



# Smart Start

*Annual Report  
for  
Fiscal Year 2015-2016*

***EACH CHILD. EVERY COMMUNITY.***



# Introduction

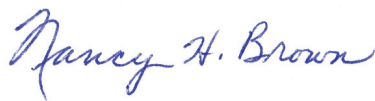
Dear members of the North Carolina General Assembly:

It is our pleasure to provide the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) 2015 – 2016 Annual Report.

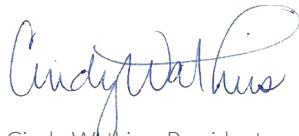
This report is responsive to G.S. 143B-168.12(d) which requires that: “The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., shall make a report no later than December 1 of each year to the General Assembly that shall include the following:

- (1) A description of the program and significant services and initiatives.
- (2) A history of Smart Start funding and the previous fiscal year’s expenditures.
- (3) The number of children served by type of service.
- (4) The type and quantity of services provided.
- (5) The results of the previous year’s evaluation of the initiatives or related programs and services.
- (6) A description of significant policy and program changes.
- (7) Any recommendations for legislative actions.”

Sincerely,



Dr. Nancy H. Brown, Board Chair



Cindy Watkins, President

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# The Smart Start Network

Smart Start is a network of 75 nonprofit local partnerships that serve all 100 North Carolina counties. This network is led by The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) that ensures fiscal and programmatic accountability, and coordinates a statewide network to create better outcomes for children and families.

Children are born ready to learn but may not have access to the experiences or environments that foster healthy brain development such as engaged child-parent interaction, quality child care or healthcare. When we provide communities, child care providers, parents and families with the tools and resources they need so that every child is nurtured and cared for from birth, we ensure quality early childhood learning opportunities and healthy brain development.

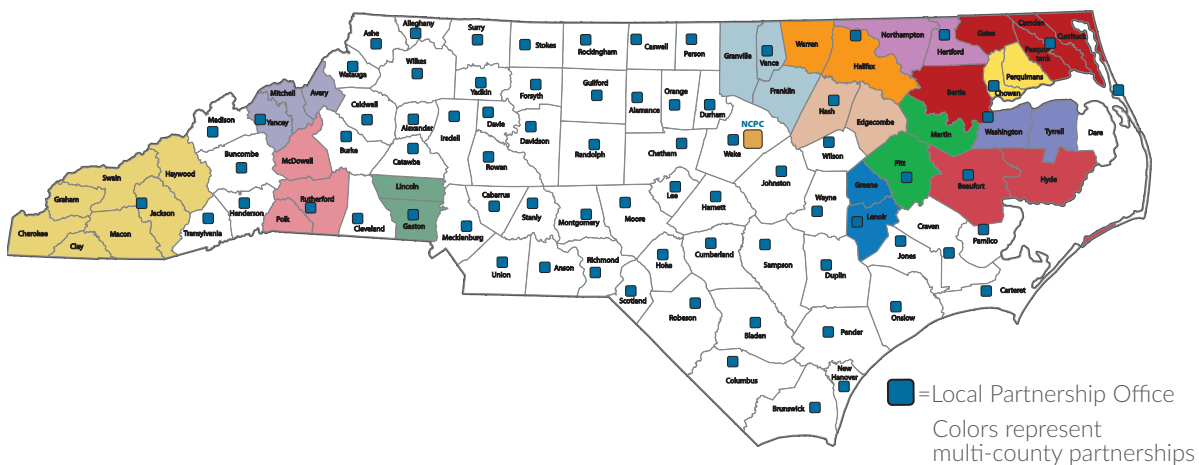
Smart Start brings communities together—parents, child care and health care providers, educators, business people, elected officials, public safety—and provides the tools and resources they need to fully engage young children in learning opportunities so they can grow to be healthy, productive and

well-rounded students, parents, workers and leaders.

This structure establishes a system for state-wide governance and innovation with local inspiration that works in communities across our state.

Serving children birth to five, Smart Start works across the state, to raise the quality of child care, strengthen families, advance child health and development, and improve early literacy. The network implements other state, federal, local, and private programs and services, such as NC Pre-K, child care subsidy, Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, and Shape NC.

Research released in 2016 from the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy found that state investments in Smart Start and NC Pre-K resulted in higher test scores, less grade retention and fewer special education placements through fifth grade. In fact, at average funding levels, Smart Start was found to reduce special education placements in grades three, four and five by nearly 10 percent, and reduce a child's chance of being retained in fifth grade by 13 percent.



# How It Works

At the State level, NCPC works to ensure data driven results and accountability for the entire network, as well as make sure that state investments are producing strong outcomes for children. *The Smart Start Resource Guide of Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Programs and Practices* provides local partnerships with evidence on program outcomes to support informed budget choices that produce targeted results for communities. In addition, continuous fiscal and quality monitoring ensure effectiveness and continued innovation. This includes:

- Training local partnership board members and staff on fiduciary oversight thus protecting accountability in all financial processes from budget oversight to contract management
- Monitoring local partnerships to ensure compliance with State and federal laws, legislative mandates, and State policies
- Supporting centralized accounting, contracting, and back office functions that promote efficiency for the network
- Guiding local partnerships toward selection and implementation of evidence-based, evidence-informed programs to achieve the best outcomes for children
- Reviewing programs at the local level to ensure services are targeting and addressing unique community needs, and not duplicative of other investments
- Facilitating the sharing of resources, innovative ideas, and solutions across the Smart Start network so that individual counties benefit from a collective knowledge rather than wasting public resources on a problem that has already been solved in another county

- Maintaining a centralized portal for collection of programmatic data including numbers served and outcomes for each activity
- Disaggregating and providing access to county level measures of child well-being collected from State agencies

In local communities, local partnerships have the flexibility to use data-driven decision making to determine how to improve the health, well-being and development of their children based on the needs and resources of their local communities. They support the needs of families and children during this critical developmental period by using a combination of State, federal, local and private funds to provide comprehensive services and programs that support and strengthen this early development by:

