



MARCH 2023

HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



HELLO, FRIENDS!

We feel so lucky to spend our weeks with your families and assisting you with early childhood development and family connections! If you're hoping for another month filled with fun, you're in *LUCK*! We will be starting off the month of March with a special event, Cooking with the Cat in the Hat to celebrate Dr. Seuss Day and Read Across America week! Throughout the month, be sure to join us for Cat in the Hat Yoga and Zumbini with Ms. Dollie, Ready to Grow Playgroups, and Circle of Parents! Keep an eye out for those sneaky little HCPC leprechauns - they'll be back this year for some St Patrick's Day shenanigans!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **March 2nd:** Cooking with the Cat in the Hat event
- **March 2nd - 6th:** Read Across America Week
- **March 6th:** First Ready to Grow Playgroup at the YMCA in Cameron
- **March 17th:** Saint Patrick's Day
- **March 20th:** First day of spring



HCPC MISSION:

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for young children and families in Harnett County, through community based programs focusing on health, education, and family support.

HCPC STAFF:

Tara Fish, Executive Director

Dollie Adcock, Healthy Activities Specialist

Janine Bogwicz, Community Outreach Coordinator

Jordan Ellis, Family Support Specialist

Debbie Fann, Fiscal Specialist

Whitney Heath, Family Support Specialist

Melanie Jacobson, Early Childhood Program Specialist

Carmen Martell, Lead Family Support Specialist

Kim Polinski, NC Pre-K Program Support Specialist

Amy Rackley, NC Pre-K Program Support Specialist

Lynda Turlington, Early Childhood Program Coordinator

Lena West, NC Pre-K Program Support Specialist

Katie Willoughby, Family Support Specialist



FOLLOW US ON:



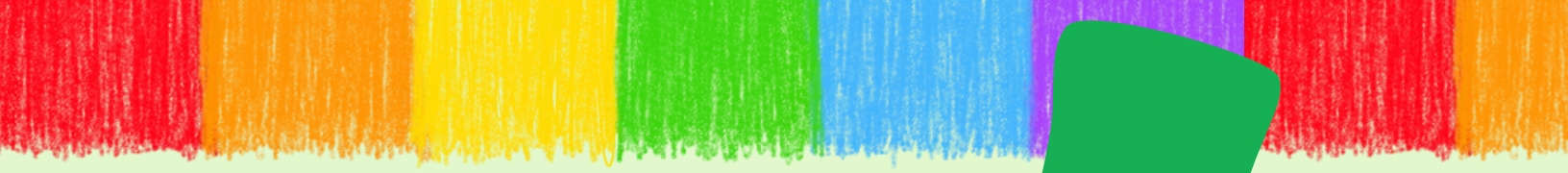
DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY



REGISTER YOUR CHILD
TODAY TO RECEIVE
FREE BOOKS!

www.harnettsmartstart.org





A LOOK BACK AT FEBRUARY:



March

- Lillington Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Erwin Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Spanish Speaking Groups (RTG)
- YMCA Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Cat in the Hat Yoga
- Circle of Parents (COP)
- Zumbini
- Open Play

SUN. MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SAT.

