Congratulations on the Birth of Your Baby Brave!

Contact the school system and share your child’s name to receive:

- a limited edition Baby Braves t-shirt, a packet of books including a hard back edition of Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes, activity kits, resource information, and baby items.

- A framed diploma to hang on your child’s wall to help you both ‘keep your eye on the prize’.

- You and your child will be invited to annual events at their respective elementary school to ‘meet and greet’ and play fun games and activities with future classmates.

- Baby Braves Facebook page where you can post stories and questions. Follow us as we post ‘free’ gifts and activities you and your child can receive over the next 3 years.

Involve your child now in its future graduating class.

Be A Baby Brave!

A 0 to 3-Year-Old Outreach Initiative of Heard County Community Partnership and Heard County School System

We want to keep in touch with you so that we can help you realize the dreams you have for you and your child!

We hope to be a part of these early years of your child’s development by providing tools and tips to help you help your child succeed and to keep you both healthy and happy.

A wealth of information, community services, and parent education programs are available to assist you in your child’s development.

A resource directory is provided in every Baby Braves gift packet.

Call today to include your newborn or toddler as a Baby Braves or for referrals from the school system to address your child’s needs.

Heard County School System
706-675-3320

Funding for this initiative is provided in part by Heard County Community Partnership, Inc. Community Foundation of West Ga.
“Children who fall behind at or before the third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school.”

How do I help my child succeed?

Getting ahead or falling behind can begin in the early days of a child’s life. From the start, the best way you can help your child is by taking care of yourself to ensure a healthy birth.

A child is born to learn and the brain’s structure is full of possibility. Rapid changes occur in early childhood as the brain forms a complex network of connections among neurons. These connections are shaped by experiences, making the earliest years a critical time to lay the groundwork for a child’s future success.

The most critical period for language-learning ends around age 5. Both verbal and nonverbal communication in the first few years triggers connections related to language skills. This means that your interaction, your facial expressions and tone of voice, and day to day experiences trigger these connections and establish the groundwork for learning.

Children who receive high-quality childcare and early learning are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, and succeed in the workforce. Dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, live in poverty and more likely to commit crimes.

Read to Your Child

Just as children need an adequate amount of food for physical growth, they require adequate language for brain development.

Ensure that your very young child is read to often and continue reading as your child grows. Once your child can read, let your child read to you. Use illustrated books and find something new and different to talk about each time.

*It’s not important how many books you have. It’s more important how many times you read the books you have.*

Teach Your Child to Love Learning

It has been shown that the home environment shapes a child’s view of learning. A parent’s interactions, beliefs, and expectations have a profound early impact on a child’s development.

*If you believe your child will succeed, your child will learn to believe it as well.*

Families that engage in everyday learning activities with very young children help them develop lifelong motivation, persistence, and a love of learning. The time you spend with your child will help to provide the foundation for healthy brain development that leads to success in school.

Keep Up With The Joneses

Children sometimes come to school lagging behind other children in their class. These children may then be labeled as Special Needs and their education takes a drastically different course than it otherwise might have.

In reality, they may simply not have received adequate language preparation to enable them to keep up with the other children.

Your Child Is A Rock Star

Or a banker, a lawyer, a construction worker, a factory worker, a race car driver, or President.

And to be any of these, your child must first be a Graduate.

To be a Graduate, your child should be reading on grade level when they enter pre-k or kindergarten and must still be on grade level by the third grade.

And they must attend school regularly. Absenteeism robs your child of the language nutrition they need to stay on grade level. Studies show that school attendance can narrow the reading gap between low-income and higher income families by nearly a third.

Setting your sights on graduation — how to catch the dream