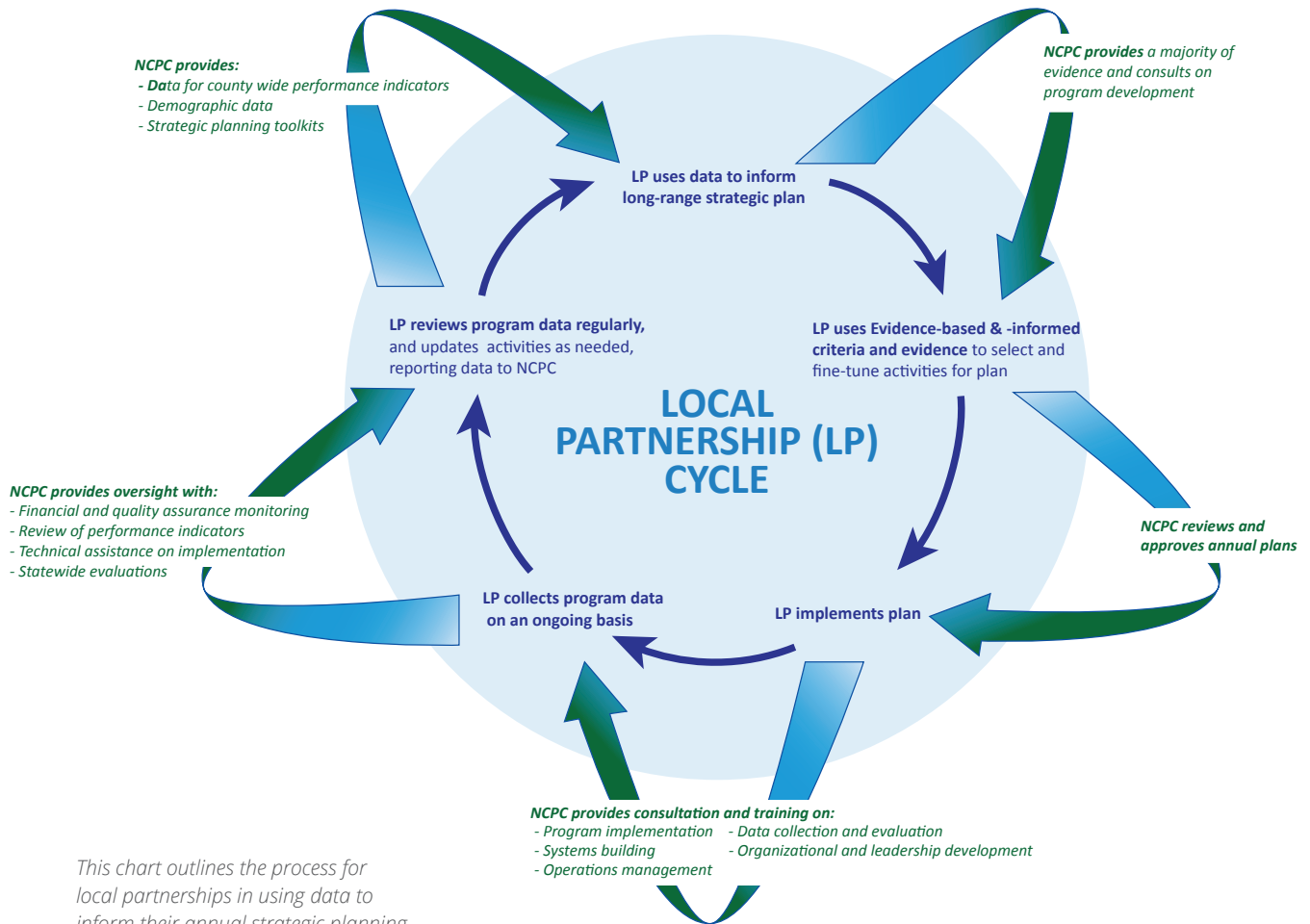
- Ensuring child care is high quality, child-focused and family-friendly
- Providing subsidy services and access to high quality early education
- Supporting NC Pre-K providers and providing family assistance
- Advancing child health and nutrition through child care centers and medical practices
- Supporting families with programs that improve parenting skills and promote involvement with their child's education
- Promoting early literacy with programs that assist parents, and child care and medical providers
- Ensuring sustainable implementation of evidence-based early childhood services

The chart below outlines the process for local partnerships in using data to inform their annual strategic planning processes and how NCPC supports that local process.

With statewide governance and local data-driven, decision making, the Smart Start network acts as an effective and efficient planning and delivery mechanism for North

Carolina's early childhood system. The network not only provides programs and services to families and children, but also supports shared learning and innovation, allows for flexibility to address problems and assure opportunity for young children, and leverages other public and private dollars making North Carolina a leader in early childhood care and education.

### NCPC Cycle of Technical Assistance and Oversight



*This chart outlines the process for local partnerships in using data to inform their annual strategic planning processes and how NCPC supports that local process.*

# Funding

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, local partnership expenditures of state Smart Start funds totaled \$142.1 million. In addition, NCPC expended \$4.96 million. Of this, \$1.97 million were local partnership funds managed by NCPC in order to meet legislative requirements, including the fiscal accountability system and local partnership audits, as well as helping local partnerships build their capacity. The remaining \$2.99 million was used by NCPC to ensure that Smart Start fully met all legislatively-mandated requirements and operated to the highest standards of fiscal and programmatic integrity. NCPC provides leadership in best practices and evidence-based, evidence-informed services.

With the highest standards of accountability, North Carolina's early childhood system

efficiently moves resources to serve children. Together, the 76 separate organizations (NCPC and 75 independent local partnerships) are able to effectively budget resources, reverting only 0.47 percent of the 2014-2015 Smart Start funds.

Federal, local and private funders have invested millions of dollars in North Carolina's early childhood system because Smart Start provides the infrastructure in each local community to deliver results. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, NCPC and the Smart Start local partnerships together leveraged an additional \$34.5 million for the state's young children including \$24 million in cash and \$10.5 million from in-kind contributions.

**See Charts and Tables on page 15**



# Raising the Quality of Early Care and Education

A top priority for Smart Start is increasing the quality of early care and education across the state. The goal is to promote high quality early care that is child-focused and family-friendly. In North Carolina, licensed child care facilities have star ratings between 1 and 5 stars, with 5 stars being the highest. Smart Start supports initiatives to improve the quality or maintain the high quality (4-5 stars) of child care centers, ensure access to high quality centers for children, and help child care providers by offering professional development and technical assistance.