		1 10:30am- RTG (Erwin) 10:30am- RTG (Lillington) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking RTG (Lillington)	2 2pm- Cooking with the Cat in the Hat 4:30pm-COP (Lillington) 	3 10am- Cat in the Hat Yoga (HCPL) 10:30am-Open Play (Lillington)	4	
5	6 10am- Zumbini (APL) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 11am- Zumbini (APL) 1:00pm- RTG (YMCA) 2:30pm-RTG (Lillington)	7 10am- Zumbini (HCPL) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 11am- Zumbini (HCPL) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking COP (Lillington)	8 10am- Zumbini (YMCA) 10:30am-RTG (Erwin) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 11am- Zumbini (YMCA) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking RTG (Lillington)	9 9:30am-COP (Lillington) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 4:30pm-COP (Lillington)	10 10am- Cat in the Hat Yoga (APL) 10:30am-Open Play (Lillington)	11
12 10am- Zumbini (EPL) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 2:30pm-RTG (Lillington)	13 10am- Zumbini (EPL) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 2:30pm-RTG (Lillington)	14 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking COP (Lillington)	15 10:30am-RTG (Erwin) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking RTG (Lillington)	16 9:30am-COP (Lillington) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 4:30pm-COP (Lillington)	17 10am- Cat in the Hat Yoga (DPL) 10:30am Open Play (Lillington) St Patrick's Day 	18
19 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 2:30pm-RTG (Lillington) First Day of Spring 	20 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 2:30pm-RTG (Lillington)	21 10am- Zumbini (HCPL) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 11am- Zumbini (HCPL) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking COP (Lillington)	22 10:30am-RTG (Erwin) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking RTG	23 9:30am-COP (Lillington) 10am- Zumbini (APL) 11am- Zumbini (APL) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 4:30pm-COP (Lillington)	24 10am- Cat in the Hat Yoga (EPL) 10:30am- Open Play (Lillington)	25
26 10am- Zumbini (EPL) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 2:30pm-RTG (Lillington)	27 10am- Zumbini (EPL) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 2:30pm-RTG (Lillington) 	28 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking COP (Lillington)	29 10am- Cat in the Hat Yoga (CPL) 10:30am-RTG (Erwin) 10:30am-RTG (Lillington) 2:30pm-Spanish Speaking RTG (Lillington)	30 9:30pm-COP (Lillington) 10am- Zumbini (YMCA) 10am- Zumbini (YMCA) 1:00pm-RTG (YMCA) 4:30pm-COP (Lillington)	31 10:30am- Open Play (Lillington) LOCATIONS: APL - Angier Public Library CPL - Coats Public Library DPL - Dunn Public Library EPL - Erwin Public Library HCPL - Harnett County Public Library YMCA - 107 Carletta Cage Dr, Cameron Erwin Groups: 494 Antioch Church Rd, D Lillington Groups: 170 Pine State St., L	



HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN PRESENTS

Cooking with the Cat



Join us at 2pm on Thursday, March 2nd to celebrate
Dr. Seuss Day and Read Across America Week!

Cooking Class with Cat in the Hat, Early Childhood Activities,
Dr. Seuss Storytime, Cat in the Hat Dance Party

DATE: Thursday, March 2nd

TIME: 2pm - 3:30pm

LOCATION: 170 Pine State St, Lillington



*"I'd like to be here. Oh, I liked it a lot!"
Said the Cat in the Hat to the fish in the pot.*





Circle of Parents



circle of parents®
Sharing Ideas. Sharing Support.

Parenting is joyful, but can also present difficulties and challenges.

Feel empowered, supported, and strengthened as you attend weekly Circle of Parents' meetings. Join other Harnett County parents/caregivers at our Circle of Parents' group.

- SPANISH-SPEAKING CIRCLE OF PARENTS
TUESDAYS @ 2:30PM / 170 PINE STATE ST. LILLINGTON
- LILLINGTON MORNING CIRCLE OF PARENTS
THURSDAYS @ 9:30AM / 170 PINE STATE ST. LILLINGTON
- LILLINGTON EVENING CIRCLE OF PARENTS
THURSDAYS @ 4:30PM / 170 PINE STATE ST. LILLINGTON

To register, email familysupport@harnettsmartstart.org or call 910-893-2344.





Círculo de Padres



Es una dicha ser padres, pero también presenta dificultades y desafíos.

Siéntase empoderado, apoyado y fortalecido mientras asiste a las reuniones semanales del Círculo de Padres. Únase a otros padres/proveedor de cuidados del Condado de Harnett en nuestro grupo de Círculo de Padres.

- CÍRCULO DE PADRES DE HABLA HISPANA
MARTES @ 2:30PM / 170 PINE STATE ST. LILLINGTON
- LILLINGTON CÍRCULO DE PADRES- MATUTINO
JUEVES @ 9:30AM / 170 PINE STATE ST. LILLINGTON
- LILLINGTON CÍRCULO DE PADRES- NOCTURNO
JUEVES @ 4:30PM / 170 PINE STATE ST. LILLINGTON

Para registrarse, envíe un correo electrónico a familysupport@harnettsmartstart.org o llame al 910-893-2344.



HEALTHY HABITS FOR HARNETT

MARCH CLASSES

You could not, would not want to miss
A yoga class quite like this!

