

# Early Childhood Network News

Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network

Winter 2024 edition



VERMILION PARISH  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
*network*

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## Vermilion Ready Start Network Calendar

### January.

- 1/10 @ 12:30 pm Network Meeting for program partners
- 1/11 @ 5:00 pm Advisory Council Meeting
- 1/11 **Mommy's Helping Hands**- Firetruck Visit
- 1/15 MLK Day- Early Childhood Office Closed
- 1/25 **Little Scholars** celebrates their 100th day of school

### February.

- 2/1 @ 5:00 pm Advisory Council Meeting
- 2/2 **Mommy's Helping Hands** - Decorate your Float Day (parents come out & help decorate floats with their children)
- 2/7 @ 12:30 pm Network Meeting for program partners
- 2/9 **Little Scholars**- Mardi Gras Parade (PreK students showcase their shoebox floats to 1 year old and 2 year old students)
- 2/9 **Mommy's Helping Hand** Annual Mardi Gras Parade (families are invited to our annual Mardi Gras Parade)
- 2/12-2/16- Mardi Gras Break- Early Childhood Office Closed
- 2/28 TS GOLD Winter Checkpoint
- KiddieLand**- Valentine Party Celebration, Mardi Gras Parade throughout the school
- Mommy's Heling Hands, Too**- float decorating
- Li'l Bucks N Does**- Mardi Gras Parade (students decorate floats and parents attend parade)

## March

3/2 10:00-1:00 pm Enrollment Informational Fair

3/4 Public School PreK Early Enrollment Opens

3/6 @12:30 pm Network Meeting for program partners

3/9 @ 5:00 pm Advisory Council Meeting

4/27 - **Mommy's Helping Hand** - Easter Egg Hunt (Parents are invited to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt /Easter Party)

**KiddieLand**- Easter Celebration

**Mommy's Helping Hands, Too**- Pictures with Easter Bunny

**Li'l Bucks N Does**- Easter Egg Hunt with parents

3/29- Good Friday- Early Childhood Office Closed

## April

4/1-4/5- Easter Break- Early Childhood Office Closed

4/8- Public School PreK Early Enrollment Closes

4/10 @ 12:30 pm Network Meeting for program partners

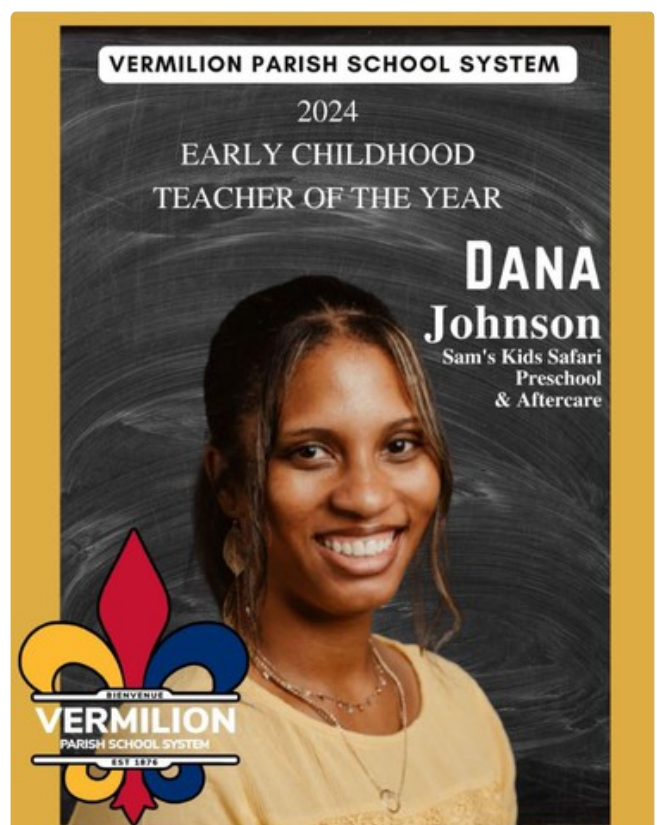
4/11 @ 5:00 pm Advisory Council Meeting

4/27 **Little Scholars**- "Family Fun Day"

