Smart Start of Forsyth County

Newsletter

Empowering Early Childhood Education: The Crucial Role of Men of Color

Early childhood education lays the foundation for a child's future success, shaping their cognitive, emotional, and social development. One essential factor often overlooked in the discourse surrounding early childhood education is the representation of men of color in classrooms. Diversifying the workforce in this field not only addresses the need for inclusive environments but also brings forth numerous benefits that positively impact both educators and young learners. We are proud to be recognized in 2022 by the Triad Business Journal for being a top nonprofit that exceeds Diversity Equity and Inclusion Practices and recognize the essentialness of males in Early Childhood Education.

Children benefit greatly from exposure to a diverse range of role models. Having men of color in early childhood classrooms allows young learners to see individuals who reflect their own cultural backgrounds. This representation fosters a sense of belonging and provides children with relatable role models, inspiring them to aspire to greater heights in their educational journey. Men of color bring a unique cultural perspective to the classroom, enhancing the overall cultural competence of early childhood education environments. This cultural diversity helps create a more inclusive and enriching learning experience for all students. Educators who understand and appreciate diverse cultural backgrounds can adapt teaching methods to better suit the needs of their students, fostering a more effective and personalized learning environment.

The presence of men of color in early childhood education challenges traditional gender and racial stereotypes. By breaking down these stereotypes, educators become powerful agents of change, promoting a more inclusive society. This not only benefits the children they teach but also contributes to changing societal perceptions of gender roles and capabilities. Men of color bring a variety of communication styles to the classroom, enriching the learning experience. Effective communication is crucial in early childhood education, and having a diverse group of educators ensures that different communication styles are acknowledged and appreciated. This diversity fosters an environment where children can develop strong communication skills themselves, preparing them for success in future academic and social endeavors.

Addressing the underrepresentation of men of color in early childhood education helps close the representation gap in the workforce. When children see individuals who look like them in positions of authority and expertise, it sends a powerful message about the possibilities available to them. This representation is crucial in motivating children to pursue their educational and career goals without limitations based on race or gender. The benefits of having men of color actively engaged in supporting the success of early childhood classrooms and education are numerous and far-reaching. Diverse representation not only enriches the learning experience for children but also contributes to the creation of a more inclusive and equitable educational system. By recognizing and promoting the importance of men of color in early childhood education, we take a significant step towards building a brighter and more diverse future for all.

- Dr. Louis Finney, CEO/President Smart Start of Forsyth County





Smart Start of Forsyth County

Amidst the enchantment of the season, may the warmth of kinship bring joy to your heart. As we revel in the company of loved ones, we extend our heartfelt wishes to you and yours.



The Smart Start Goulish Gang!

Recapping our Fall Events







DECK THE HALLS WITH SOME SAFE AND FANTASTIC TOYS!
DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF SAFE TOYS & GIFTS!





Safe Toys & Gifts Month is dedicated to promoting the safety of toys during the holiday season. It serves as a reminder to choose age-appropriate and safe toys to ensure the well-being of young recipients.



Smart of Forsyth County is excited and proud to announce we are a Family Forward Employer!

Launched in 2018, Family Forward NC is an innovative initiative to improve children's health and well-being and keep North Carolina's businesses competitive. It is employer-led change to increase access to research-based, family-friendly practices — big and small — that improve workplace productivity, recruitment and retention; grow a strong economy; and support children's healthy development. To date, Family Forward NC has engaged with more than 6,900 employers across North Carolina.

A Family Forward NC Employer Certification designates employers that offer policies and practices that support the health and well-being of working families and children.

Thank you to our Board of Directors!



Coming soon...Smart Start's Annual Impact Report



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

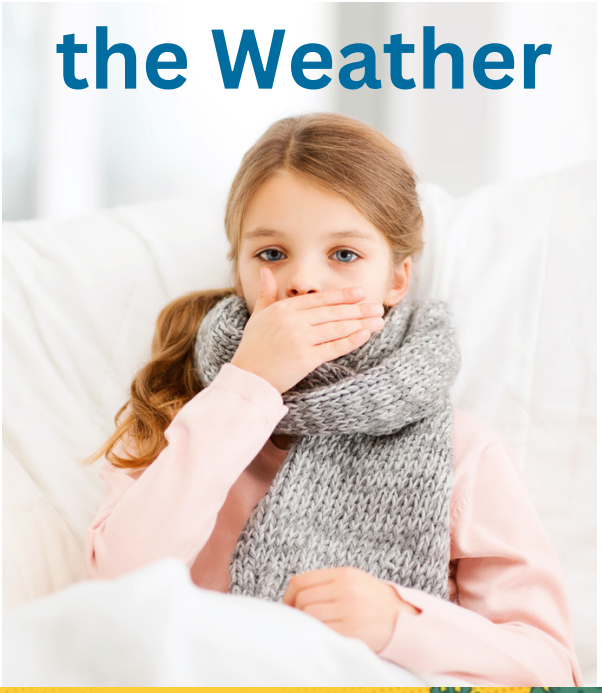
Smart Start participated in the Salemtowne Tree decorating contest in early December





Take a moment out of your busy day to make these cuties with the kids. Click here for the details.

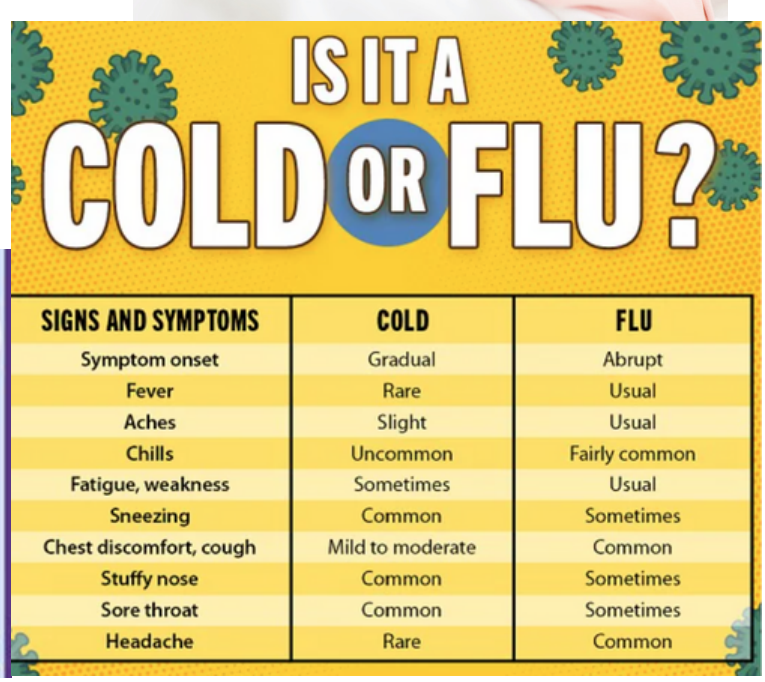
Feeling Under the Weather



Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season

TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON





SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

STOP THE SPREAD. WASH. COVER. MASK UP

NEWS UPDATE

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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