



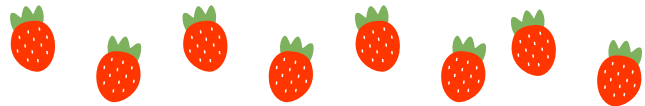
MAY 2024

HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



MAY IS GOING TO BE FRUIT-FULLY FUN!



HCPC will be celebrating some super *sweet* people this month and offering a *jam*-packed month full of fun activities for families!

Be sure to thank teachers and childcare providers and let them know how much you really a-peach-iate them!

On May 12th, think of all the reasons you couldn't *pick* a better mom than the ones in your life! Be sure to sign up for one of our Circle of Parents (COP) groups to participate in our special Mother's Day event, which will help plant the *seeds* of love and appreciation.

We can't wait to see you *berry* soon!

SPECIAL UPCOMING DATES:

- **May 7:** National Teacher Appreciation Day
- **May 10:** National Child Care Provider Day
- **May 12:** Mother's Day
- **May 16:** National Do Something Good For Your Neighbor Day
- **May 20:** National Pick Strawberries Day
- **May 27:** Memorial Day; HCPC offices closed



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



Follow Us on Social Media



GET CONNECTED FOR THE LATEST HCPC NEWS & UPDATES



on Facebook
@HarnettCountyPartnershipForChildren



on Instagram @ hcopartnershipforchildren_



on TikTok @ HarnettPartnershipForChildren



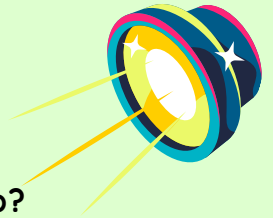
on X (Twitter) @SmartStartHCo



on YouTube @harnettcountypartnershipfo9443



KIDDO SPOTLIGHT ELIJAH, 4 YRS OLD



What do you like about playgroup?
“Playing with Emilyn. She’s my crush.”

What is your favorite toy to play with at playgroup?
“The jungle gym”

What’s your favorite snack at playgroup?
“Veggie straws”

What’s your favorite color?
“Pink”





A LOOK BACK AT APRIL:



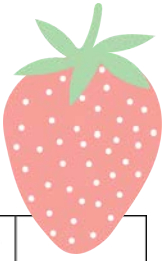
- Benhaven Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Circle of Parents (COP)
- Erwin Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Zumbini
- Lillington Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Open Play Friday
- Preschool Yoga
- YMCA Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)


SUN. MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SAT.

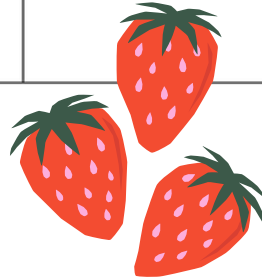
 <div style="font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold; color: red; opacity: 0.5; transform: rotate(-10deg);">May</div>			<p>1</p> <p>9am- Resilience Initiative (YMCA) 10:30am- RTG (Lillington)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10am- Zumbini (APL) 11am- Zumbini (APL) 12:30pm- COP Mother's Day Lunch (Sprinkles-Bunnlevel)</p> <p>NO BENHAVEN GROUP</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am- Preschool Yoga (HCPL) 10:30am- Open Play (Lillington) 1:30pm- Open Play (Lillington)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>STAR WARS DAY MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU</p> 
5	<p>6</p> <p>10:30am- RTG (Lillington)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>NO RTG / COP GROUPS</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>NO RTG PLAYGROUPS 10am- Zumbini (YMCA) 11am- Zumbini (YMCA)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>NO RTG / COP GROUPS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am- Preschool Yoga (Erwin) 1:30pm- Open Play (Lillington) THANK YOU NATIONAL CHILD CARE PROVIDER DAY</p>	<p>11</p>
12	<p>13</p> <p>10:30am- RTG (Lillington)</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>9:30am- COP (Lillington) 10am - Zumbini (HCPL) 11am - Zumbini (HCPL) 1:30pm- RTG (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (YMCA)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:30am- RTG (Lillington) 10:30am- RTG (Antioch)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10am - Zumbini (APL) 11am - Zumbini (APL) 12:30pm- COP (Lillington) 2pm- RTG (Benhaven)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- Open Play (Lillington)</p>	<p>18</p>
19	<p>20</p> <p>10am - Zumbini (Erwin) 10:30am- RTG (Lillington)</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (YMCA)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:30am- RTG (Lillington) 10:30am- RTG (Antioch)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10am - Zumbini (YMCA) 11am - Zumbini (YMCA) 12:30pm- COP (Lillington) 2pm- RTG (Benhaven)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- Open Play (Lillington)</p> 	<p>25</p>



