



OCTOBER 2025

HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



START YOUR ENGINES!

Buckle up, October is on the move at HCPC!

We're *shifting into high gear* with activities and events designed to *fuel* family fun, connection, and learning. Whether you're *cruising* into play, *parking* for support, or *steering* toward special celebrations, we've got the perfect *pit stops* this month:

- 🚦 Ready to Grow Playgroups- *Jumpstart* little learners with play, movement, and exploration.
- 👤 Circle of Parents- A safe place to *refuel* with encouragement and connection from other parents/caregivers.
- 🎵 Zumbini- *Put the pedal to the metal* with music, movement, and bonding fun.
- 🚗 Open Play Fridays- A laid-back *lane* where kids can *steer* their imagination.
- 🚚 3rd Annual TRUCK-or-Treat- *Rev your engines* for our biggest October tradition with trucks, treats, and tons of family fun!

So, *fasten your seatbelts* and *ride* along with us! This month is going to be a *wheel-y* good adventure!



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:

Cameron RTG Group:

107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron

Coats Farmers Day:

11 East Main St, Coats

Erwin COP & RTG Groups:

494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn

Lillington Ball Fields:

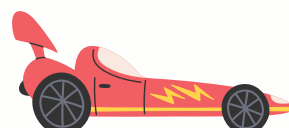
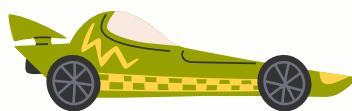
405 S 1st St, Lillington

Lillington COP & RTG Groups:

170 Pine State St, Lillington



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

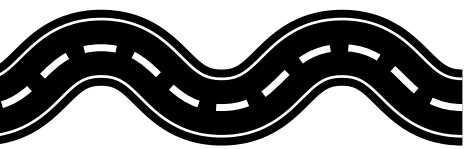
Lynda Turlington, Early Childhood Program Coordinator





Lena West, NC Pre-K Program Support Specialist





Katie Willoughby, Family Support Specialist



170 Pine State St, Lillington, NC 27546 / 910-893-2344 / www.harnettsmartstart.org

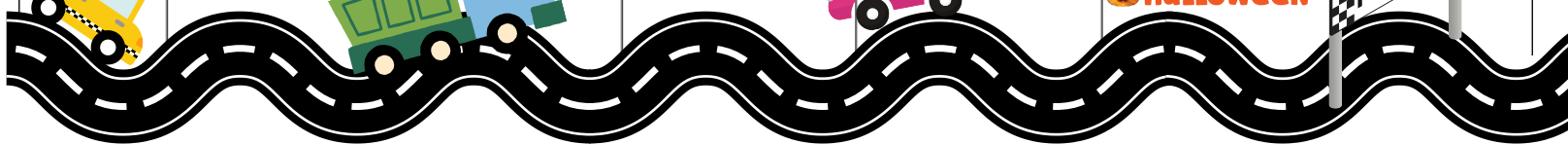


-  - Cameron Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
-  - Erwin Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
-  - Lillington Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
-  - Grow on the Go Playmobile (GOTG)

-  - Circle of Parents (COP)
-  - Open Play
-  - Special Event
-  - Zumbini

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
 			1 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG (Lillington) 	2 9:30am- COP (Lillington)	3 9-10:30am- Open Play (Lillington) 11-12:30pm- Open Play (Lillington)	4 
	5  10am- RTG Fire Safety Day! (Angier Fire Station) 10am- RTG (Erwin) 	6 9:30am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (Cameron)	7 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG Fire Safety Day! (Erwin Fire Station) 	8 9:30am- COP (Lillington)	9 9-10:30am- Open Play (Lillington) 11-12:30pm- Open Play (Lillington)	10 10am-5pm GOTG at Coats Farmers Day (Coats)
12 9-10:30am- RTG (Lillington) 11am-12:30pm- RTG (Lillington) 10am- RTG (Erwin)	13 9:30am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG w/ Zumbini (Cameron) 	14 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG (Lillington)	15 9:30am- COP (Lillington)	16 9-10:30am- RTG (Lillington) 11am-12:30pm- RTG (Lillington) 10am- RTG (Erwin)	17  	18 
19  9-10:30am- RTG (Lillington) 11am-12:30pm- RTG (Lillington) 10am- RTG (Erwin)	20 9:30am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (Cameron)	21 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG (Lillington)	22  10am-1pm HCPC Annual TRUCK-Or-Treat (Lillington Ball Fields)   	23 9-10:30am- Open Play (Lillington) 11-12:30pm- Open Play (Lillington)	24 	25
26 9-10:30am- RTG (Lillington) 11am-12:30pm- RTG (Lillington) 10am- RTG (Erwin) 	27 9:30am- COP (Lillington) 1:30pm- RTG (YMCA)	28 	29 9:30am- COP (Erwin) 10am- RTG (Lillington)	30 9:30am- COP (Lillington)	31 9-10:30am- Open Play (Lillington) 11-12:30pm- Open Play (Lillington) 	



KIDDO SPOTLIGHT:

WALTER, 5 YRS OLD

What is your favorite thing about playgroups?

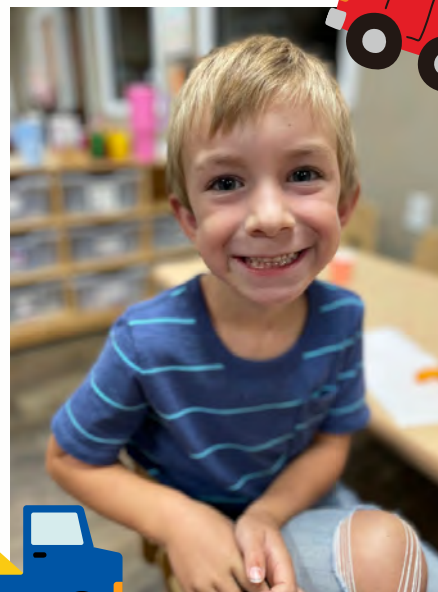
"Favorite thing about playgroup is getting to play with Georgia and Mila."

