



MARCH 2024 HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



HELLO PEEPS!

Hop on over to HCPC and chick out all the egg-stra fun things we have planned for March! From St. Patrick's Day fun to celebrating Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Day to Easter, we are egg-static about having the opportunity to keep your little ones learning, connecting, smiling, and active.

We also have one of our busiest times of year approaching as we prepare for the upcoming 2024-2025 NC Pre-K school year. The application will be available on April 2nd. Be sure to mark your calendars if you are interested in applying.

Follow the bunny to HCPC for the month of March; you'll be so hoppy you did!



- March 1st: Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss Day
- March 10th: Daylight Savings begins
- March 15th: St. Patrick's Day Celebration
- March 16th: Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
- March 17th: St. Patrick's Day
- March 19th: First Day of Spring
- March 27th: Easter Celebration
- March 29th: HCPC Closed in observance of Good Friday
- March 31st: Easter
- April 2: 2024-2025 Harnett County NC Pre-K application available

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

Ashleigh Goss, Early Childhood Program 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





We are so honored and excited to announce that Allison Castle, Harnett County Schools Director of Counseling Services, is now a member of the HCPC Board of Directors. Allison brings over 25 years of experience in

education and is passionate about the children and families of Harnett County.













HCPC STAFF SPOTLIGHT

HCPC's Kim Polinski has a pet bunny named, "Theo." Theo, a Holland Lop bunny, is 3 years old and loves grapes. They are his favorite treat! He enjoys to eat and also chew on his toys. Ms. Kim said her favorite thing about Theo is that "He is such a cutie and a quiet pet."

















A LOOK BACK AT FEBRUARY:





























LOCATIONS:

CCB: Coats Community Building, 127 S McKinley St, Coats

EPL: Erwin Public Library, 110 W F St, Erwin

Erwin RTG Group: 494 Antioch Church Road, Dunn

HCPL: Harnett County Public Library, 455 McKinney Pkwy, Lillington

Lillington RTG & COP Groups: 170 Pine State St., Lillington

YMCA: 107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron





DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY



Dolly Parton's
Imagination Library is a
book gifting program
that mails free books to
children from birth until
their 5th birthday.

Register your child online today!

···· EASTER ····

HCPC Field Day

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH @ 10:30AM

Join us for spring-themed games and activities!



170 PINE STATE ST, LILLINGTON

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GET CONNECTED FOR THE LATEST HCPC NEWS & UPDATES



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on X (Twitter) @SmartStartHCo



on YouTube @harnettcountypartnershipfo9443



HEALTHY HABITS FOR HARNETT MARCH & APRIL YOGA CLASSES

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

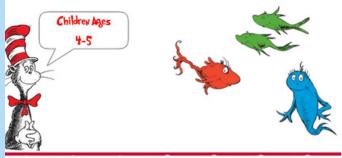
REGISTRATION





Lillington Public Library- Friday, March 1st @ 10:00

Erwin Public Library- Friday, March 8th @ 10:00



Would you, could you, come and play?





Join Ms. Dollie for a magical yoga adventure



CHILDREN AGES 4 & 5

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH @ 10:00 HARNETT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY-LILLINGTON

FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH @ 10:00 ERWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY







































Scan code for



dates & times

(Lillington)
Scan code for *Erwin Public Library

*Saleeby YMCA
*Coats Community

Building

Registration Required

HEALTHY SNACK TIP:

- 1 package crescent roll seamless dough sheet
- · 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/2 package, 4 teaspoons ranch dressing mix
- 1 1/2 cup carrot, shredded
- 1 1/2 cup broccoli, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
- 2. Unroll the crescent roll dough and lay on a cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes and then cool.
- 3. Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, sour cream, and ranch until smooth and spread on cooled crust.
- 4. Cut the rectangle (with a pizza wheel) into for strips and then cut 5 triangles from each strip.
- 5. Sprinkle the carrots and broccoli on the cream cheese mixture with the broccoli at the wide end of each triangle.
- 6. Refrigerate until ready to serve.







WHAT IS NO PRE-K?

NC Pre-K is a free educational program designed to prepare eligible children for a successful entrance to Kindergarten. Utilizing a play based curriculum, NC Pre-K facilitates developmentally appropriate learning for children that focuses on both cognitive and social/emotional development. Students who participate will be provided with a 6.5 hour day, which follows the public school calendar. Families who are interested in applying are encouraged to review the eligibility requirements listed below.



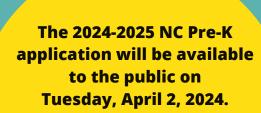
*Children who are age 4 by August 31, 2024 and meet income eligibility requirements based on family size.

*Children who are not income eligible, may still be able to participate, if one of the following criteria is met:

- Developmental Delay with services
- IEP
- English as a Second Language
- Active Duty Military / Disabled Veteran
- Chronic Health Condition

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO APPLY?