May



26	<p>HCPC OFFICES CLOSED</p> 	27	<p>9:30am- COP (Lillington) 10am- Zumbini (HCPL) 11am- Zumbini (HCPL) 1:30pm- RTG (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (YMCA)</p>	28	<p>10:30am- RTG (Lillington) 10:30am- RTG (Antioch)</p>	29	<p>12:30pm- COP (Lillington) 2pm- RTG (Benhaven)</p>	30	<p>9:30am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- Open Play (Lillington)</p>	31	
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LOCATIONS:

- APL:** Angier Public Library, 28 N Raleigh St, Angier
- Benhaven RTG Group:** 2815 Olivia Rd, Sanford
- 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
- Jack Marley Park:** 245 E Williams St, Angier
- 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!**

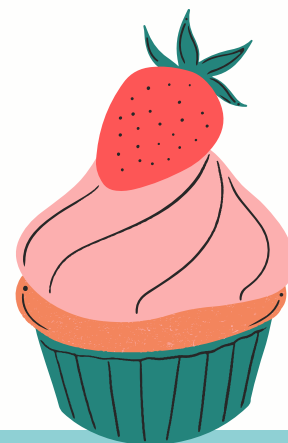




Circle of Parents

Círculo de Padres

CIRCLE of PARENTS®
Sharing Ideas. Sharing Support.



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.

● TUESDAYS @ 9:30AM

● THURSDAYS @ 12:30PM

● FRIDAYS @ 9:30AM (STARTING ON MAY 17TH)

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.



Join us to celebrate



Circle of Parents

Strawberries & Sprinkles

Mother's Day Lunch



1 Caregiver and each child per family will receive a scoop of ice cream.

Thursday, May 2nd

12:30pm - 2pm

@ Sprinkles Ice Cream

35 Anderson Creek School Rd, Bunnlevel

TO RSVP EMAIL

FAMILYSUPPORT@HARNETTSMARTSTART.ORG

Because you are loved so BERRY much!



HEALTHY HABITS FOR HARNETT

MAY & JUNE YOGA CLASSES

ARE YOU READY TO ROCK ???

Join Ms. Dollie for a
Rock-N- Roll Yoga Class!



I ♥
ROCK
N ROLL



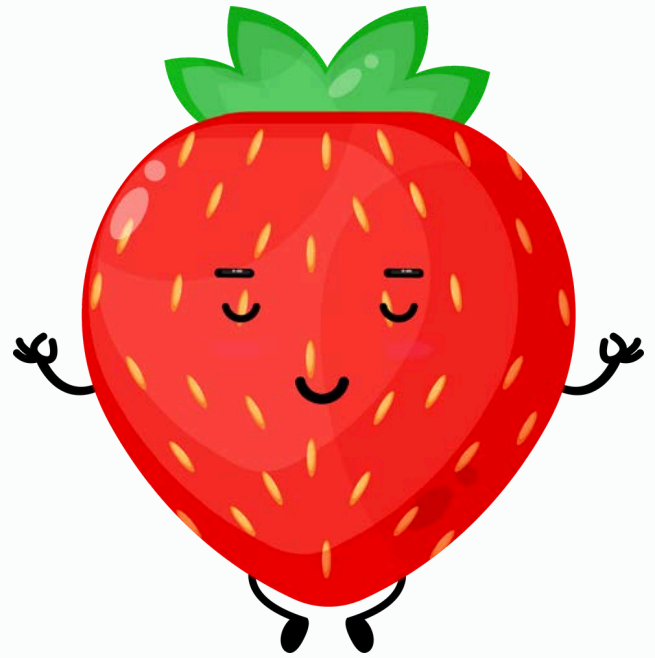
Friday, May 3rd @ 10:00- Harnett
County Main Library-Lillington