REGISTRATION



Lillington Public Library- Friday, March 3rd @ 10:00
Angier Library- Friday, March 10th @ 10:00
Dunn Public Library- Friday, March 17th @ 10:00
Erwin Public Library- Friday, March 24th @ 10:00
Coats Public Library- Wednesday, March 29th @ 10:00

Children's Ages
3-5



Would you, could you, come and play?



Ages birth-4 years old

March zümbini.



FREE

Harnett County Public Library (Lillington)
Angier Public Library
Erwin Public Library
Saleeby YMCA



Scan code for
dates & times

Registration Required

LEPRACHAUN POSE

Modify the tree pose by sliding your foot up your opposite leg, swing your leg freely like a leprechaun doing a jig!

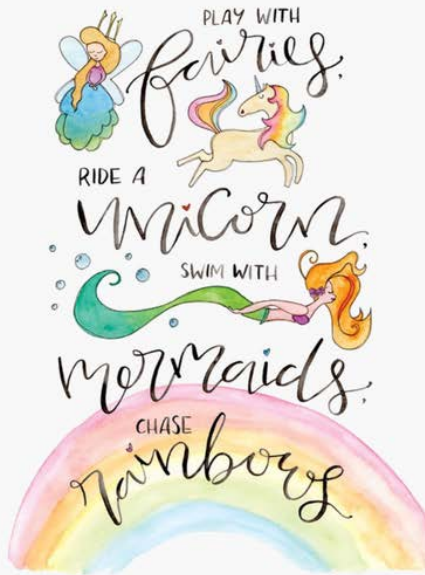




HEALTHY HABITS FOR HARNETT

APRIL CLASSES

Join Ms. Dollie for a magical yoga adventure



Children ages 3-5

Scan the QR Code to register



Monday, April 17th @ 10:00— Angier Public Library

Tuesday, April 18th @ 10:00— Harnett County Public Library-Lillington

Friday, April 21st @ 10:00— Dunn Public Library

Wednesday, April 26th @ 10:00— Coats Public Library

Friday, April 28th @ 10:00— Erwin Public Library



Like us on Facebook



happy APRIL

zumbini with Ms. Dollie

Scan code for dates & times

~Harnett County Public Library (Lillington)
~Angier Public Library
~Erwin Public Library
~Saleeby YMCA

~Registration Required ~Space is Limited

NC PRE-K



2023-2024 NC PRE-K
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
APRIL 3RD

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

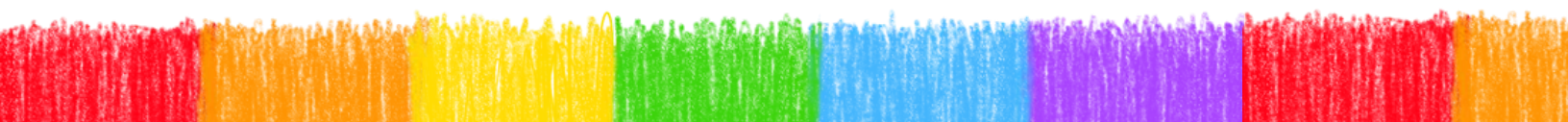
Applications for the 2023-2024 school year will be available on Monday, April 3, 2023. You may access the application online and submit it online or you may pick up a hardcopy at our office located at 107 W. Front St in Lillington. The applications will also be available at the dropbox located at 170 Pine State Street in Lillington.

As you prepare to turn in the application, please remember to submit the supporting documents with the application. These documents include:

- Child’s Birth Certificate
- Proof of income for anyone living in the house
- Proof of residence (light bill, water bill, lease agreement)
- If Applicable
 - *VA disability
 - *Child support
 - * SSI – Social Security Income



**The Harnett County NC Pre-K
office has moved to downtown
Lillington at:
107 W Front Street
Lillington, NC.**





NC PRE-K PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Friday February 24 all NC Pre-K teachers and teaching assistants attended a professional development day at the CCCC Health Science Building. The morning session was on Als Pals, a social emotional curriculum that each of our classrooms have access to. The afternoon session was on ECERS-R which is the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale Revised. ECERS-R is the tool used to license NC childcare classes for ages 3-5 years. Both tools, Als Pals and ECERS-R can be used to help guide best practices in our NC Pre-K classes.





