the Craven County Health Department. With this collaboration we will be able to reach many underserved families in the county with age appropriate books for children birth through five years of age.



Craven Smart Start

IMPACTS

CHILDREN IMPACTED (2017)



CRAVEN COUNTY CHILDCARE FACILITY QUALITY (FY 2016-17)

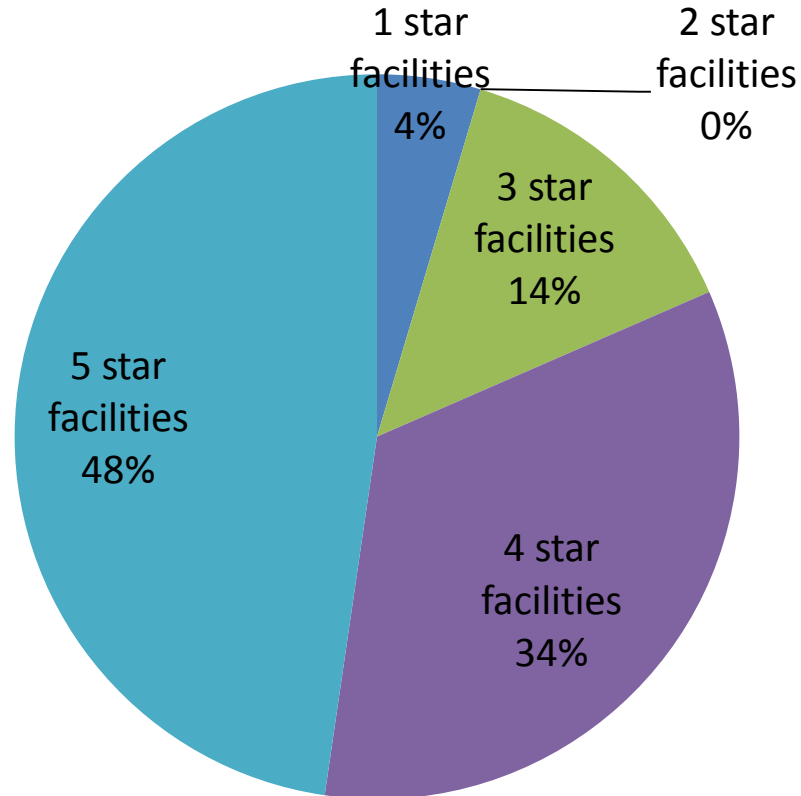
The Average Star
Rating for all 65
childcare
facilities in
Craven County

4.74

Out of a possible 5 Stars!

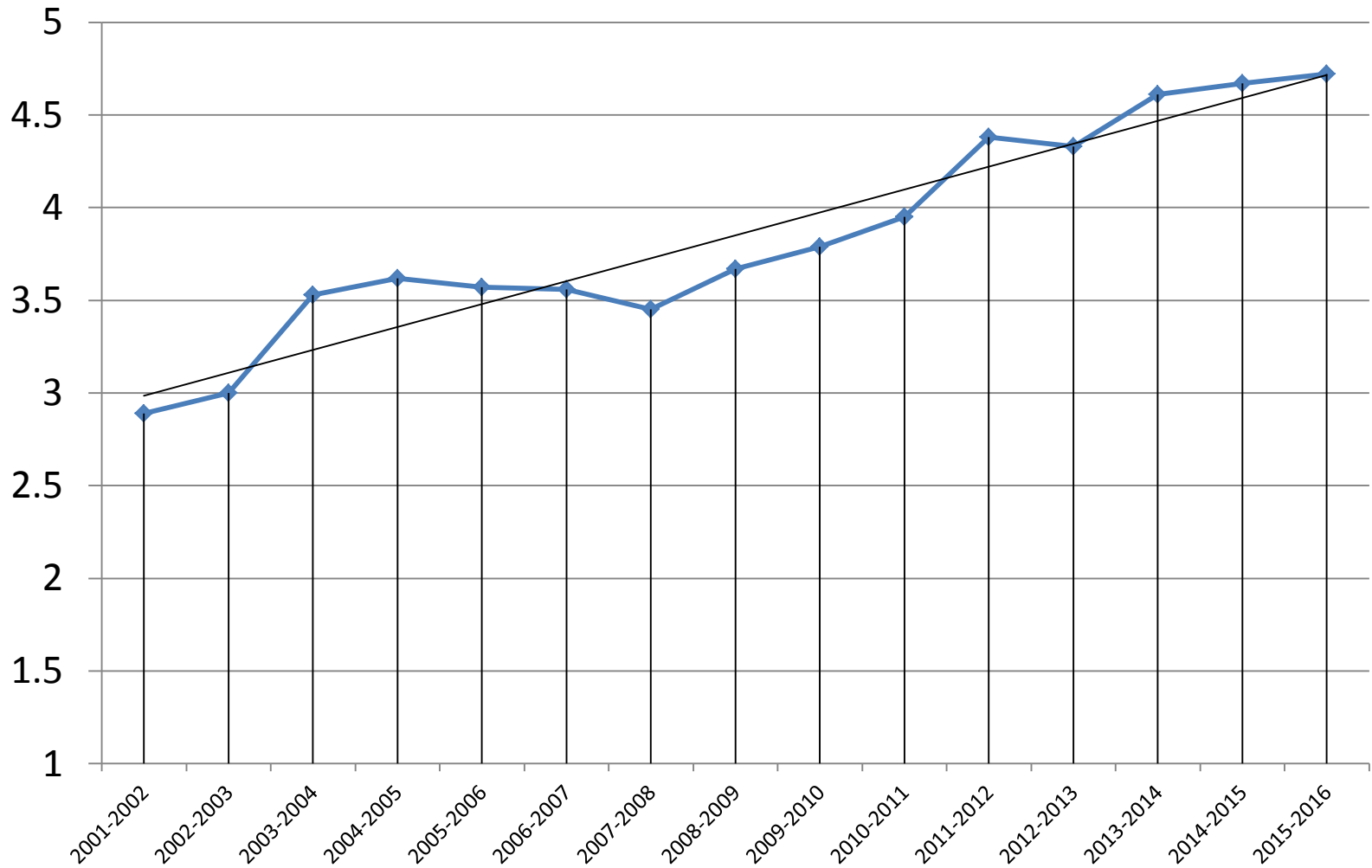


94% of all children in Craven Co. childcare are in 4 or 5 star rated facilities





2001-2016 – Craven County Average Star Rating



Source: Early Childhood Profile (FY2016-17)

Parent Engagement

*In the first half of
Fiscal Year 2017...*

674 parents have
actively engaged or
benefited from
Craven Smart Start
programs!



*Reading Fun Day 2017, Dr. Sandra Potter,
Board Chair, reading to children in English and
Spanish.*



The Annual Holiday Hustle Charity Race

Your sponsorship helps Craven Smart Start provide valuable programs to Craven County children and parents!