## Raising the Star Ratings

Smart Start works to create a foundation for programs and services to achieve successful outcomes as they are implemented and facilitated in centers that have 4 or 5 star ratings, retain educated and qualified teachers, promote health and physical activity, and engage parents. NCPC works with statewide partners to ensure the latest

research and effective programs are being applied across the state, while local

partnerships work directly with child care centers. Over

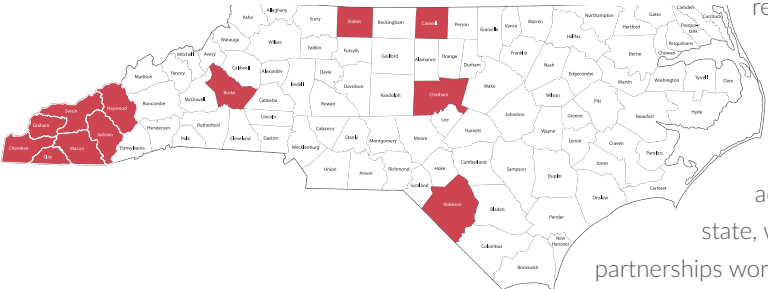
the past several years, this focus on quality improvement has dramatically improved the landscape of early care and education in North Carolina. In fact, the average star rating for children enrolled in regulated early child care and education programs has jumped from 2.76 in 2001 to 4.31 in 2016.

Smart Start works directly with child care centers in each county to understand where the greatest needs for quality enhancements are, including environmental ratings, teacher

education, and health and nutrition. This ability to target and address the needs of each center means:

- In **Stokes County**, the local partnership offers incentives to teachers for each semester completed of early childhood classes. The Director of King First Baptist Child Development Center noted how hard it is for staff to afford education, as well as work while attending classes, "This is a great incentive for my staff to continue their education. This is one more example of how the partnership is helping enhance the quality of teachers in the local child care centers."
- In **Chatham County**, the Lil' Tikes Learning Academy was established by a public school teacher who had limited experience in early childhood. Early on she contacted the Chatham County Partnership for Children and received technical assistance in a variety of areas including children's healthy social and emotional behavior, teacher-child interactions, and center quality and star ratings. The center has already established a three star rating and is still working toward higher quality.

**Spotlight on:**



## A Value Add to Subsidy Funds

For years, Smart Start subsidy funds have been used to increase the quality of early child care and education in the state. Many Smart Start local partnerships manage subsidy funds within their communities to boost quality, promote access for children that are at the highest risk and support the child care industry. NCPC supports subsidy innovation by sharing success stories across the network so they may be modeled in other counties, as well as leading a Subsidy Work Group charged with evaluating the most effective and



efficient ways for subsidy funds to be utilized. This ability to be innovative with subsidy dollars to address local needs means:

- In **Caswell County**, a single mother was depending on friends and family to patch together care for her child while she was at work because she was on a waiting list for child care subsidy. Because the Caswell County Partnership utilizes subsidy funds to address waiting lists, the subsidy coordinator was able to offer the mother subsidy services for a high quality center.
- A mother in one of the counties served by the **Region A Partnership for Children** was seeking placement for her infant with high needs so she could go back to work. However, there were concerns because of the child's special

***Burke County Smart Start was able to work with the DSS and find additional funds with Smart Start dollars thus preventing the termination of vouchers for many families in the county.***

needs. Because the local partnership provides subsidy enhancements to providers for higher quality care, the mother was able to find

a high quality center able to address the special needs of her 6 month old.

- In **Burke County**, the local Department of Social Services was low on subsidy funds and was looking at terminating vouchers. Burke County Smart Start was able to work with the DSS and find additional funds with Smart Start dollars thus preventing the termination of vouchers for many families in the county.

## Infrastructure Support for NC Pre-K

Across the Smart Start network, local partnerships partner with NC Pre-K providers to help eligible four-year-olds access the program, co-chair the NC Pre-K Committees in all counties, administer the NC Pre-K program in 55 counties through a separate contract with the Division of Child Development and Early Education, and provide an additional \$8,000,000 of funding to NC Pre-K across the state to ensure high quality services and increase access for children. Because there is local flexibility in how NC Pre-K is administered, Smart Start is able to support the program in ways that best meet the needs of families and school systems, which means:

- In **Robeson County**, many families do not have any way to get their children to NC Pre-K. The Robeson County Partnership for Children supports transportation expenses for children to attend NC Pre-K allowing more, low-income children to attend.

See Charts and Tables on page 16

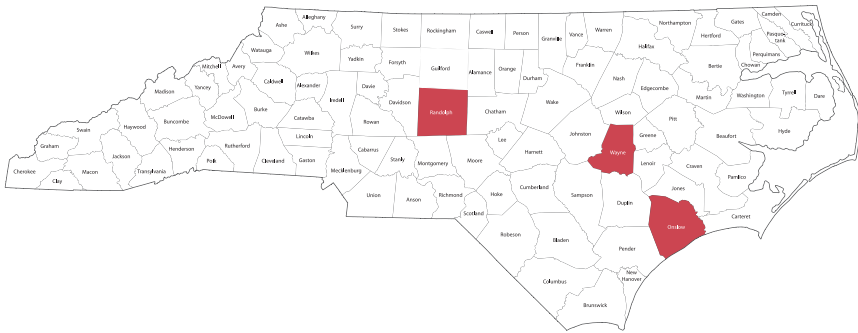


# Supporting North Carolina Families

Recent research has proven the tremendous long-term benefits of family support and home visiting programs. Studies of these programs have highlighted improved maternal and child health, increased maternal employment and improved school readiness. Research has also produced new insights on the importance of adult-child interaction, managing behavior and preparing

of early childhood development and positive parenting practices, and home visiting programs help new parents and parents-to-be by providing education, information and resources. This dedication to a whole-child approach means:

## Spotlight on:



children to enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

Smart Start offers family-focused programs that improve parenting and promote involvement. NCPC supports these programs by evaluating the emerging evidence around parent engagement programs and providing technical assistance on how to implement in effective ways. Parent education programs give parents tools to increase their knowledge

- In **Wayne County**, the father of a 3-year-old was very hesitant to make a 15-week commitment to the Incredible Years program. The Partnership for Children of Wayne County encouraged him to attend, and not only did he eventually start arriving early and staying late in order “to get everything he could out of the discussion”, but he also suggested follow up sessions with his child.
- In **Randolph County**, the teen mother of a young child was able to participate in a parenting program called Parents As Teachers. Now in eighth grade, that child recently spoke at the Randolph County Partnership for Children’s annual meeting where he talked about receiving nine end-of-year awards ranging from perfect attendance to academic achievements, and being a part of his school’s Beta Club.
- In **Onslow County**, parents of a young child avoided running errands or taking their child on outings because of the child’s constant and severe tantrums. Following the parents participating in Triple P Positive Parenting Program, they reported a dramatic change in their child’s behavior with the use of rewards and praise for desired behaviors and better tools for handling tantrums when they happen.