Friday, May 10th @ 10:00- Erwin
Public Library

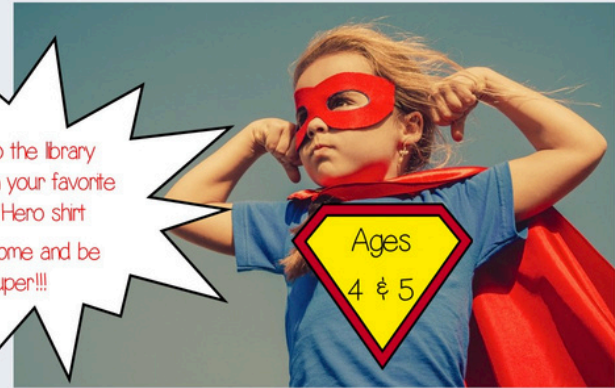
Scan QR Code to register



CHILDREN AGES 4-5



Come to the library
dressed in your favorite
Super Hero shirt
or just come and be
Super!!!



Calling All Super Friends.....

The world's mightiest heroes will gather for a
preschool Super Hero yoga class .



Scan QR Code to Register

HARNETT COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY
(LILLINGTON)- JUNE 7TH @ 10:00

ERWIN LIBRARY JUNE 14TH @ 10:00





HEALTHY HABITS FOR HARNETT MAY & JUNE ZUMBINI CLASSES

HARNETT COUNTY MAIN LIBRARY
(LILLINGTON)
ANGIER PUBLIC LIBRARY
ERWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
SALEEBY YMCA

MAY
zumbini.
with Ms. Dollie



REGISTRATION REQUIRED
SPACE IS LIMITED



JUNE
zumbini.
with Ms. Dollie



REGISTRATION REQUIRED
SPACE IS LIMITED

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



THE BENEFITS OF STRAWBERRIES FOR CHILDREN

Incorporating strawberries into a child's diet can help support healthy brain development and improve cognitive function, mood, vision, and overall health. Strawberries are a great source of several important nutrients that are essential for children's growth and development, including vitamin C, fiber, potassium, and antioxidants.

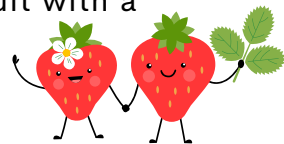
Strawberries also offer several benefits for developing minds!

Improved cognitive function: Strawberries are rich in flavonoids, which have been shown to improve cognitive function and memory in both children and adults.

Better mood: Strawberries contain folate, which has been linked to better mood regulation and reduced risk of depression.

Enhanced vision: Strawberries are a good source of vitamin C and other antioxidants, which help to protect the eyes from damage caused by harmful free radicals and support healthy vision. It is important to note that every child's dietary needs are different. Always consult with a healthcare provider for personalized recommendations.

(Source: HelloYummi)





WHAT IS NC 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.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

*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

The 2024-2025 NC Pre-K application will be available to the public on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

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**Questions?
Email**

ncprek@harnettsmartstart.org





READY TO GROW

GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

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.

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

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

Erwin Playgroup 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.

YMCA Playgroup meets on Tuesdays at 1:30pm - 3pm at 107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron.

YMCA Grupo de Juegos Listo Para Crecer- Martes de 1:30pm - 3pm @ at 107 Carletta Cage Dr, Cameron.

Benhaven Playgroup meets on Thursdays at 2pm - 3:30pm at 2815 Olivia Rd, Sanford.

