BECKY BRIDGES

Proud supporter of United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge | Smart2Start Beneficiary

"Since the second grade, I have dreamed of being a labor and delivery nurse. Way back then, I even drew a picture and wrote a few sentences about my future job.

My dream began to become a reality when I was accepted into Jefferson College of Health Sciences. In October of 2017 I was wo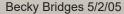rking two jobs and shortly after being accepted into nursing school, I found the love of my life and the following March, found out I was expecting our first child.

Nursing school started in August of 2018, and we welcomed our first child in October of that same year. Now that I was a new mom, I was more determined than ever to make this work. With the support of family caring for Paisley, I kept working toward my goal, but eventually she became a toddler and needed more structure, learning activities, socialization and quality care.

This is when I heard about **Smart2Start**, a United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge program which helps families navigate the childcare system. Not only did this program help my family find childcare, but thanks to this UWRV grant, my daughter was able to attend daycare for free while I was at school and both my significant other and I worked. This would not have been possible without the staff at United Way guiding me through the process, assisting with getting paperwork and connecting me to quality care.

Paisley is now more than ready to start kindergarten this coming fall and I am the labor and delivery nurse I always dreamed of becoming because of the support and the programs offered by United Way. Our family of three became a family of four in the fall of 2022 with the birth of our son. When I'm ready for him to start daycare, I will once again be turning to Smart2Start and the child care centers that partner with United Way."

When I grow up I what to be a nurse. I would live in Calaforna. I would work at the child senter in Calaforna. I would help children get bitter all the time. Children would feel bitter if I helped them a lot. It would be sad if a child got very sick and died. If you were a nurse what would you do? You would have to be nice to kids. Do you like to be a nurse will I do thats all I want to be when I grow up some day. Kids need lots of love when it comes to sickness with kids. Kids are very cut when they come to the nurse if they be nice to the nurse. I would love to a nurse when I grow up because you get to wear a hat on your head.

Becky Bridges 5/2/05

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SMART2START
LEARNING from DAY ONE

Smart2Start joins public school systems, Head Start programs and private providers to give all families access to early care and educational resources. Working together, we can ensure every child enters kindergarten with the skills needed to succeed in school and in life.

Family FAQ

1. How do I create my account?

Visit **families.smart2start.org** and click on the **"Apply or return to an in-progress application"** button or scan the following **QR Code**.

Get Started!

2. How do I log in?

Once you finish and submit the information for your account, **check your e-mail** for a log-in code.
Be sure to check your spam folder

3. How do I begin an application?

After you create your account and get signed in, click on the **"Apply or return to an in-progress application"** button, then follow the prompts and answer the questions.

Note: If you don't have time to complete the application, just come back later! Your information will be saved.

4. What kind eligibility documents do I need?

Eligibility documentation includes: Photo ID, most recent wellness check, immunization record

5. How do I choose a provider?

Choose providers in order of preference. Providers shown are based on your location.

Click Submit

6. What's next?

Family Navigators will reach out to confirm application info. Application will then go to preferred provider and provider will then contact you moving forward with enrollment.

To learn more about **Smart2Start** or for additional assistance,
visit **smart2start.org** or call **540.283.2777**.