**See Charts and Tables on page 18**

# Promoting Early Literacy

Over the past four years, Smart Start has expanded early literacy programs. Literacy affects our state's ability to create a workforce needed to compete in the global market and ensure our future prosperity. Recognizing that a majority of language development occurs in the first few years of life, Smart Start provides programs that develop early literacy skills needed for success in school, work and life. Smart Start brings proven, national programs to the children and families of North Carolina.

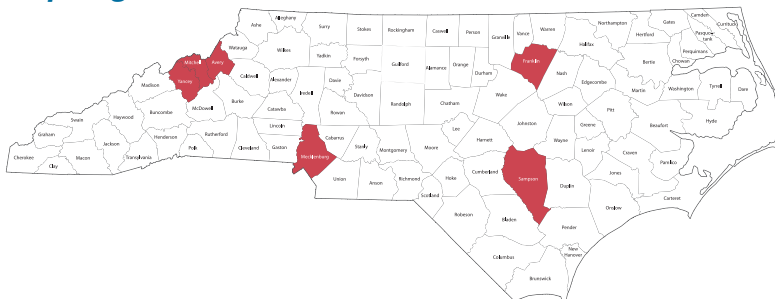
In response to a directive from the General Assembly in 2011 to “implement an evidence-based pilot literacy program that improves literacy of children from birth through five years of age,” NCPC dedicated \$300,000 to support the implementation of the Reach Out and Read pilot project. This dedication of funds for pilot programs across the state has built a foundation for local partnerships to continue the program and increase reach by securing private funds. That dedication of public funds has continued every year and Reach Out and Read has continued to expand. This program, along with others including Raising a Reader, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and many more, assist parents in developing habits of daily reading with their children, and assist children in discovering an early love of reading. This comprehensive approach to providing

programs in a variety of settings, as well as offering resources to children and parents means:

- In **Franklin County**, a young boy was consistently afraid to go to the doctor until one day he received a book from the pediatrician’s office through the Reach Out and Read program. His mother called the Franklin-Granville-Vance Partnership for Children to tell the literacy coordinator that every time they pass the doctor’s office now, her son asks to stop to get a book.
- In **Sampson County**, a family support program offered through the Sampson County Partnership for Children brings books right into the home. One Spanish-speaking family received bi-lingual books so the children are taught both English and Spanish. This experience has been so positive for the parents they have decided to enroll in English as a Second Language classes at the local community college.
- In **Mecklenburg County**, a Smart Start coordinator works with a local child care center to provide Raising A Reader. During a recent visit, a parent came up to the coordinator, hugged her and said, “Thank you for this reading program. I love to read with my child. I am so happy that my daughter receives new books each week because we do not have very many at home.”
- In **Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties**, the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children recently celebrated 100,000 books given to young children through their local efforts with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program.

**The Blue Ridge Partnership for Children recently celebrated 100,000 books given to young children through their local efforts with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program.**

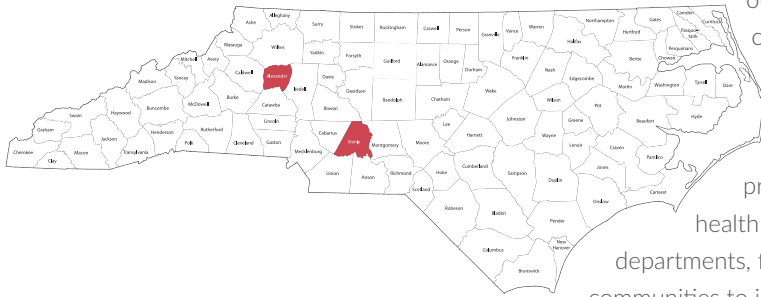
## Spotlight on:



**See Charts and Tables on page 20**

# Advancing Child Health and Nutrition

## Spotlight on:



outcomes for children by working with medical providers, health

departments, families, and communities to improve the

health and safety for young children, prevent childhood obesity, and ensure that more children are screened for developmental delays and referred to services for help before they start school.

One of these key initiatives is Shape NC, a program created by NCPC with funding from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina. The program has seen tremendous results in increasing physical activity, healthy eating, and use of outdoor

learning environments in child care centers across the state. NCPC worked with other state level organizations devoted to healthy habits to develop Shape NC which is incorporating best practices in a number of areas for children and staff at centers.

This focus on instilling healthy habits early and working to change the environments that children spend a significant amount of time in means:

- In **Alexander County**, a teacher who works at a child care that participates in Shape NC reported she and her family had all lost weight and felt so much healthier due to the things that she had implemented at home because of her participation in Shape NC. She has increased servings of fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole wheat at home as the center has. She increased her physical activity by participating in a fit step challenge and is providing more fun activities for the children in the classroom and in their naturalized Outdoor Learning Environment.

- In **Stanley County**, a Child Care Health Consultant was connected with a center through the Stanley County Partnership for Children. The consultant observed a 22 month old that did not appear to be walking. In addition, he was not talking, barely able to stand on his own, and not able to feed himself without staff assistance. The consultant contacted the custodial grandmother and spoke with her about the Children's Developmental Services Association and the resources they have available. She also provided the grandmother with handouts on developmental milestones. The child has experienced steady improvement since, and the staff continue to work with him. He is walking now, eating with spoon, and his core strength has increased.

**See Charts and Tables on page 21**



# Enhancing Sustainability for Early Childhood Infrastructure

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. As the local partnerships work to enhance support to families, early childhood professionals, and the communities they serve, NCPC works at the state level to assist lawmakers in exploring opportunities to strengthen coordination of early childhood governance, as well as ensures the network is meeting and responding to all Legislative mandates and changes.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, NCPC provided recommendations to the HHS Oversight, Subcommittee on Statewide Early Education and Family Support Programs.