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Proof of Residency (Actively Living in Harnett County)
- Proof of Regular Gross Income for one month for household
- Proof of Active Duty Status / VA Disability (Military Families only)
- Copy of child's IEP (if applicable)
- Copy of diagnosis or therapies as a result of a developmental delay



Questions?
Email
ncprek@harnettsmartstart.org

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CURRENT HARNETT COUNTY NC PRE-K SITES

ANGIER

Angier Elementary School North Harnett Primary School The Village Learning Academy

BUNNLEVEL

Anderson Creek Primary School

CAMERON

The Children's Courtyard Little Miracles Child Care

DUNN

Dunn Elementary School

ERWIN

Adventures Under The Sun Erwin Elementary School

LILLINGTON

Boone Trail Elementary School
Lillington Shawtown Elementary School
Spring Hill Child Care Center

SANFORD

Benhaven Elementary School



































Circle of Parents

Círculo de Padres

CITCLE of PARENTS®



Parenting is joyful, but can also present difficulties and challenges. Es una dicha ser padres, pero también presenta dificultades y desafíos.

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.

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.



THURSDAYS @ 12:30PM

LOCATION: 170 PINE STATE ST, LILLINGTON

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

Para registrarse, envíe un correo electrónico a familysupport@harnettsmartstart.org

o llame al 910-893-2344.



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.

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.

<u>Lillington Playgroup</u> meets on Mondays at 10:30am - 12pm, Tuesdays from 1:30pm - 3pm, and Wednesdays from 10:30am-12pm at 170 Pine State St, Lillington.

<u>Lillington Grupo de Juegos Listo Para Crecer</u>- Lunes de 10:30am - 12pm, Martes de 1:30pm - 3pm, y Miércoles de 10:30am - 12pm @ 170 Pine State St, Lillington, NC 27546.

<u>Erwin Playgroup</u> meets on Wednesdays at 10:30am at 494 Antioch Church Road, Dunn.

Erwin Grupo de Juegos Listo Para Crecer- Miércoles de 10:30am - 12pm @ at Antioch Church Road, Dunn.

<u>YMCA Playgroup</u> meets on Tuesdays at 1:30pm - 3pm at 107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron. <u>YMCA Grupo de Juegos Listo Para Crecer</u>- Martes de 1:30pm - 3pm @ at 107 Carletta Cage Dr, Cameron.











READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

THEME OF THE MONTH:

Do The Right Thing

CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- How to use positive discipline as a way to guide children's behavior.
- Strategies to direct young children toward ageappropriate behavior.
- How to help children manage their emotions and develop social skills.

KEY MESSAGES:

- 1. We have an important role teaching our young children what behaviors are appropriate, safe and acceptable. We can respond to their behavior in ways that help children learn. Teaching in this way is called discipline.
- We support the positive and desired behaviors of children by:
 - -Giving the child forewarning when a change is going to happen (ex: when it's time to put away toys and get ready for lunch)
 - -Focusing on "do's" versus "don't's"
 - -Noticing good behavior

KEY MESSAGES CONTINUED:

- -Providing support and guidance for the child to develop self-control and manage emotions
- -Setting fair, simple rules that the child can follow and keep
- 3. Some ways to deal with a child misbehaving are:
 - -Redirecting the child
 - -Ignore misbehavior but never ignore behavior that could be dangerous
- -Teach the child to manage emotions
- 4. Remember:
- -Children are telling us what they need with their behavior
- -Children are learning how to express themselves, how to get along with others, and how to manage their feelings
- -Children learn from our example

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MONTH:

- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, by Kevin Henkes
- Hands Are Not For Hitting, Teeth Are Not For Biting, and other books by Martine Agassi Ph.D.
- Big Feelings, by Talaris Institute





GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

TEMA DEL MES:

Haz lo correcto



LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- Cómo usar la disciplina positiva como una forma de guiar el comportamiento de los niños.
- Estrategias para dirigir a los niños pequeños hacia un comportamiento apropiado para su edad.
- Cómo ayudar a los niños a manejar sus emociones y desarrollar habilidades sociales.

MENSAJES CLAVE:

- 1. Tenemos un papel importante de ensenar a nuestros niños qué comportamientos son apropiados, seguros y aceptables. Podemos responder a su comportamiento de maneras que ayuden a los niños a aprender. Enseñar de esta manera se llama disciplina.
- 2. Algunas formas en que apoyamos los comportamientos positivos y deseados de los niños son:
- -Avisar al niño cuando va a ocurrir un cambio (por ejemplo, cuándo es el momento de guardar los juguetes y prepararse para el almuerzo).
- -Centrarse en lo que se debe hacer, frente a lo que no se debe hacer.

MENSAJES CLAVE:

-Notar y señalar el buen comportamiento.



- -Proporcionar apoyo y orientación para que el niño desarrolle el autocontrol y maneje las emociones.
- -Establecer reglas justas y sencillas que el niño pueda seguir y mantener esas reglas.
- 3. Algunas formas de lidiar con el mal comportamiento de un niño son:
- -Redirigir al niño. En lugar de decir "no" o "no lo hagas", busca algo que pueda hacer.
- -Ignora el mal comportamiento. A veces los niños se portan mal para llamar nuestra atención. En el caso de algunos niños, el simple hecho de ignorar el comportamiento puede hacer que se detenga.
- -Nunca ignore el comportamiento que podría ser peligroso para el niño, los demás o una propiedad.

LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:

- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, by Kevin Henkes
- Hands Are Not For Hitting, Teeth Are Not For Biting, and other books by Martine Agassi Ph.D.
 - Big Feelings, by Talaris Institute