Describe your favorite kind of car.

"Favorite kind of car is a race car that would be red with big wheels with a picture of Shadow the hedgehog riding his motorcycle and flames coming out of it on the side."

If your car could have a superpower, what would it be?

"My car's superpower would be super speed!"



OCTOBER IS...

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

October is National Fire Prevention Month and that means it's time for us all to take the precautionary steps to prevent dangerous and life-threatening fires. According to the National Fire Prevention Association, the winter months see an increase in home fires, deaths and injuries. When it comes to keeping our families and homes safe, there are many other steps we can take to prevent fires.

- Make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working.
- Place a fire detector every level of the home and test them monthly. Replace batteries annually.
- Get a fire extinguisher and make sure it's not outdated. Most fire extinguishers have an expiration date. Place one on each floor of the house and in the garage, too.
- Have an escape plan and practice fire drills with your family. Have at least two ways to get out of the home and set a meeting place for everyone.



NATIONAL RSV AWARENESS MONTH

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Awareness Month is observed annually in October to raise awareness about RSV, a common respiratory virus that can cause serious illness, especially in young children and older adults. RSV is the leading cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children under one year of age. RSV is highly contagious and spreads through contact with respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing.

Prevention:

1. Wash hands well especially after being around someone who might have cold symptoms.
2. Clean surfaces and disinfect objects at home regularly.
3. Avoid large crowds during the cold and flu season.





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.

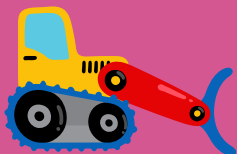
Feel empowered, supported, and strengthened as you attend weekly Circle of Parents meetings. Join other Harnett County parents/caregivers at our Circle of Parents group.

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.



- TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS @ 9:30AM - 11AM
LOCATION: 170 PINE STATE ST. LILLINGTON
- WEDNESDAYS @ 9:30AM - 11AM
LOCATION: 494 ANTIOCH CHURCH RD. ERWIN



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.

GROW ON THE GO

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER



Grow on the Go is a mobile play unit offering play and learn opportunities for Harnett County families with children between the ages of birth to five years old.

Registration is not required - simply find us at our designated location for Pop Up & Play fun!



OCTOBER SCHEDULE:

Saturday, October 11th / 10am - 5pm
Coats Farmers Day





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.

Cameron Playgroup: Tuesdays @ 1:30pm - 3pm

Cameron Grupo: Todos los martes de 1:30pm - 3pm

Erwin Playgroup: Mondays @ 10am - 11:30am

Erwin Grupo: Todos los lunes a las 10am - 11:30am

Lillington Playgroup: Mondays @ 9am - 10:30am OR 11am - 12:30pm; Wednesdays @ 10am - 11:30am

Lillington Grupo: Lunes de 9am a 10:30 o de 11am a 12:30pm; miércoles de 10am a 11:30pm



zumbini®

with Ms. Katie!

Registration
NOT Required!

- October 14th @ 1:30pm at YMCA in Cameron
- October 23rd from 10am - 1pm at HCPC's 3rd Annual TRUCK-or-Treat



GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

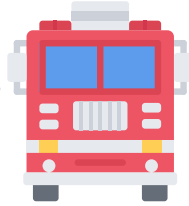
TEMA DEL MES:

Detectores de humo



LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- Sobre los detectores de humo en el hogar
- Cómo y cuándo probar los detectores de humo



MENSAJES CLAVE:

1. El humo es silencioso y mortal. Si bien el humo puede ser la primera señal de un incendio en casa, puede dañar y matar antes de que nos demos cuenta.
2. Los detectores de humo son un dispositivo de seguridad importante que puede alertar a las familias sobre un incendio en sus hogares.
3. Cada hogar debe tener detectores de humo en funcionamiento.
4. Es importante probar nuestros detectores de humo en el hogar mensualmente.
5. Recursos: Los detectores de humo pueden salvar tu vida.

LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:



- Fire Safety in Action, by Mari C. Schuh
- Stop, Drop and Roll, by Margery Cuyler
- Arthur's Fire Drill, by Marc Tolon Brown



READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

THEME OF THE MONTH:

Smoke Detectors



CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- About home smoke detectors
- How and when to test smoke detectors



KEY MESSAGES:

1. Smoke is silent and deadly. While smoke may be the first sign of a fire at home, it can harm and kill before we become aware of it.
2. Smoke detectors are an important safety device that can alert families to a fire in their homes.
3. Each home should have operating smoke detectors.
4. It is important to test our home smoke detectors monthly.
5. Resources: Smoke Alarms Can Save Your Life.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Fire Safety in Action, by Mari C. Schuh
- Stop, Drop and Roll, by Margery Cuyler
- Arthur's Fire Drill, by Marc Tolon Brown



2025

TRUCK-OR-TREAT



Join us for a touch-a-truck event that will also include trick-or-treating, crafts and activities for young children, storytime, a dance zone, community resources, and information! Food trucks will also be on-site, offering delicious lunch and snack options!



LILLINGTON BALL FIELDS
FREE ENTRY

405 S 1ST ST, LILLINGTON, NC 27546
10AM - 1PM

AGES: BIRTH - 5 YEARS OLD

**OCT
23**