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## 2022-2023 Teacher and Leader of the Year

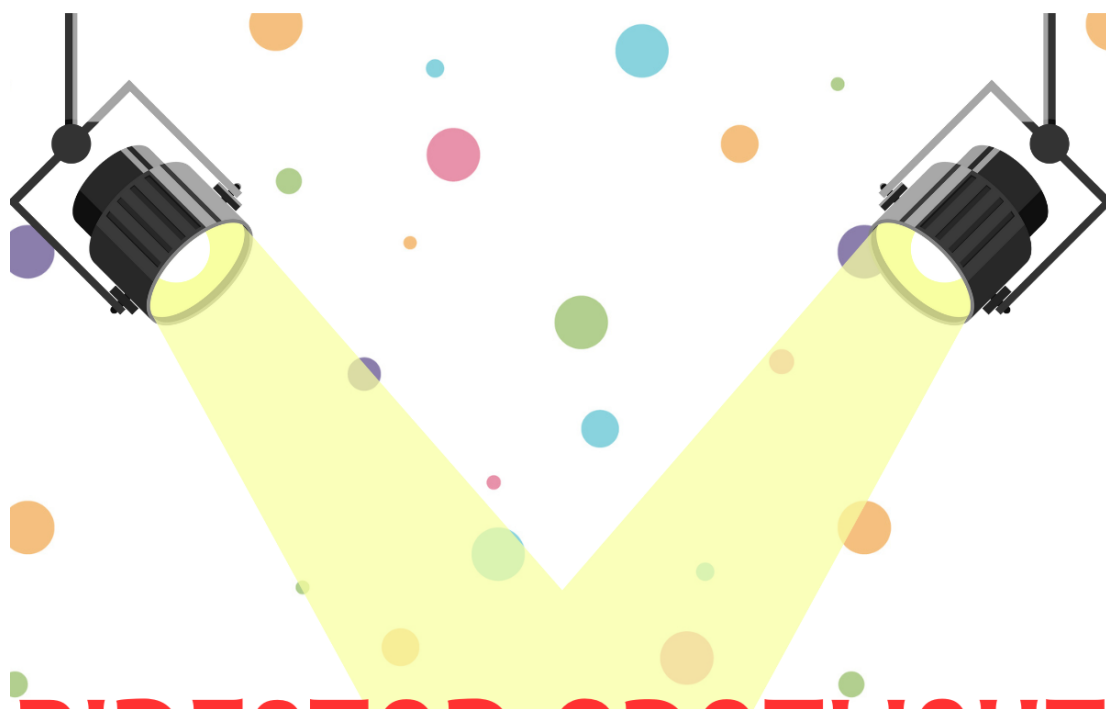
We are excited to announce our 2023-2024 Teacher and Leader of the year for the Vermilion Parish Early Childhood network! Congratulations to these outstanding educators for their contribution to early childhood care and education!



TIFFANY COMEAUX, LEADER OF THE  
YEAR

DANA JOHNSON, TEACHER OF THE  
YEAR

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# DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

VERMILION EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK



## **Sarah Thibodeaux- Owner/Director of Bright Beginnings Learning Center**

### **Tell us about yourself:**

I am the Owner and Director of Bright Beginnings Learning Center on Charity St. in Abbeville. I was born and raised in Abbeville. I graduated from UL with a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Family Studies. I am married to my wonderful husband, Rosco and we have 2 beautiful girls, Denim (8) and Paisley (4). I mostly eat, sleep, breathe all things BBLC :) but when I get the chance to relax, I really enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors with my family!

### **What inspired you to open a child care facility?**

I LOVE all things early childhood! I have always been super interested in child development and wanted to offer a safe learning environment to Vermilion Parish. I feel like Abbeville has so much potential and I love being a part of our community.

