



MARCH 2025

HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



HELLO FRIENDS!

Spring is on its way, and March brings with it plenty of exciting events for our community! To kick things off, we're celebrating Read Across America Week with a fun Spirit Week that encourages children and families to dress up, read together, and engage in activities that promote the joy of reading. It's a great time to spark creativity and make reading even more fun for your little ones!

We're also gearing up for a festive St. Patrick's Day with a "greened out" Ready to Grow playgroup full of shamrocks, rainbows, and plenty of activities for families. Don't miss out on the fun!

Our Ready to Grow Playgroups continue to be a great opportunity for young children and their families to come together for play, socializing, and learning. Plus, Circle of Parents provides a welcoming space for parents to connect, share experiences, and receive support. And for something extra special, Zumbini offers a unique mix of music, movement, and fun to get your little ones moving and grooving, while learning to make healthy habits.

We're so grateful for all of the families we serve, and we hope you take advantage of these exciting and FREE opportunities.

SPECIAL UPCOMING DATES:

- **March 3rd:** Read Across America Spirit Week (Check Page 2 or 3 for daily details)
- **March 17:** St. Patrick's Day Lillington Ready to Grow Playgroup



Happy St. Patrick's Day



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.

Follow Us on Social Media



GET CONNECTED FOR THE LATEST HCPC NEWS & UPDATES



on Facebook @HarnettCountyPartnershipForChildren

on Instagram @hcopartnershipforchildren_

on TikTok @HarnettPartnershipForChildren

on YouTube @harnettcountypartnershipfo9443

EVENT LOCATIONS:

Erwin COP and RTG Group:
494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn

Lillington COP and RTG Groups:
170 Pine State St, Lillington

YMCA RTG Group:
107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron




READ ACROSS AMERICA SPIRIT WEEK:

Read Across America Week (March 2- 7) aims to encourage reading and educate people about its benefits, especially among children and young adults. With that HCPC has planned a fun-filled Spirit Week to help grow your little one’s love of reading!



- Monday, March 3rd:** Book Character Day
- Tuesday, March 4th:** Wacky Tacky Day
- Wednesday, March 5th:** Silly Hat/Hair Day
- Thursday, March 6th:** Favorite Color Day
- Friday, March 7th:** Superhero Day



HCPC STAFF:

- Tara Fish,** Executive Director
- 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
- Lynda Turlington,** Early Childhood Program Coordinator
- Lena West,** NC Pre-K Program Support Specialist
- Katie Willoughby,** Family Support Specialist





 - Erwin Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)

 - Lillington Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)

 - Circle of Parents (COP)

 - YMCA Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)

 - Open Play

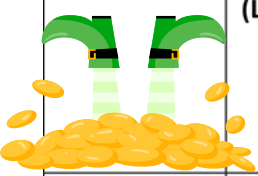
 - zumbini. @ event

SUN. MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SAT.

March



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2	3 Spirit Week: Book Character Day 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG (Lillington) Dr. Suess Day (Lillington)	4 Spirit Week: Wacky Tacky Day 10am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (YMCA)	5 Spirit Week: Silly Hat/Hair Day 10am- RTG (Lillington) 10am- RTG (Erwin)	6 Spirit Week: Favorite Color Day 10am- COP (Lillington)	7 Spirit Week: Superhero Day 10am- Open Play (Lillington)	8
9	10 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG (Lillington)	11 10am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG w/ Zumbini (YMCA)	12 10am- RTG (Lillington) 10am- RTG (Erwin)	13 10am- COP (Lillington)	14 10am- Open Play (Lillington)	15
16	17 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG w/ Zumbini (Lillington)	18 10am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (YMCA)	19 10am- RTG (Lillington) 10am- RTG (Erwin)	20 10am- COP (Lillington)	21 10am- Open Play (Lillington)	22
23	24 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG (Lillington)	25 10am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (YMCA)	26 10am- RTG (Lillington) 10am- RTG w/ Zumbini (Erwin)	27 10am- COP (Lillington)	28 10am- Open Play (Lillington)	29
30	31 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG (Lillington)					



HELLO SPRING



FAMILY LITERACY

Family literacy is important because it helps children develop literacy skills, builds family relationships, and encourages lifelong learning.