This guidance included strengthening coordination of state level governance by formalizing collaboration of early education administrative leaders in order to align strategies, operationalize innovative ideas, and develop a statewide vision for early childhood. This resulted in the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget including recommendations from the Subcommittee Committee, specifically:

- The collaboration of state agencies and of any other agencies or organizations

that administer, support, or study early education in this State.

- The agencies and organizations should use a, "Comprehensive set of data indicators, including consideration of the NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading, to monitor and measure success of the early childhood education programs."
- Creating a transition plan for children moving from NC Pre-K and subsidy in 4 and 5 star centers into kindergarten.

Since this budget recommendation, NCPC has taken the lead on pulling together the collaborative group of leaders of state agencies and organizations.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the General Assembly increased the match requirement for the 2015-2016 fiscal year to 17 percent, with an additional increase in the 2016-2017 fiscal year to 19 percent. The total match requirement will have been raised by 90 percent from 2011 to 2017, and the cash portion of the requirement will have been raised by 180 percent.

The Smart Start network met the 17 percent match requirement in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. This was accomplished by increasing the focus on fund development efforts, including: creating a Fund Development and Communications NCPC Board Committee that has a primary focus of expanding the fund development capacity of NCPC and local partnerships to increase private investments; providing fund development technical assistance to all local partnerships; and seeking grants from both federal and private funders. It is too early to know if the 19 percent match will be met in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

# A Comprehensive Approach to Early Childhood Education

A recent bipartisan poll released by the North Carolina Early Childhood Education Foundation and the First Five Years Fund showed broad support for providing greater access to Smart Start and NC Pre-K. Eighty-four percent of North Carolina voters support expanding these programs. More than three out of four voters say that high quality early learning programs set children up for success in elementary, middle and high school; help children achieve their third grade reading goals; and create a larger pool of highly skilled workers in the long term.

Recognizing that children only thrive when their environment supports optimum growth and whole-child development, NCPC is developing a long-term strategic plan that will focus in on the health and wellness of

the people and communities that influence and support young children's healthy development and growth.

In looking forward to the 2017 legislative session, NCPC will support the following areas of work:

- Increasing funding for a comprehensive approach to enhancing early literacy** – Children's early school performance improves when their parents are involved in helping them learn to read. Smart Start supports increasing investments in programs that encourage families to engage in daily reading habits early for later school success. In support of the General Assembly's priority of increasing reading proficiency by third grade, Smart Start offers evidence-based early literacy programs. By combining these early

literacy initiatives with effective family support and engagement programs, an environment that encourages strong parent-child interaction and an early love of reading is created.

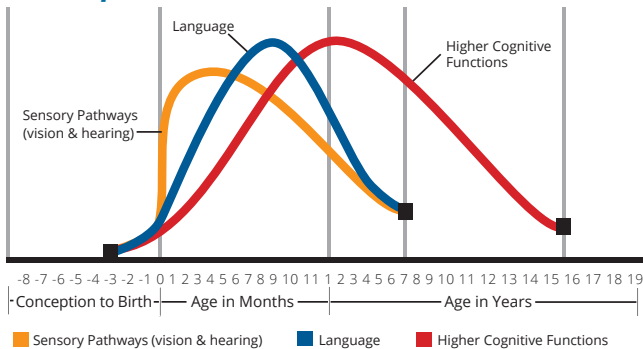
- Increasing funding for support for early childhood teachers and workforce**

- Recognizing that teacher-child relationships play a significant role in influencing young children's overall development, including social and emotional, Smart Start supports policy that promotes increased education and compensation for the early childhood workforce. In North Carolina, lead teachers in early education programs are only required to meet a minimum standard of a high school diploma and one college course. However, the reality is that 63 percent have already obtained an Associate's degree or higher. Early childhood teachers in North Carolina earn on average \$10.97 per hour, and assistant teachers earn on average \$9.97 per hour. Forty percent of early childhood teachers qualify for at least one type of public assistance.

- Delaying the penalty imposed for missing the match requirement** – NCPC

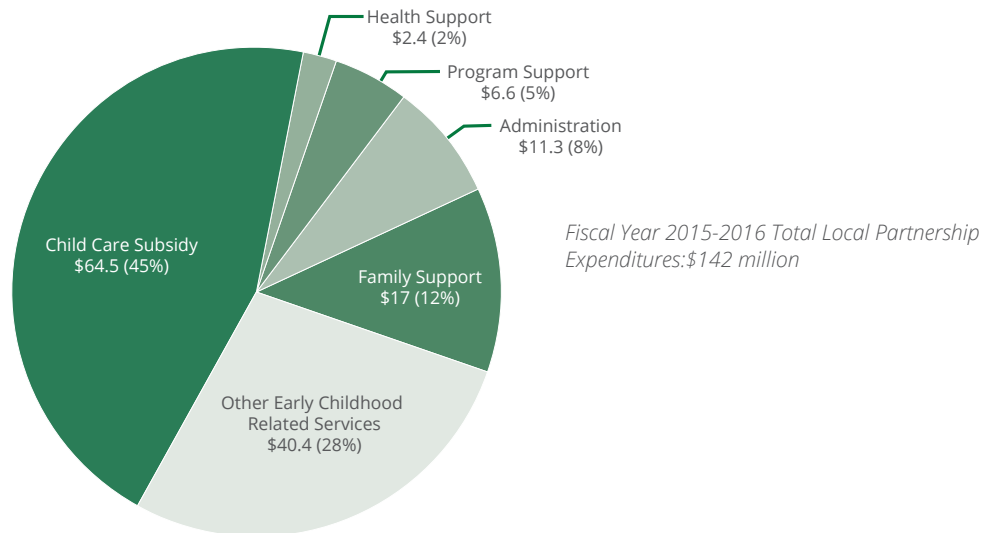
- and the Smart Start network continue to increase all fund development efforts without new funding to do so. There are efforts underway to create a network-wide infrastructure to raise funds, at the same time that NCPC and local partnerships are proactively seeking grants and corporate partners. However, building a sustainable fund development program often takes time before increased amounts of private funds are coming in the door. NCPC will seek to secure a one year grace period before the penalty of funding cuts is applied for missing the match requirement so the resources needed to meet the increased requirement are not further reduced.

