



ECST Team Leader

Susan Arnold, M.A., 695-6590

ECST Team Members

Education Specialists:

Karen Ceccato, B.A., 695-6588

Lorna Keene, B.A., 695-6589

Terri Huene, B.S., 695-6592

Clinical Specialists:

Jane Abernathy, LPC, 695-6594

Valerie LaBo, LPA, 695-6574

Nurses:

Tonya Moss, RN, BSN, 695-6595

Alison Hendrickson, RN, BSN, 695-6576

More information is available online at:

www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/ecst/ecst.asp

*The Early Childhood Support Team is a
Smart Start Funded Project.*

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 parent 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!” – Center Director



A CATAWBA COUNTY SMART START PROJECT

Located at the
Catawba County Partnership for Children
Early Childhood Resource Center
738 Fourth St. SW
Hickory, NC 28602
www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/ecst/ecst.asp



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EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORT TEAM



Early Childhood Support Team





The Early Childhood Support Team

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 ready to learn.

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 team 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 receiving 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

The 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.

The 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 (Psychologists and Licensed Professional Counselors) 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 state Legislature using money set aside for Smart Start.

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 team 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 team 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.

