



APRIL 2025

# HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



## HELLO PEEPS!

We're excited to welcome the season of renewal with a host of inspiring events. April is a month filled with celebration, and we invite you to join us as we honor the young learners in our community during **Week of the Young Child**. This special week is a time to highlight the importance of early childhood education and the vital role it plays in shaping our future.

In partnership with the Harnett County Health Department, we're hosting a **Teddy Bear Clinic** on April 9th, where children can bring their favorite stuffed animals for a fun and educational visit with health professionals. It's a wonderful way to ease any fears about doctor visits and make learning about health care a fun experience!

We're also thrilled to announce our **5th Annual Children's Art Exhibit**, where the creativity of Harnett County's youngest artists will shine! Come experience the wonder and imagination of the children in our community as we celebrate their artistic talents.

For the 5th consecutive year, our commitment to supporting families continues with **The Great Diaper Drive** during the month of April. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of families in need, providing essential supplies for their little ones.

To wrap up the month with a bang, join us on April 28th for **Zumbini at the Park!** We'll be dancing and singing with special guest, **Dollie Adcock**, for a lively, fun-filled morning of music and movement for families and children of all ages.

Join us this spring as we celebrate our youngest community members!





# 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

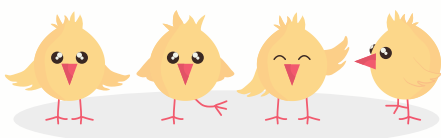
**Lillington COP and RTG Groups:**  
170 Pine State St, Lillington

**Lillington Riverfront Park:**  
151 E Duncan St, Lillington

**YMCA RTG Group:**  
107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron



# 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)
- - Circle of Parents (COP)
- - Open Play

- - Lillington Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- - YMCA Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)



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# APRIL IS NATIONAL PREVENT CHILD ABUSE MONTH

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness and focus on preventing child abuse and neglect. This year's theme is "Doing Things Differently: Moving From the Challenge to the Change," emphasizing the importance of community and family support. Child abuse and neglect have devastating consequences for children. HCPC will be helping draw awareness by creating blue pinwheel gardens with our program participants and child care centers.. You can also join us in sharing the importance of protecting children and creating safe and supportive environments for them to thrive. Here are some links and phone numbers for additional information:

**Prevent Child Abuse America:** <https://preventchildabuse.org/>

**Child Welfare Information Gateway:** <https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth/>

**National Child Abuse Hotline:** 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)



## APRIL IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

The Month of the Military Child in April recognizes the unique challenges that children in military families face. They face continually changing circumstances and often both parents enlist active duty or reserve, meaning at any given time their primary caregivers can be deployed.

Depending on the size of their family, where they are stationed, and how long they live the military life, a military child becomes adaptable. They may see much of the country and sometimes the world. Military life impacts every member of the family, right down to the youngest member. They sacrifice close relationships, sometimes even with immediate family members, due to the distances they live and the number of times they transfer.

## KIDDO SPOTLIGHT:

### ADALI

3 (turns 4 on April 22nd. Happy birthday Adali!)

**What do you like most about playgroup?**

"I like playing with my friends and going on the slide."

**What is your favorite thing about Spring?**

"I like jumping in muddy puddles!"

**What are some ways that you can show kindness?**

"Sharing my toys."

**Would you rather be able to fly like a butterfly or hop high like a bunny?**

"Fly like a butterfly."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY





Circle of Parents

Círculo de Padres

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.



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

● TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS @ 10AM  
LOCATION: 170 PINE STATE ST, LILLINGTON

To register, email [familysupport@harnettsmartstart.org](mailto:familysupport@harnettsmartstart.org) or call 910-893-2344.

Para registrarse, envíe un correo electrónico a [familysupport@harnettsmartstart.org](mailto:familysupport@harnettsmartstart.org) o llame al 910-893-2344.