## Human Brain Development

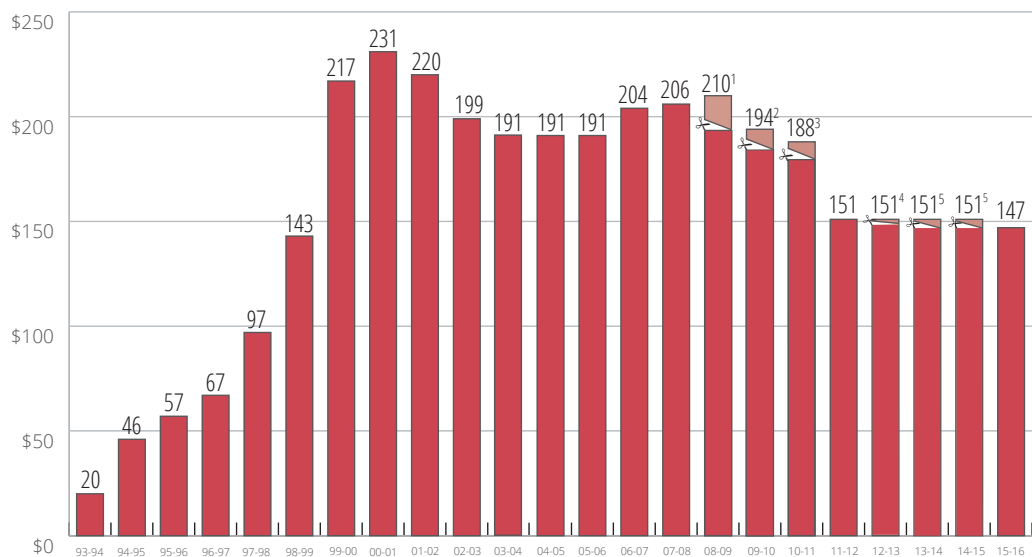


Graph Source: C.A. Nelson (2000)

# Graphs, Charts, and Supporting Data



Smart Start Appropriation History  
Fiscal Years 1993-1994 through  
2015-2016 (rounded to millions)



<sup>1</sup> One-time budget reduction of \$16M reduced available 08-09 budget to \$194M  
<sup>2</sup> One-time budget reduction of \$7M reduced available 09-10 budget to \$187M  
<sup>3</sup> One-time budget reduction of \$6M reduced available 10-11 budget to \$182M  
<sup>4</sup> One-time budget reduction of \$1M reduced available 12-13 budget to \$150M  
<sup>5</sup> Recurring budget reduction of \$3.7M reduced available 13-15 budget to \$147.3M

	FY 2000-2001	FY 2015-2016
Total State General Fund Budget	\$13,854,000,000	\$21,919,000,000
General Fund Smart Start Appropriation	231,000,000	140,000,000
DCD Subsidy General Fund Appropriation	54,000,000	47,600,000
NC Pre-K General Fund Budget	-	52,900,000
% of Total State General Fund Budget	2.1%	1.1%

# Raising the Quality of Early Care and Education

## Results of the previous year:

The following highlights the increase in quality in North Carolina child care programs:

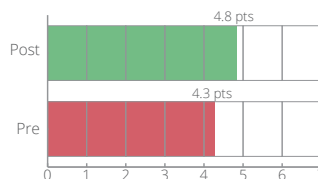
- On average, child care centers that participated in programs to enhance quality had the following outcomes:
  - » An increase in average star rating from 3.3 when they began receiving Smart Start funded technical assistance to 4.1 (out of 5) when they were relicensed by the Division of Child Development and Early Education. Smart Start considers 4 and 5 stars to be high quality care.



*Average Star Ratings Pre and Post for Child Care Facilities Receiving Assistance In Select Activities to Increase Quality*

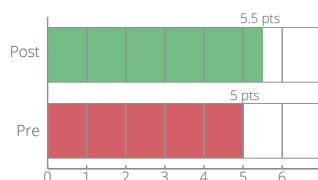
- » An increase in program standard points from 4.3 to 4.8 (out of 7)

*Average Program Standard Points Pre and Post for Child Care Sites Receiving Assistance in Select Activities to Increase Quality*

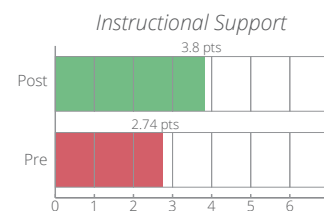
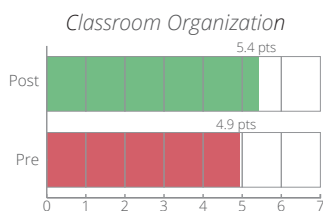
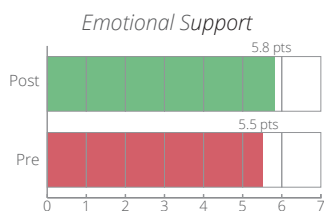


- » An increase in teacher education points from 5.0 to 5.5 (out of 7)

*Average Education Points Pre and Post for Child Care Sites Receiving Assistance in Select Activities to Increase Quality*



- On average, child care centers that participate in programs to improve teacher child interactions had the following outcomes based on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). Based on a seven point scale:





- At a statewide level:
  - » The percentage of children in 4 and 5 star programs increased from 33 percent in 2001 to 74 percent in 2016. The percentage of children in low quality, 1 and 2 star programs decreased from 46 percent in 2001 to only 3 percent in 2016.
  - » The average star rating for children enrolled in regulated early child care and education programs increased from 2.76 in 2001 to 4.31 in 2016.
  - » The average star rating for children receiving subsidized care increased from 2.68 in 2001 to 4.46 in 2016.

