

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 15, 2016 (BOS Mtg. 8/2/16)

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator 

**SUBJECT:** Stairway to Success: Supporting Early Childhood Education

Stairway to Success is a friendly competition among Virginia Municipal League (VML) member localities. The program seeks to increase local government's role in successful early childhood education which, in turn, provides young and eager learners with a good foundation for future school years and helps in the development of a qualified, well-educated workforce. The competition awards points to localities for specific actions that enhance early childhood experience. Participants will be recognized during an awards program at VML's annual Conference on October 11 in Virginia Beach.

Staff in the Community Services' Children and Family Services Division are planning to apply to participate in this competition, and one of the eligibility requirements is the adoption of a resolution affirming the importance of early childhood education. Some of the activities that Head Start promotes that enhance early childhood experiences include:

- Celebrating the Week of the Young Child and Dr. Seuss' Birthday, which involve week-long activities such as making hats, crazy socks day, red or blue day, mix-matched day, pajama day, and the reading of Dr. Seuss' books;
- Virginia Living Museum - "A Walk in the Woods" Program; and
- Family Fun Day and Resource Fair, where games and activities are provided for the children, lunch for the families, and various organizations are available to provide resources to the parents.

I have attached the application, which lists other activities that Head Start promotes, so that you may have a more complete picture of the outstanding programs that they offer.

Attached for your consideration is proposed Resolution R16-82.

Coleman/4111

Attachments:

- Stairway to Success Application Form
- Proposed Resolution R16-82



# Application Form

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Locality: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**To participate in Stairway to Success, simply download this form and save it to your computer. As activities are completed, just put a check mark in the appropriate box. The form will tally your grand total points. When sending your email, remember to attach the completed form, a copy of your resolution and any other supporting documentation to Mary Jo Fields, [mfields@vml.org](mailto:mfields@vml.org) by Aug. 25.**





# Activity Check List & Points Tally Form

Complete this fillable application form and return to Mary Jo Fields ([mfields@vml.org](mailto:mfields@vml.org)) by August 25.  
Questions? E-mail Mary Jo or call (804) 523-8524.

Review activities and check ALL that apply.

<b>Required Activity</b>	Adoption of resolution on the importance of early childhood education (model resolution posted on Stairway to Success webpage). E-mail copy of adopted resolution to Mary Jo Fields, <a href="mailto:mfields@vml.org">mfields@vml.org</a> .
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5 Points	Activities
	Display preschoolers' art in public buildings
	Establish stations for collection of donated art supplies (or books or age-appropriate sports equipment, etc.)
	Support storytelling programs
	Participate in Read Across America
	Local official/employee visits to preschool classes
	Allow use of local government facilities for preschool activities
	Participate in a Smart Beginnings Program
	Promote Virginia Quality to local child care and preschool providers (such as distributing information or linking to VA Quality pages at <a href="http://bit.ly/23BU9F">http://bit.ly/23BU9F</a> )
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	<b>&lt; Enter subtotal of all checked 5 point activities.</b>

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10 Points	Activities
	Art competitions (for children 6 and under)
	Recognize program for local pre-K educators, providers or volunteers
	Support/co-sponsor daily activities during Week of the Young Child
	Support before/after school care programs (for children in VPI-type programs)
	Apply for a grant from the Virginia Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grant Program
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	<b>&lt; Enter subtotal of all checked 10 point activities.</b>

15 Points	Activities
	<p>Offer parks and recreation program aimed at younger children and nature (address minimum of 3 topics such as area wildlife, birds, wildflowers, agriculture, farming, gardening, fishing, rock identification, geology, introduction to maps, etc.). Could be one event or a series of events covering three or more topics.</p> <p>Topic 1:</p> <p>Topic 2:</p> <p>Topic 3:</p>
	Participate in a literacy/reading initiative
	Work with local museum to develop traveling exhibit on history of area.
	Develop workshops/events/activities for families and preschoolers such as CPR/First Aid programs, parenting classes, discipline techniques, English as Second Language, language clubs, social interaction, etc.
	Develop and implement initiatives on childhood nutrition/reducing childhood hunger (one example is Backpack Snacks)

**15 Point Activities cont.**

	Adopt personnel policies encouraging volunteering at preschool programs
	Adopt preschool classes/preschools
	Display/promote information on quality early childhood programs such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information on quality early-childhood programs on local cable channels</li><li>• Smart Beginnings presentation to council/board</li><li>• News coverage about early childhood education</li></ul> Other: Other: Other:
	Offer field trips to local facilities
	Support/co-sponsor a children's parade
	Mentor/encourage local businesses to support early childhood education
	Mentor/encourage retirees to volunteer for early childhood education programs
	Host a training/workshop for early childhood education providers
	Have at least one preschool program enrolled/participating in Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System (VA Quality at <a href="http://bit.ly/23BUf9E">http://bit.ly/23BUf9E</a> ). Attach certificate showing star rated or a Virginia Quality level certificate.
	Join a Smart Beginnings program
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	Other activity of similar complexity (briefly explain):
	<b>&lt; Enter subtotal of all checked 15 point activities.</b>

	<b>&lt; Grand total of points</b>
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF YORK  
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

Resolution

At a regular meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors held in York Hall, Yorktown, Virginia, on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016:

Present

Vote

Jeffrey D. Wassmer, Chairman  
Sheila S. Noll, Vice Chairman  
Walter C. Zaremba  
W. Chad Green  
Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

On motion of \_\_\_\_\_, which carried \_\_\_\_, the following resolution was adopted:

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TO CHILDREN’S FUTURE SUCCESS**

WHEREAS, children’s experiences in their earliest years have a large effect on their entire lives; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education can particularly help children who are born with risk factors, whether economic, psychological, or physical; and

WHEREAS, children who have access to high quality early childhood education programs are better prepared for kindergarten and for success in school; and

WHEREAS, school readiness has economic and social benefits not only for the children who attend these programs but for all Virginians; and

WHEREAS, children who are kindergarten ready are more likely to make the most of their educational experience;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the York County Board of Supervisors this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016, that York County recognizes the importance of early childhood education to children’s future success in school and in life.