Benhaven Grupo de Juegos Listo Para Crecer- Jueves de 2pm - 3:30pm @ at 2815 Olivia Rd, Sanford.



READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

THEME OF THE MONTH:

The Joy of Reading



CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- The importance of reading daily with young children.
- How to make reading time enjoyable.
- Ways to involve children in reading aloud.



KEY MESSAGES:

1. Reading and enjoying books together with our children helps them to become good readers later on.
2. We can help children develop good reading habits by reading with them daily, starting when they are infants.
3. When children learn that reading books is enjoyable and meaningful, they are more apt to look forward to learning to read on their own when the time comes.
4. There are some simple things we can do to make our reading time enjoyable:
 - Use books that have attractive illustrations and stories that interest the child, both pretend stories and true stories.



KEY MESSAGES CONTINUED:

- Have the child pick the books.
 - Make reading time a special time that shows your child you care about them and that you enjoy reading:
 - Find a comfortable and quiet place to read.
 - Hold the child in your lap.
 - Give your child your full attention.
 - Bring the story to life using different voices, sounds and facial expressions.
 - Stop if the child loses interest.
5. Here are some other tips for helping children build a love for reading:
- Let your child see your reading books, magazines, and newspapers.
 - Read books in your home language.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MONTH:

- Chickens to the Rescue, by John Himmelman
- More, More, More Said the Baby, by Vera B. Williams
- Jazz Baby, by Lisa Wheeler
- Have You Seen My New Blue Socks, by Eve Bunting
- Dreaming Up, by Christy Hale





GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER



TEMA DEL MES:

El placer de la lectura

LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- La importancia de leer diariamente con los niños.
- Cómo hacer que el tiempo de lectura sea agradable.
- Maneras de involucrar a los niños en la lectura en voz alta.

MENSAJES CLAVE:

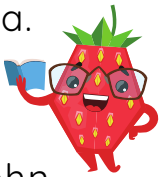
1. Leer y disfrutar de los libros junto a nuestros hijos les ayuda a convertirse en buenos lectores más adelante.
2. Podemos ayudar a los niños a desarrollar buenos hábitos de lectura leyendo con ellos a diario, desde que son bebés.
3. Cuando los niños aprenden que leer libros es agradable y significativo, es más probable que aprendan a leer por sí mismos cuando llegue el momento.
4. Hay algunas cosas sencillas que podemos hacer para que nuestro tiempo de lectura sea agradable:
 - Utilizar libros que tengan ilustraciones atractivas e historias que interesen al niño, tanto cuentos de fantasía como historias reales.



MENSAJES CLAVE:

- Pida al niño que escoja los libros.
 - Haga que el tiempo de lectura sea un momento especial que le demuestre a su hijo que se preocupa por él y que disfruta de la lectura:
 - Busca un lugar cómodo y tranquilo para leer.
 - Sostenga al niño en su regazo.
 - Pida al niño que sostenga el libro y pase las páginas.
 - Dele a su hijo toda su atención
 - Da vida a la historia usando diferentes voces, sonidos y expresiones faciales.
 - Deténgase si el niño pierde el interés..
5. Aquí hay algunos otros consejos para ayudar a los niños a desarrollar el amor por la lectura:
- Deje que su hijo vea sus libros, revistas y periódicos de lectura.