**How long have you owned your business?** 12 years

**What age groups and how many sections of each do you currently offer at your child care site?**

BBLC has 6 classrooms: Infants, Tweens, Waddlers, Toddlers, Tikes, and Prek

**Any future hopes/dreams for your child care site?**

My hope for the future is continued growth for my team. That we may continuously reach higher levels of expectations with the same heart and dedication, year after year.



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*network*

## DID YOU KNOW...

Type III Childcare Centers offer high quality care AND education to children using early learning educational standards and assessments.

[www.vermilionchildhoodnetwork.com/](http://www.vermilionchildhoodnetwork.com/)



# LENA

# GROW <sup>TM</sup>

## LENA GROW

LENA Grow had a wonderful start in the Fall of 2023. Little Scholars was the first site in our network to help kick off the program. Here is what the Director, Mrs. Lenita Turner, and her teachers had to say about the LENA program at their child care site.

Mrs. Lenita Turner

*"When providing feedback to teachers, I was impressed that they made the connection between providing children feedback and using self talk in CLASS, and what LENA was teaching them. They have worked hard to extend and constantly engage our young scholars in conversation. The children are loving it and learning more each day".*

Mrs. Hope B.

*"The LENA program really has helped how I view teaching. It made me aware of how much or little I was talking to my kids and it challenged me to do better and they really gave aid and offered so much support".*

Ms. Caitlin H.

*"This Lena program really inspired me to see teaching in a different way. It made me see that I needed to give feedback to the kids more. It has challenged me to talk more."*

Mrs. Melissa H.

*"The LENA program helps with children that are shy or with speech issues to be confident and feel more comfortable talking with others. My students are more engaged with each other. I'm helping children grow through language development. I want them to have a love of school. It helped me encourage my students to engage in more and extended conversation."*

**Talk Builds  
Babies' Brains**

It also improves  
**kindergarten  
readiness!**



LENA

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## Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Advisory Council

At the January 11th meeting, the council reviewed the coordinated enrollment plan and the coordinated funding request. The enrollment plan outlines the events, materials, and strategies to enroll families into our various early childhood programs. The coordinated funding request is the number of of CCAP B3 and public school PreK paid tuition seats that the network will have available for families in the 2024-2025 school year. The next advisory council meeting will occur on Thursday, February 1st at 5:00 pm.

Comments or questions regarding this request can be submitted by Wednesday, January 31, 2024 no later than 12:00 P.M. to Lola Vallaire-Thomas by email [early.learning@vpsb.net](mailto:early.learning@vpsb.net), or in person at the Vermilion Parish School Board offices, or by mail:

ATTN: Lola Vallaire-Thomas  
Vermilion Parish School Board  
220 South Jefferson St.  
Abbeville, LA 70510

## 2024-2025 Coordinated Funding Request

Click the button above to view the document.



**Felicia Bushnell**  
President



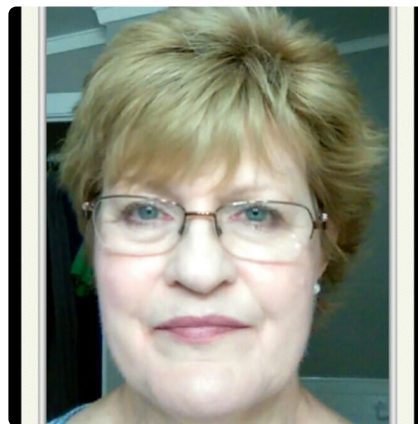
**Angela Godwin**  
Vice President



**Lenita Turner**



**Melissa Guidry**



**Sandra Broussard**



**New Members Needed!**  
Consider joining our council  
today!



**SAVE**

**EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
INFORMATIONAL  
FAIR**

2 MARCH  
**2024**

**THE**

**DATE**



**ST. THERESA  
COMMUNITY HALL**

Charity Street  
Abbeville

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**Public School PreK EARLY Enrollment... coming soon!**

