



# GRANVILLE VANCE

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## public health

### SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

Innovative Approaches (IA) Strategies at Work

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#### GRANVILLE/VANCE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

#### **Integration of “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” (L TSAE) Materials into H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library Milestone Moments Mobile Story Time at Community Child Care Centers– Changing Policy and Practice at the Local Level**

Granville and Vance Counties are 2 of the 14 North Carolina counties selected to participate in the North Carolina Division of Public Health, Children and Youth Branch’s Innovative Approaches Initiative. Innovative Approaches serves to improve the service system for children and youth with special health care needs (up to age 21) through collaborations and partnerships with parents of children and youth with special needs (CYSHCN), medical providers, and community agencies.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) is a comprehensive program for services, research, and training relevant to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Carolina Institute provides a continuum of clinical services from complex, interdisciplinary evaluations on-site to more limited and selected clinical services and training in all 100 counties in North Carolina. Innovative Approaches and CIDD collaborated on an application for the 2016-2018 “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” (L TSAE) State Systems grants. Act Early State Systems grants are awarded on a competitive basis to state teams to strengthen their state and community systems for the early identification and improve coordination of early intervention services for children with signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder/Developmental Disability. The State Systems grants are for a two-year period and are designed to increase parent-engaged developmental monitoring by promoting the adoption and integration of L TSAE materials and training resources into programs and statewide systems that serve young children and their families.

A project in Year 2 of the grant (FY 17-18) focused on the design of a system of dissemination and integration of the L TSAE campaign materials and messages into programming of the H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library in Henderson, NC. The library now includes Learn The Signs. Act Early. materials in the Youth Services Center of the library providing access to developmental information for families. The materials include milestone booklets, developmental checklist, *Amazing Me* books, *Where is Bear?* books, milestone magnets and milestone brochures.

The Youth Services Librarian has also created additional community outreach programming by hosting a series of L TSAE story times, entitled “Milestone Moments Mobile”. Through the L TSAE story times, the librarian travels to four community child care centers in Vance and Granville Counties and conducts a story time with the L TSAE stories, *Where is Bear?* and *Amazing Me* for the two and three-year-old students in each classroom. The stories are not only entertaining but specifically address key milestones of development for two and three-year-old children. The stories allow parents to get a better understanding of development for their child at this age in a fun and interactive way. Each participating child care center receives one book per child for all the two and three-year-old children enrolled in the center. Additional copies of the books are provided to be utilized in the classroom for learning and story times throughout the year.

The H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library has created a sustainability plan for this project that includes providing free LTSAE materials to the families they serve, placing a LTSAE free carousel at each site where parents can review and take materials, creating a check in/check out system for materials to be borrowed and returned for use by multiple families, accessing the CDC website to order additional free materials as needed, as well as connecting with the local health department for information and resource sharing with other community partners who are also utilizing LTSAE materials.



**National Maternal and Child Health Bureau Performance Measure:**  
All children will be screened early and continuously for special health care needs.

### WHY DID YOU SELECT THIS APPROACH?

1. This approach ties in with the 2020 Healthy People goal (MICH-29) of increasing the percentage of young children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental delays who are screened, evaluated, and enrolled in early intervention services in a timely manner.
2. Addresses the Healthy People 2020 goal (DH-20) of increasing the proportion of children with disabilities, birth through age 2 years, who receive early intervention services in home or community-based settings.
3. Addresses the Healthy People 2020 goal (EMC-1) of increasing the proportion of children who are ready for school in all five domains of healthy development: physical development, social-emotional development, approaches to learning, language, and cognitive development.

### RESULTS

- Parents of children birth through age five gained free access to Learn the Signs. Act Early. materials and referral resources in their community.
- H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library implemented a new program for families that includes Learn the Signs. Act Early. into a group setting where families can support each other.
- 62 families received the LTSAE book resources, *Amazing Me* & *Where is Bear?* because of the partnership between the four child care centers and the H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library.

## RELATED COMMUNITY EFFORTS

The H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library currently offers a variety of story time programming focusing on building literacy skills including Books and Babies for the birth to 2 age group, Mother Goose for the 2-5 age group, Story Explorers for the 5-11 age group, Tweens for the 8-12 age group, and Teens for the 13-17 age group. In addition, the library offers Lego Fun for the 6-12 age group which focuses on science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. All library programming is welcoming and inclusive of CYSHCN.



## TIMELINE/KEY MILESTONES

July 2017: Granville-Vance IA Coordinator reached out to H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library to discuss LTSAE, and the opportunity to collaborate to incorporate the LTSAE materials into library services/resources and programming currently targeted for the birth through five population. IA Coordinator provided LTSAE floor decals to the library to be placed in the youth and children area of the library.

October 2017: Granville-Vance IA Coordinator and H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library Youth Services Director meet to discuss implementing LTSAE materials into the children's resource area of the library, as well as incorporate *Amazing Me* into scheduled Milestone Moments programming at the library quarterly. H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library updates programming calendar to include *Amazing Me* books into quarterly programming beginning January 2017. Granville-Vance Health District and H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library shared the new programming on social media, distributed flyers about the new programming, and sent information via email to community agencies who serve the birth through five population. IA Coordinator provided H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library with LTSAE materials.

November 2017: H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library adds the LTSAE resources to the children's section of the library and the materials are labeled 'free to take'. The library includes Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA) and Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) materials in connection with LTSAE materials in the new LTSAE resource area.

November & December 2017: IA Coordinator invites IA Parent Advisory Council to share the LTSAE Milestone Moments programming on the IA Parent Advisory Council Facebook page.

December 2017: H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library hosts LTSAE Milestone Moments story times including *Where is Bear?* and *Amazing Me* at the library for families of two and three-year-old children.

December 2017: H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library begins LTSAE Milestone Moments Mobile with the Youth Services Librarian traveling to Teach A Tot and New Beginnings child care centers to host a story time for the two and three-year-old classes utilizing the *Amazing Me* and *Where is Bear?* books.



January 2018: H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library continues LTSAE Milestone Moments Mobile with the Youth Services Librarian traveling to Above and Beyond Child Care Center and Vance-Granville Community College Child Care Center to host a story time with the two and three-year-old classes utilizing *Amazing Me* and *Where is Bear?* books.

January 2018: IA Parent Advisory Council attends the first Milestone Moments session at H. Leslie Perry Memorial to discuss success and challenges in preparation for next quarterly LTSAE Milestone Moments sessions.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Above and Beyond Child Care Center  
 Granville-Vance District Health Department  
 H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library  
 New Beginnings Daycare  
 Teach A Tot Childcare Center  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities
 

- Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) R. Crais
- Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Edmondson-Pretzel

 Vance County Children's Developmental Services Agency  
 Vance-Granville Community College Child Care Center

### LESSONS LEARNED

This project required collaboration across programs, providers, and the community serving CYSHCN regarding the importance of Learn the Signs. Act Early. materials. Community libraries are an important resource allowing families of children birth to age five to access milestone development information and learn the importance of early intervention services.

Starting this project as a small pilot in Vance County allowed for learning what worked well in a controlled environment. Lessons learned will be used to replicate this project in other local libraries.

### PROJECT IMPACT ON FAMILIES OF CYSHCN

*"This immersion of materials into the library as well as the connection to the child care centers is a great opportunity to connect community resources who all have the same goal of promoting happy, healthy children and educating the family at the same time!" - Amanda Yetter, H. Leslie Perry Memorial Library Youth Services Librarian*

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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The Act Early Program is a collaborative initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) to further advance the CDC’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” Program

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