READY TO GROW



Ready to Grow Playgroup facilitates developmentally appropriate playgroups for children and caregivers who reside in Harnett County. Eligible children must be between the ages of birth through 5 years old. Playgroup facilitators use Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Curriculum to provide hands on activities that focus on early literacy and social emotional competency. Caregivers learn about the purpose of play and will connect with other parents during group time. Children and caregivers will participate in coordinated group activities to prepare the children for success in school.

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Erwin Playgroup meets on Wednesdays from 10:30am - 12pm @ 494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn, NC 28334

Lillington Playgroup meets on Mondays at 10:30am-12pm and 2:30pm-4:pm & on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:30am-12pm @ 170 Pine State St, Lillington.

Lillington Spanish-Speaking Playgroup meets Wednesdays from 2:30pm-4pm at 170 Pine State St, Lillington. All are welcome!

YMCA Playgroup meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 1pm-2:30pm at 107 Carletta Cage Dr, Cameron.

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HAVE FUN



READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

THEME OF THE MONTH:

Let's Get Moving

DID YOU KNOW:

Physical activity for young children is an important component of early brain development and learning.

KEY MESSAGE

1. Children receive many health benefits from regular physical activity, including:

- Better overall health
- Strong muscles and bones
- Improved mood and better sleep
- Healthy body weight
- Decreased risk of Type 2 diabetes

2. Physical activity and exercise also positively support children's development. For example:

- Physical activity at any age helps children develop motor skills and coordination for their next stage of development.
- As preschoolers run, climb, dance, or stretch, they build endurance, strength, and flexibility.



KEY MESSAGE CONTINUED

3. Children don't need a gym, playground, or special equipment to exercise. Many children will naturally find ways to move and be active, such as:

- Playing tag or chasing each other
- Tossing, kicking, or chasing a ball
- Climbing stairs, furniture, playground equipment, trees
- Dancing, moving to music
- Crawling, cruising, running to get a favorite toy

4. Adults, like our children, receive the same health benefits from taking part in physical activity. And by being physically active with our children, we model and reinforce healthy behavior that will help our children for the rest of life!



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MONTH:

- From Head to Toe, by Eric Carle
- The Busy Book, by Lizzy Rockwell
- Toddlerobics, by Zita Newcome



GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

El Grupo de Juegos Listo para Crecer tendrán sus reuniones en persona en Lillington. Las familias del condado de Harnett, que tengan niños recién nacidos hasta 5 años de edad, son bienvenidos a participar. Las familias tendrán la oportunidad de aprender y jugar con otras familias en persona.



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Erwin Playgroup - Miércoles de 10:30 de la mañana a 12 de la tarde
@ 494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn, NC 28334

Lillington Playgroup - Lunes de 10:30am - 12pm y 2:30pm-4pm, Martes y Miércoles de 10:30am -12pm @ 170 Pine State St, Lillington, NC 27546

Lillington Habla-Hispana Playgroup - Miércoles de 2:30 de la tarde a 4:00
@ 170 Pine State St, Lillington. Todos son bienvenidos!

YMCA Playgroup - Lunes y Jueves de 1pm - 2:30pm
@ at 107 Carletta Cage Dr, Cameron.



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GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

TEMA DEL MES:

Pongámonos en movimiento

¿SABÍAS QUE?

La actividad física para todos los niños es un componente muy importante para el desarrollo temprano del cerebro y el aprendizaje.

MENSAJES CLAVE:

1. Nuestros niños reciben muchos beneficios para la salud durante a través de la actividad física, incluyendo:

- Mejora su salud en general
- Músculos y huesos fuertes
- Mejora del estado de ánimo y el sueño
- Peso corporal saludable
- Disminución del riesgo de diabetes tipo 2

2. La actividad física y el ejercicio también apoyan positivamente el desarrollo de los niños. Por ejemplo:

- La actividad física a cualquier edad ayuda a los niños a desarrollar habilidades motoras y coordinación para su próxima etapa de desarrollo.
- A medida que los niños en edad preescolar corren, escalan, bailan o se estiran, desarrollan resistencia, fuerza y flexibilidad.



