

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report

October 2023



Federal Updates:

- Our Quality and COLA funding applications have been approved and awarded. I plan to meet with Katie soon to develop a plan for lead in water testing at our sites and some safety upgrades approved in our 1-time funding request.

State Updates:

- We are continuing our participation as part of the Virginia Ready Regions. CLASS observations are being scheduled and completed.

NRCA Program Updates:

- A Boy Scout troop from Christiansburg is partnering with us to provide lending library book boxes “Little Libraries” outside of some of our sites. After installation parents will be able to access the libraries during drop off and pick up daily. These boxes will greatly support at home reading plans. Thank you to Brandy Steele, LT Christiansburg for being our community connection.
- Congratulations! Christi Caldwell, Teacher in Pearisburg was nominated for the First Steps Early Childhood Champion Award. Christi has been a long-time staff member. Her dedication to our program and the early childhood field is greatly appreciated within our program and it is exciting that she is being recognized publicly as well.
- Attached are the Enrollment and Finance Dashboard reports for this month.
- Last month I presented an information session on building your staffs’ wellness to the NRV Early Childhood Directors group.
- Trina, Nutrition and Health Specialist and the F/HAs are finishing the 45-day health screening requirements.
- Alison, Jodi and Kristy are working with teaching staff to finish 45 day developmental and speech screenings.
- Leah has been completing home visits with F/HAs.
- Staff position openings- Christiansburg AT (2), AT McHarg, Check AT, LT and AT Pulaski classroom 4.
- We will move toward TPOT and curriculum observations. Plans are already in place for Fall CLASS observations to begin.
- The IT Dept. has started ordering replacement tablets for classrooms. Several of our tablets are showing age and need to be replaced.
- Alison will begin coaching this month. She has been busy supporting the newly hired staff as they come on board and spending time making visual supports for teachers.
- The Arts in Education project bringing music to the Christiansburg site is beginning.
- We are busy planning our next professional development day—November 7th.

Respectfully Submitted

Roni Fitch,

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services