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What parents and teachers say:

"Most helpful are the ideas and hands-on help with staff-child interactions."

- Teacher

"It's great to know that there are resources that parents can count on for accurate, helpful information that is beneficial to both parents and child."

- Parent

"Any time we have a problem or issues we need help with, our education specialist and team are always there to help. This is a true blessing!"



Early Childhood Support Team is a Smart Start Funded Project of the Catawba County Partnership for Children



catawba county

Early Childhood Support Team
Located at the
Partnership for Children
Early Childhood Resource Center
738 4th Street SW, Hickory, NC 28602



Early Childhood Support Team



A multidisciplinary team providing support, consultation, and training for Catawba County's early childhood education community.



Smart Start and the Early Childhood Support Team

Smart Start is a comprehensive, statewide initiative that targets children age birth to five years old to make sure they begin school healthy and prepared for success.

The Early Childhood Support Team, begun in 1995, is one of the many projects the Catawba County Partnership for Children chose to implement with Smart Start funding. Its innovative approach is unique to Catawba County.



How we can help

Tanya* was referred for throwing two-hour tantrums in her preschool class. Two months after beginning work with the Team, the tantrums had stopped. Today, Tanya is a happy, helpful child looking forward to starting kindergarten next fall.

Noah* was referred to the Team as a late bloomer with few social skills. Team members recognized the symptoms of a severe communication disorder, and referred Noah for a full evaluation so he could begin specialized services to prepare him for school.

* The names and identities of these children have been changed to protect their privacy.

Who We Are and How We Work

Nurses provide information and consultation on health issues to children, center staff and families. They provide immunization tracking, child passenger safety programs and workshops at child care centers and work with chronically-ill children and their families to develop specific care plans to keep these children healthy in child care.

Education Specialists provide information and training to center staff to improve classroom quality. This includes teacher workshops, rating scales of the classrooms, and developmental screenings for individual children who may need additional educational services.

The Clinicians (Mental health professionals) provide center staff, children, and their families with classroom interventions, family and individual counseling, and referrals to other resources. Written parental consent must be given before we work with any individual child. Clinicians also conduct workshops for teachers and parents.

The services of the Early Childhood Support Team are provided **free** to you. They are primarily funded by the Smart Start grant through the state of North Carolina.



Accessing Services from the Team for your Child

Many of our referrals come from child care center directors who have a concern about a child in their center. If you have concerns, you may talk to your child's center director about referring to the team. Parents can also call directly to any of the ECST members listed in this brochure. We are always happy to answer your questions and discuss how our team can help you.

Once we receive a referral, a ECST member will call to schedule an appointment with you to talk about your child. After you have given your written consent, your team member will also visit your child's classroom to observe and make suggestions to the teacher about the best ways to respond to and work with your child.



Early Childhood Support Team

A collaborative project of
Catawba County Social Services
and Catawba County Public Health