CONTINUACIÓN - MENSAJE CLAVE:

3. Los niños no necesitan un gimnasio, un parque infantil o un equipo especial para hacer ejercicio. Muchos niños naturalmente encontrarán maneras de moverse y estar activos, tales como:

- Jugar a la etiqueta o perseguirse unos a otros
- Lanzar, patear o perseguir una pelota
- Subir escaleras, muebles, equipo de juegos infantiles, árboles
- Bailar, moverse al ritmo de la música
- Gatear, navegar, correr para obtener un juguete favorito

4. Los adultos, tanto como nuestros hijos, reciben los mismos beneficios para la salud al participar en alguna actividad física. ¡Y al ser físicamente activos con nuestros hijos, modelamos y reforzamos un comportamiento saludable que ayudará a nuestros hijos por el resto de su vida!



LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:

- From Head to Toe, by Eric Carle
- The Busy Book, by Lizzy Rockwell
- Toddlerobics, by Zita Newcome





WHAT IS STEP?

Through the STEP program, Early Childhood Program Specialists work one-on-one with Child Care Centers and Child Care Homes to increase their star rated license through:

Support- Leadership support training

Technical Assistance- to increase or maintain Star Rated Licensure

Evaluation Tool- Action plans and grants for classroom improvement

Professional Development- Education plans and tuition reimbursement



UPCOMING STEP EVENTS



For You FLOATING FRIDAY HCPC STEP Program

WHEN:
Friday, March 3rd

TIME:
Floating from
12pm – 2pm

LOCATION:
327 Pine State
Street, Lillington

REGISTER:
Scan the QR code



910-893-2344

You are invited to attend our
For You Floating Friday event!

Meet individuals from organizations and agencies that can provide free services to your child care program. You will have the opportunity to learn what they can do to help you in leading your program to excellence.

- Harnett County Schools Exceptional Children's Director Children 3-5 yrs
- Sandhills Child Development Services Association- Children B-3 yrs
- Healthy Social Behavior Specialist
- Harnett County Partnership for Children STEP program
- Harnett County Healthy Habits for Harnett
- School Age Initiative Consultant
- Birth-3 Specialist
- Child Care Health Consultant
- Polly Allegra, Harnett County Child Care & Resource
- CCPC Food Program



We are hosting Make-It & Take-It activities on the last Tuesday of every month! Our office hours will be from 9am – 7pm at 327 Pine State St, Lillington.

All projects will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Come as your schedule allows – there is no set time or need for an appointment. Questions? Email lynda.turlington@harnettsmartstart.org or call 910-893-2344.

FEBRUARY 28TH

Paint rocks & make playdough.



MARCH 28TH

Sensory bottles! If you would like to make more than one, please bring your own bottles.



APRIL 25TH

Suncatchers for your classroom windows!



MAY 30TH

Everything Conscious Discipline – Social Stories, Greeting Aprons, I Love You Rituals.



JUNE 27TH

Spoons, cups, and faces – Homemade games for children.



OPEN PLAY FRIDAYS



Join us for

OPEN PLAY FRIDAYS

10:30am - 12:30pm

Family Connections @ 170 Pine State St, Lillington

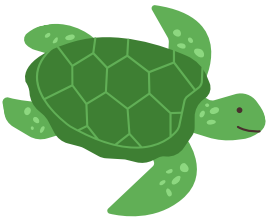
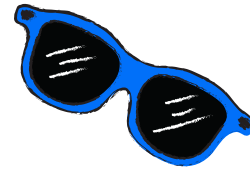
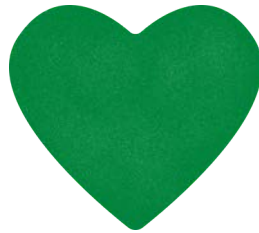




KIDS' CORNER

Circle all the green items

While children can start to differentiate between colors around 18 months, it can take until age 3 before children can fully understand the difference between colors and name them. Although naming colors is second nature to most adults, it is actually a cognitively complex task for young children.



JOKE OF THE MONTH:

What kind of music do leprechauns love?



**Sham-rock*



FUN FACT OF THE MONTH:

DID YOU KNOW?



Green is the second most popular favorite color, after blue.