## Number of children served:

	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
Number of all child care programs (one- to five-star) receiving support to improve or maintain the quality of care.	<b>2,229</b> child care programs serving approximately <b>66,870</b> children	<b>2,342</b> child care programs serving approximately <b>70,260</b> children	<b>2,865</b> child care programs serving approximately <b>111,240</b> children
Number of children receiving subsidy assistance from Smart Start. Not including those assisted through NC Pre-K.	<b>30,096</b>	<b>27,757</b>	<b>24,208</b>
Number of low-paid teachers receiving an education-based salary supplement ensuring continuity of care for children by highly qualified teachers.	<b>5,797</b> teachers serving approximately <b>67,245</b> children	<b>5,596</b> teachers serving approximately <b>64,914</b> children	<b>5,362</b> teachers serving approximately <b>62,199</b> children
Number of teachers participating in Smart Start-funded programs that helped them to study early education at the college level.	<b>2,094</b> teachers serving approximately <b>24,290</b> children	<b>2,151</b> teachers serving approximately <b>24,952</b> children	<b>2,528</b> teachers serving approximately <b>29,325</b> children
Number of counties where a Smart Start local partnership administers NC Pre-K.	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>

# Supporting North Carolina Families

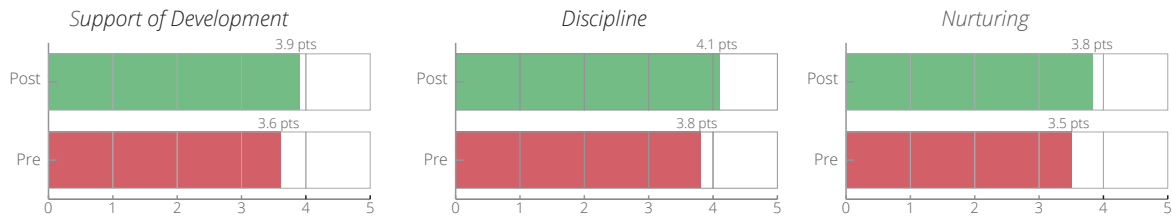
## Results of the previous year:

In the last fiscal year, these programs accomplished the following:

### Parents As Teachers (PAT):

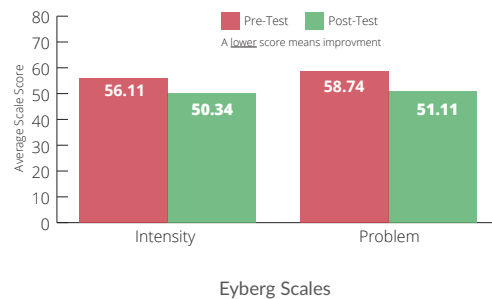
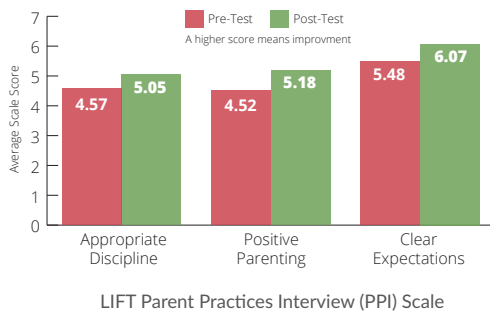
- Based on the Life Skills Progression Positive Parenting Practice measurement instrument, the most frequently used instrument to assess PAT outcomes, parents that participated achieved the following outcomes (based on a five point scale):

*Average Life Skills Progression Pre and Post Scores Among Parents Receiving Select Services to Increase Positive Parenting Practices*



### Incredible Years (IY):

- An evaluation of Incredible Years, using the Parent Practices Interview (PPI), a seven point scale with higher scores signifying more of the behavior, found the following:
  - » Increase in the use of appropriate discipline, positive parenting practices, and setting clear expectations. This was measured with the LIFT Parent Practices Interview (PPI) Scale. *(below left)*
  - » Decreases in the intensity of how often their child's problem behaviors occur and their assessment of whether or not their child's behaviors were a problem for the parent. This was measured with the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (ECBI). *(below right)*



## Number of children served:

	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
Number of families participating in ongoing parenting programs.	<b>3,283</b>	<b>2,456</b>	<b>2,433</b>
Number of parents receiving assistance to improve their ability to raise healthy successful children through the evidence-based PAT program.	<b>3,235</b> parents impacting <b>4,304</b> children	<b>2,088</b> parents impacting <b>2,815</b> children	<b>2,918</b> parents impacting <b>3,749</b> children
Number of families participating in IY funded by Smart Start.	<b>269</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>333</b>

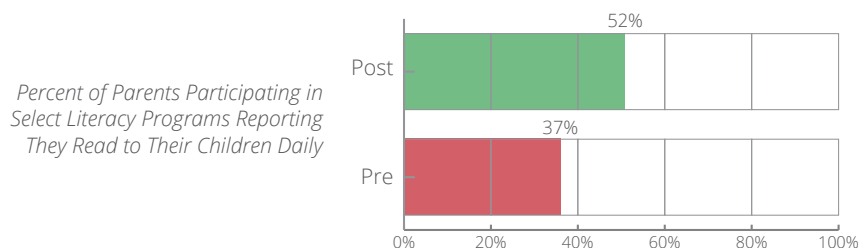


# Promoting Early Literacy

## Results of the previous year:

In the last fiscal year, these programs accomplished the following:

Smart Start has offered a wide range of early literacy initiatives that promote parent and child shared reading time. Results show an increase in the percentage of parents who report reading to their children daily, starting at 37 percent and growing to 52 percent.



### Reach Out and Read (ROR):

- Parents participating in ROR are 97 percent more likely to be using one or more recommended reading strategies with their children.
- 63 percent of parents returning to the doctor that are participating in ROR let their child turn the pages verses only 44 percent of families new to the program.
- 61 percent of parents returning to the doctor that are participating in ROR help their child identify shapes, colors, and letters verses only 43 percent of families new to the program.
- 47 percent of parents returning to the doctor that are participating in ROR read to their child at least 30 minutes every day verses only 34 percent of families new to the program.