# GROW ON THE GO

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER



## 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](http://www.harnettsmartstart.org) for upcoming playtimes and locations!



[www.harnettsmartstart.org](http://www.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: 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!



# zümbini®

with Ms. Katie!



# GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

## TEMA DEL MES:

Pongámonos en movimiento

## LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- La importancia de la actividad física para el desarrollo y el bienestar de los niños.
- Algunas actividades que hacen que los niños pequeños se muevan.



## MENSAJES CLAVE:

1. Nuestros niños reciben muchos beneficios para la salud de la actividad física regular, que incluyen:

- Mejor salud en general
- Músculos y huesos fuertes
- Mejora del estado de ánimo y del 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 las habilidades motoras y la coordinación para su próxima etapa de desarrollo.



## LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:

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

# READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

## THEME OF THE MONTH:

Let's Get Moving

## CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- How important physical activity is for children's development and well-being.
- Some activities that get young children moving.

## KEY MESSAGES:

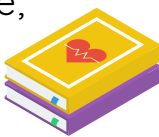
1. Our children receive many health benefits from regular physical activity, including:

- 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.



## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

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



HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN PRESENTS

# THE GREAT DIAPER DRIVE

GETTING LITTLE BEHINDS A LITTLE AHEAD

ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF WIPES & ALL INFANT AND CHILDREN DISPOSABLE DIAPER SIZES TO BENEFIT HARNETT COUNTY'S YOUNGEST RESIDENTS.

**DROP OFF DATES: APRIL 1ST - APRIL 30TH**  
(MONDAYS - FRIDAYS)

**DROP OFF TIMES: 8:30AM - 4PM**

**LOCATION: 170 PINE STATE ST, LILLINGTON, NC**

Harnett County Partnership for Children / 910-893-2344 / [www.harnettsmartstart.org](http://www.harnettsmartstart.org)



## Teddy Bear Clinic

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH / 10AM - 1PM  
170 PINE STATE ST, LILLINGTON



### TIME FOR A CHECK UP!

Professionals will be on site to give your child's favorite stuffed animal a free check-up.



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:**

<https://tinyurl.com/4n6he3pc>







naeyc®  
**Week of the  
Young Child**®  
April 7th - 11th



*Music Monday*



When children sing, dance, and listen to music, they develop their language and early literacy skills while being active and encouraging movement. Make up and record your own unique version of a song or write your own, and share it on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the #WOYC25 hashtag.

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*Tasty Tuesday*



This fun, food-themed day is about more than just cheese and crackers. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. With the rise in childhood obesity, you can encourage healthy nutrition and fitness habits at home and in the classroom. Create your own healthy snacks and share the recipes and photos of your creations on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the #WOYC25 hashtag.

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*Work Together  
Wednesday*



When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Children can use any building material, from a fort of branches on the playground to a block city in the classroom, or a hideaway made from couch pillows at home. Build and share pictures of children's creations on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the #WOYC25 hashtag.

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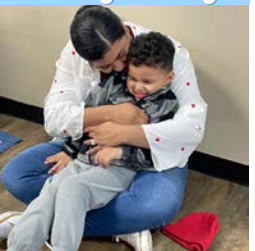
*Artsy Thursday*



Think, problem solve, create! Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands. On Artsy Thursday, celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative art making. Use any materials—from crayons to paint, clay to crafts! Create and share photos of your children's creations on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the #WOYC25 hashtag.

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*Family Friday*



Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers. Share pictures and stories about your family on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the #WOYC25 hashtag.

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zumbini.®



@ the Park!

MONDAY, APRIL 28TH / 10AM

151 E DUNCAN ST, LILLINGTON

*Ms. Katie & Special Guest, Ms. Dollie!*





## 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, 2025 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 2025-2026 NC Pre-K application will be available to the public on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.**

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**Questions?  
Email**

**[ncprek@harnettsmartstart.org](mailto:ncprek@harnettsmartstart.org)**



# 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.

