



A MESSAGE FROM UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL OHIO AND START SMART

MARCH, 2007

Start Smart Completes The First Year of Phase II

Accomplishments

In December of 2006, Start Smart successfully completed its first year of transition into Phase II. Funding and program service areas were committed. Start Smart achieved over 100% of its benchmarks in the following components:

- Credentialing
- New spaces for infants and toddlers in high need neighborhoods
- Director Training
- Born Learning parent education mini-grants

One component, Center Accreditation, reached 62% of its goal to recruit new centers in 2006. After reaching our highest achievement rate of 20% accredited centers in our first five years, recruitment was affected by the new Ohio Step-Up-To-Quality rating program. The good news is that both rating programs share the goal of quality improvement for our youngest citizens.

Born Learning Expansion

The County Department of Job & Family Services has supported our Born Learning & expansion programs. As part of our 2007 County Contract we will identify a Latino parent educator and a Somali parent educator to work part-time with us. In addition Born Learning materials will be translated and printed into Somali. The two parent educators will organize parent education resource sessions for 60 recently immigrated Latino and Somali parents. We plan to evaluate the effectiveness of this model for future expansion, as well.

Resources Available

1. "What's It Like To Be Five" DVD (5 ½ minutes) Also can be viewed on our website
 2. Mapping of Accredited Childcare Centers & Homes
 3. Born Learning Parent Resource Materials
 4. Parent Tips for children ages 0 – 5
 5. How To Find & Keep Good, Safe Childcare
- Call (614) BE-SMART or (614) 237-6278
More resources on our website: www.startsmartcolumbus.org