## Number of children served:

	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
Number of children participating in the evidence-based program, ROR.	<b>37,673</b>	<b>45,907</b>	<b>43,537</b>
Number of medical offices participating in the Smart Start evidence-based program, ROR.	<b>66 offices in 29 counties</b>	<b>74 offices in 40 counties</b>	<b>79 offices in 45 counties</b>
Number of families participating in the evidence-based program, RAR.	<b>7,221</b>	<b>7,114</b>	<b>6,816</b>
Number of children participating in Dolly Parton Imagination Library.	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>32,272</b>

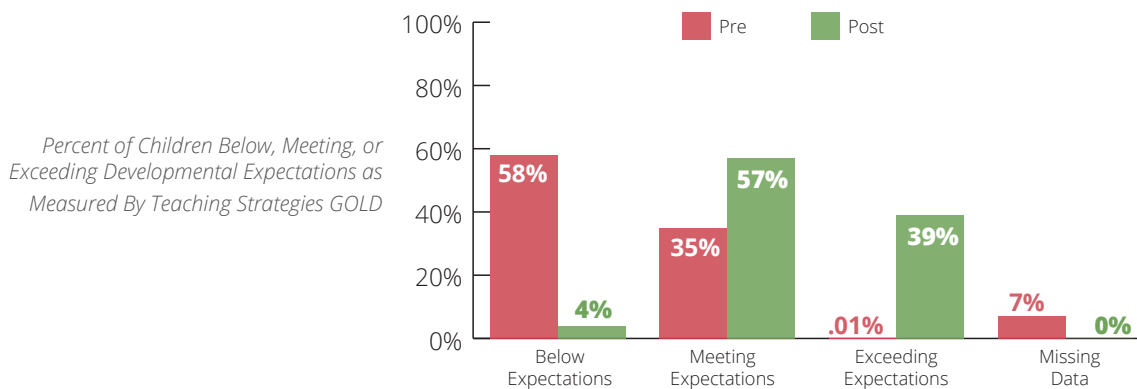
# Advancing Child Health and Nutrition

## Results of the previous year:

In the last fiscal year, these programs accomplished the following:

Promoting a child's health and development is the cornerstone of many Smart Start funded activities. Teaching Strategies GOLD is a common instrument for measuring child development. Among those Smart Start funded activities that used Teaching Strategies GOLD, participating achieved the following outcomes:

- 58 percent were below developmental expectations when they entered the program
- 96 percent were meeting or exceeding expectations by the end of the program which includes 39 percent who were exceeding expectations



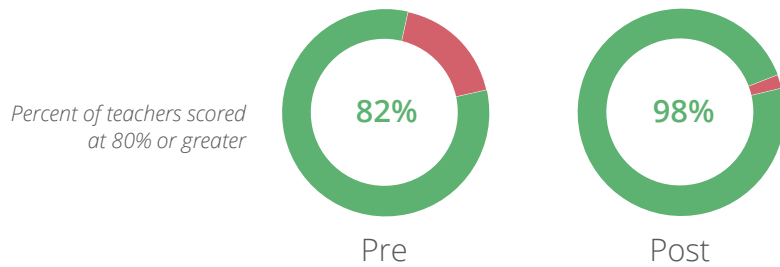
## Assuring Better Child Development (ABCD):

- Developmental screening rates among ABCD practices went from 85.2 percent to 96.3 percent.
- When practices entered ABCD, they screened an average of 85.2 percent of children who were due for a screening. After approximately 6 months in ABCD, the average screening rate rose to 91.6 percent and those that continued to work with ABCD the longest screened an average of 96.3 percent of eligible children.
- Referral rates for children needing additional screening or services also increased from 68.4 percent at baseline up to 77.5 percent among those practices participating the longest. Screening rates for autism increased from 78.7 percent to 86.7 percent.

### Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC)

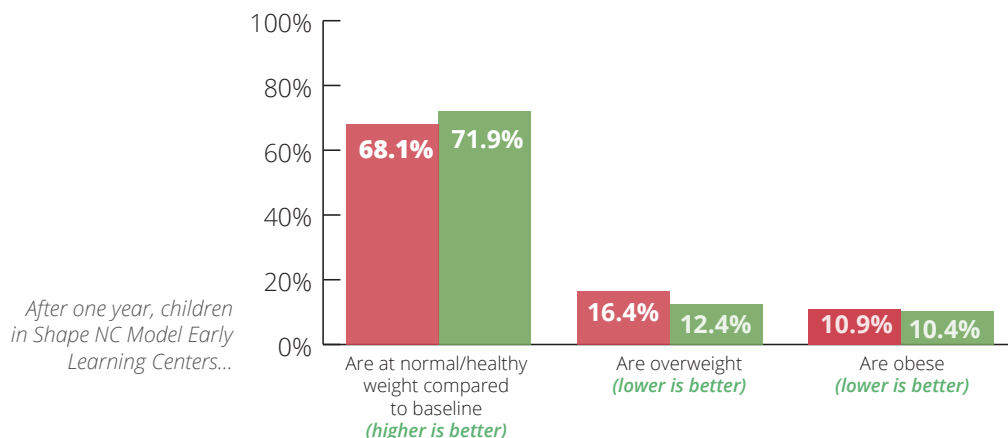
The following outcomes were achieved regarding early education teacher knowledge about sanitation, medication administration, handwashing, and toileting/diapering:

- Pre – 82 percent of teachers scored at 80 percent or greater.
- Post – 98 percent of teachers scored at 80 percent or greater.
- Overall, 48 percent of ECE providers made gains in health and safety knowledge.



### Shape NC

- The program is currently serving 213 child care centers across the state.
- 16 child care centers became Demonstration Sites (centers that have reached a high level of best practice implementation in areas of healthy weight, good nutrition, and enhanced outdoor learning environments). Criteria include:
  - » 55 percent of Go NAP SACC best practice indicators are met
  - » All best practice indicators outlined in the Demonstration Site Criteria are met
  - » Outdoor learning environment installation is complete
- After one year, children in Shape NC Model Early Learning Centers are:
  - » At normal/healthy weight compared to baseline – 71.9 percent up from 68.1 percent
  - » Fewer children are overweight – 12.4 percent down from 16.4 percent
  - » Fewer children are obese – 10.4 percent down from 10.9 percent



## Number of children served:

	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
Number of medical practices and physicians participating in ABCD.	<b>127</b> medical practices, <b>738</b> providers	<b>204</b> medical practices, <b>894</b> providers	<b>246</b> medical practices, <b>1,345</b> providers
Number of children with special needs or at-risk for developmental delay that received Smart Start health-related enhanced services.	<b>4,923</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>1,110</b>
Number of children receiving healthier food options and more physical activity in child care as part of the evidence-based Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) program.	<b>1,530</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>1,860</b>
Number of child care facilities that received child health consultation services funded by Smart Start.	<b>2,333</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>2,078</b>
Number of children that participated in Shape NC initiatives.	<b>1,158</b>	<b>7,171</b>	<b>10,727</b>