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
*network*



**PREKINDERGARTEN  
ENROLLMENT**  
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS **MARCH 4, 2024**

<https://vermilionearlychildhood.schoolmint.com/>

March 4 - April 7, 2024	April 8 - May 5, 2024	May 6 - March 31, 2025
Enrollment opens for first round applications. See enrollment link above to submit your application.	Enrollment closes to process applications. Placement notifications will be emailed through the SchoolMint site no later than May 5.	Enrollment opens for second round applications. Allow 7-10 business days for processing. Placement notifications will be emailed through the SchoolMint site.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

**Child's Birth Certificate**

Must be 4 before Sept. 30th

**Child's Social Security Card**

**Current child Immunization Record**  
**Current Electric Bill**

If electric bill is not in the parent's name listed on the birth certificate, the notarized affidavit must be submitted as the second proof of residency

**Second Proof of Residency can be**

- VPSB Notarized Residency Affidavit
- current utility bill
- current lease/mortgage statement

**Each adult living in the household must submit proof of income**

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to learn more about criteria for students to be accepted into our PreK program, information on tuition, additional verification forms, and acceptable income documents.

**MORE INFORMATION**

**Early Childhood Informational Fair**

Saturday March 2, 2024 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
St. Theresa Hall @ 1504 Charity Street, Abbeville

☎ 337-740-5905

🌐 [www.vermilionchildhoodnetwork.com](http://www.vermilionchildhoodnetwork.com)

✉ [early.learning@vpsb.net](mailto:early.learning@vpsb.net)

📘 [www.facebook.com/VPECN](https://www.facebook.com/VPECN)

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## How do I apply for Early Childhood Programs in the Network?



SCAN ME

**EDUCATE**

**WHICH PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR ME?**

Visit [www.vermilionchildhoodnetwork.com](http://www.vermilionchildhoodnetwork.com) to review information about our network's programs to determine which program best fits the needs of your family.



SCAN ME

**APPLY**

**HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PROGRAM?**

1. Go to [www.vermilionearlychildhood.schoolmint.com](http://www.vermilionearlychildhood.schoolmint.com)
2. If you have not already done so, create a parent account.
3. Once you have logged in to your parent account, make sure that the correct year is selected.
4. Choose the program you wish to enroll your child and follow the program specific directions below:



**HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START**

5. Select the "Head Start and Early Head Start Programs Application".
6. Once submitted, you will be emailed next steps to complete registration paperwork with the Family & Community Partnership Specialist.



**TYPE III AND FAMILY CHILDCARE CENTERS**

5. Select the "Childcare/Family Childcare Application".
  6. Once submitted and all documentation has been approved, you will be emailed next steps to complete registration paperwork with the site Director.
- \*Use this application when applying for CCAP B3 Tuition Assistance.*



**PUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN**

5. Select the "Public School PreK Application".
  6. Once submitted and all documentation has been approved, you will receive a letter with placement information.
- \*This grant based program has both grant funded and tuition based seat options.*



337-740-5905



[vermilionecnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:vermilionecnetwork@gmail.com)



[facebook.com/VPECN](https://facebook.com/VPECN)

**CCAP B3 childcare seats are still available for the current enrollment year!**

# 2023-24 CCAP B3 ENROLLMENT



Childcare tuition assistance for parents or guardians working and/or in school 20+ hours per week.

ONLINE  
APPLICATION  
NOW  
OPEN!



Child applying for care:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Current Immunization Record

All adults in household composition must submit **proof of identification.**

All dependent children in the home (not receiving care) must provide a **birth certificate.**

Each adult living in the household composition must submit **proof of work and/or school & any unearned income.**

Scan QR code to learn more about eligibility criteria for children to be accepted into our CCAP/B3 program, required documentation, application link & list of participating childcare sites.

## CONTACT

(337) 740 - 5929  
early.learning@vpsb.net



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220 S. Jefferson St. | Abbeville, La 70510



vermilioneetwork@gmail.com



337-740-5929



www.vermilionchildhoodnetwork.com

Check us out on Facebook!



Vermilion Parish Early Childhood Network

Vermilion is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