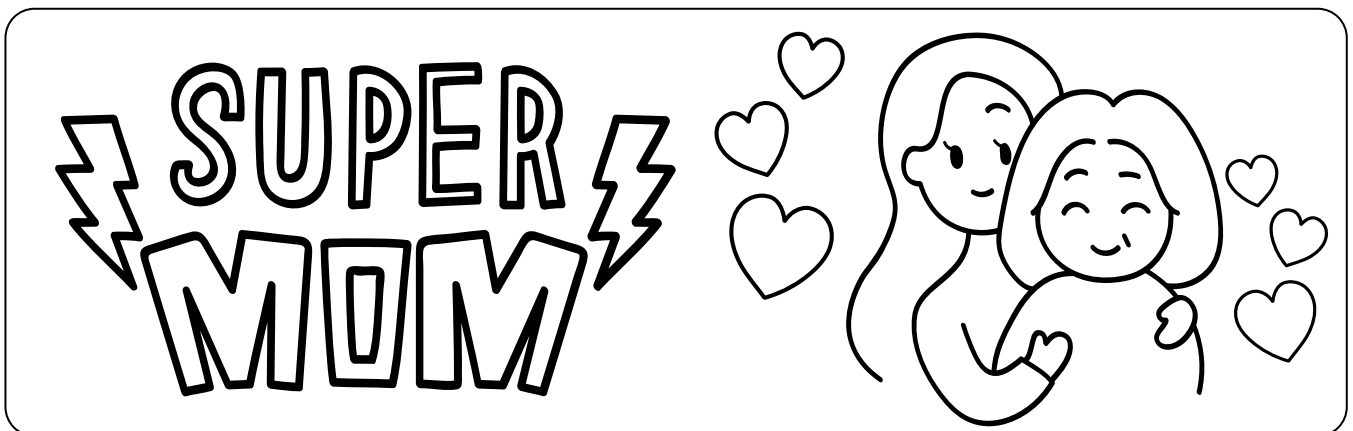
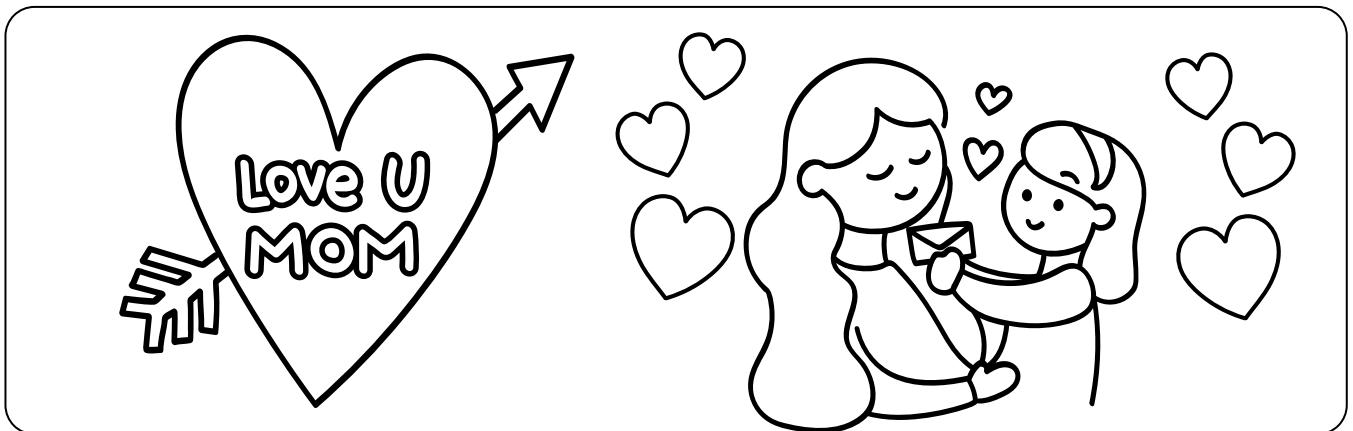
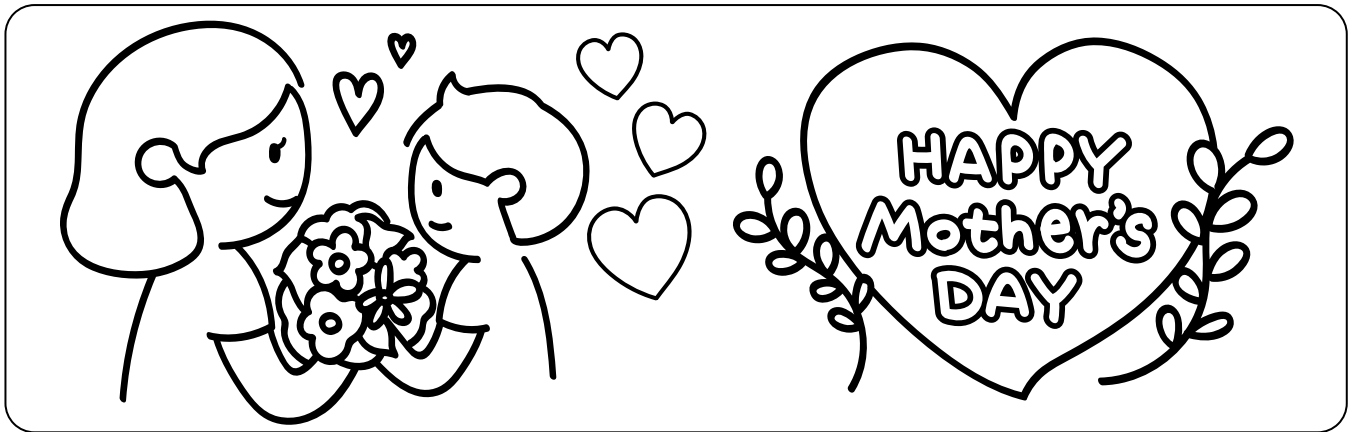
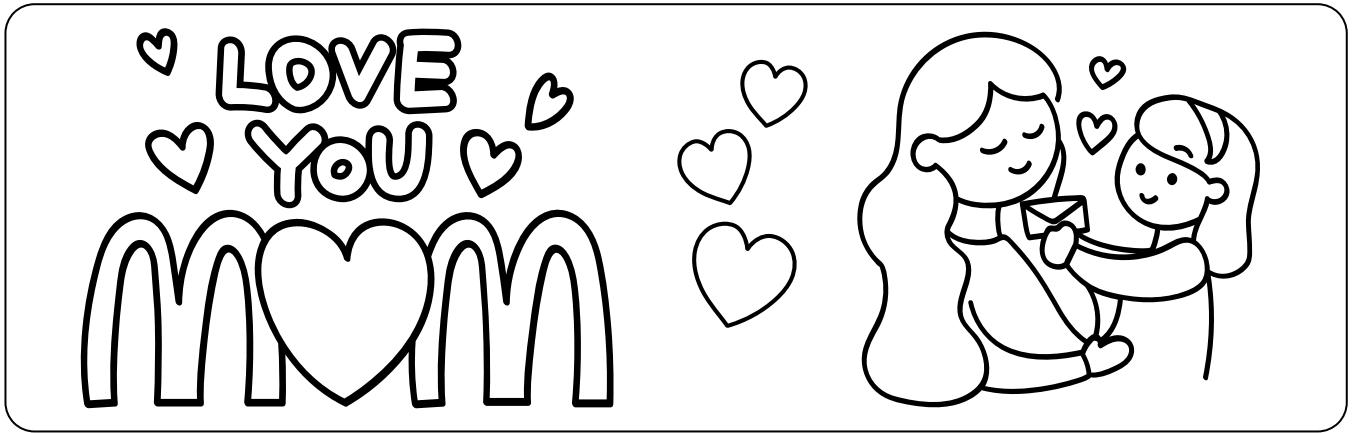
LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:



- Chickens to the Rescue, by John Himmelman
- More, More, More Said the Baby, by Vera B. Williams
- Jazz Baby, by Lisa Wheeler
- Have You Seen My New Blue Socks, by Eve Bunting
- Dreaming Up, by Christy Hale

MOTHER'S DAY COLORING BOOKMARKS

Color and cut out the bookmarks below to give to someone special for Mother's Day!



ALL ABOUT MOM
From:

I love it when
mommy

I think Mommy is

Portrait of
Mommy

Mommy,
thank you for

I love mommy because

