



## The Region A Partnership for Children

*Witness the Miracle...*

*A nurturing community... A loving family... A smiling child*

**The Region A Partnership for Children (RAPC)** is the non-profit organization that was established in 1994 to administer Smart Start funding in the seven far western counties (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain) and on the Cherokee Indian Reservation. The RAPC became the administrator for the More at Four Program for four-year-olds in Region A, when the program launched in 2001. The RAPC piloted both initiatives prior to statewide adoption of the programs.

**The Mission** of the Partnership is to improve the quality of life for young children and families in western North Carolina by encouraging advocacy and **collaboration** and funding services that focus on prevention and early intervention.

### **Collaboration:**

*“A mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship entered into by two or more organizations to achieve results that they are more likely to achieve together than alone”* By encouraging collaboration and investing in increased capacity of our service providers, we improve outcomes and opportunities for children and families.

**Smart Start** is the North Carolina Early Education Initiative to ensure that all children are healthy and ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten. The Vision of the statewide Smart Start initiative is: ***Every child reaches his or her potential and is prepared for success in a global community.*** Programs funded through Smart Start must serve children under six before they enter kindergarten in the areas of early care and education, family support and health.

**The NC Pre-K Program** was established to replace what was “More at Four” as the NC initiative for high quality preschool for four- year-olds who may be at risk of failure in school. Teachers in NC-Pre-K classrooms hold at least bachelor’s degrees and are birth to kindergarten licensed. Eligibility for the program is determined based on the child’s age and income of the family. A child may also be eligible based on educational need as defined by an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or limited English proficiency, or due to chronic health challenges. A child would also be eligible because of a caregiver’s military service.



### **What is The Region A Partnership for Children?**

- The Administrator for Smart Start and NC-PreK in Region A
- The non-profit organization that partners with families, businesses, organizations, governments and schools to create stronger communities for children and families in Region A
- A family centered organization that creates new ideas, activities and partnerships, using approaches that build on existing resources and assets

[www.regionakids.org](http://www.regionakids.org)

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