BENEFITS OF FAMILY LITERACY

- Improves literacy skills
- Encourages lifelong learning
- Strengthens family relationships

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN FAMILY LITERACY

- Read to children
- Have books in your home
- Engage in fun literacy activities
- Talk to your child about your day and ask them about theirs
- Look for words with similar sounds or that begin with the same letter



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT:



GIOVANNA



What are some of the most valuable things you've learned from other parents/caregivers in Circle of Parents?

"We have learned how to better communicate and understand the needs of our growing children who have BIG feelings and sometimes find it difficult to effectively express their emotions and thoughts."

How does Circle of Parents help you cope with the challenges of parenting?

"Circle of Parents has encouraged me to reach out to other parents and allowed me to feel like I'm not alone in "parenting" by sharing situations that parents find themselves in on a daily basis."

How has the group helped you grow as a parent or as an individual?

"HCPC has allowed me to be more outgoing and active within my parenthood journey by being so welcoming and inclusive!"

What would you say to someone who's considering joining a parent support group?

"Please join! A parent support group is effective in ways that it's supportive and all around fun, which helps my mental health.

Thank you HCPC and all of the faculty for helping me through my parenting journey when I least expected it!"



Circle of Parents

Círculo de Padres



GROW ON THE GO

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER

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.

CIRCLE of PARENTS®
Sharing Ideas. Sharing Support.



HCPC's Newest Addition!

Grow on the Go is a mobile play unit to offer play and learn opportunities for Harnett County families with children between the ages of birth to five years old. Harnett County Partnership for Children holds Pop Up & Play events throughout the county each month. Be sure to follow us on social media or visit www.harnettsmartstart.org for upcoming playtimes and locations!



www.harnettsmartstart.org

● MONDAYS @ 9:30AM
LOCATION: 494 ANTIOCH CHURCH RD, DUNN

● TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS @ 10AM
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

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: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am - 11:30am at 170 Pine State St, Lillington.

Lillington Grupo: Lunes y Miércoles de 10am - 11:30am @ 170 Pine State St, Lillington.

Erwin Playgroup: Wednesdays from 10am - 11:30am at 494 Antioch Church Road, Dunn.

Erwin Grupo: Miércoles de 10am - 11:30am @ 494 Antioch Church Road, Dunn.

YMCA Playgroup: Tuesdays from 1:30pm - 3pm @ 107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron

YMCA Grupo: Martes de 1:30pm - 3pm @ 107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron



CHECK THE HCPC
MONTHLY
CALENDAR - MUSIC
NOTES INDICATE
EVENTS THAT
INCLUDE ZUMBINI!

Registration
NOT
Required!



zumbini®

with Ms. Katie!



GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

TEMA DEL MES:

Resuélvelo



LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- Cómo ayudar a su hijo a emparejar objetos similares.
- Cómo ayudar a su hijo a clasificar objetos en dos o más grupos en función de las diferencias en un solo atributo (color, forma, tamaño, textura, etc.).



MENSAJES CLAVE:

Identificar atributos y clasificar objetos en función de atributos similares son habilidades importantes que ayudarán a los niños a ingresar preparados para el preescolar o el jardín de infantes.

- Atributo: Cómo se ve algo
- Ordenar: Agrupar en función de ser similares o iguales de alguna manera (color, forma, tamaño, textura, etc.)

LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:

- The Button Box by Margarete S. Reid
- A Pair of Socks by Stuart J. Murphy
- Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
- Sort it Out! by Barbara Mariconda
- Gray Rabbit's Odd One Out by Alan Baker



READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

THEME OF THE MONTH:

Sort It Out



CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- How to help their child match similar objects.
- How to help their child sort objects into two or more groups based on differences in a single attribute (color, shape, size, texture, etc.).



KEY MESSAGES:

Identifying attributes and sorting objects based on similar attributes are important skills that will help children enter preschool or kindergarten prepared.

- Attribute: What something looks like
- Sort: To group based on being similar or alike in some way (color, shape, size, texture, etc.)

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Button Box by Margarete S. Reid
- A Pair of Socks by Stuart J. Murphy
- Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
- Sort it Out! by Barbara Mariconda
- Gray Rabbit's Odd One Out by Alan Baker



Harnett County Partnership for Children Presents CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBIT



DATE: Thursday, April 10th

TIME: 4:30pm - 6:30pm

LOCATION: 170 Pine State St, Lillington

EACH PARTICIPANT WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A CHILDREN'S ART SUPPLY GIFT BASKET!



Art Submission Deadline:

April 4th by 4pm

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAWING:
Child must be a Harnett County resident and between the ages of birth - 5 years old.

