



# MARCH 2026

# HCPC CONNECTIONS

## HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



## HELLO FRIENDS!

*Blast off into March with Harnett County Partnership for Children!*

This month is packed with out-of-this-world opportunities for families to learn, play, and grow together. From Ready to Grow Playgroups and Circle of Parents to the Grow on the Go Playmobile and Zumbini, there are so many stellar ways to support early learning and family connection across our community.

Join us on Monday, March 2nd, for a special Dr. Seuss themed Ready to Grow Playgroup and Read Across America Day storytimes that are sure to launch imaginations into orbit.

Wednesday, March 4th is NC Pre-K Application Launch Day, the first day to apply for the 2026-2027 school year and a giant leap toward kindergarten readiness.

On March 17th, Circle of Parents and the Cameron Ready to Grow Playgroup will include a Saint Patrick's Day themed snack for a little extra lucky fun. We'll celebrate again on March 20th with a special storytime for The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day, a classic favorite that little learners love to explore again and again.

The Grow on the Go Playmobile will also visit the Ballard Woods Community in Fuquay-Varina every Thursday in March, bringing hands-on play and learning right to your neighborhood.

Get ready to reach for the stars, explore new worlds of learning, and have a blast with us this March!



**3, 2, 1... BLASTOFF!**

## 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



## LOCATIONS

### Ballard Woods Community

215 Ruth Cir. Fuquay-Varina

### Cameron RTG Group:

107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron

### Erwin COP & RTG Groups:

494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn

### 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



# March

- Cameron Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Grow on the Go (GOTG)
- Erwin Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Open Play
- Lillington Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
- Circle of Parents (COP)

SUN. MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SAT.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>9am - 10:30am: RTG (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: RTG (Lillington) 10am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</p>	<p>9:30am - COP (Lillington) 1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Cameron)</p>	<p>9:30am - COP (Erwin) 10am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</p>	<p>9:30 - COP (Lillington) 1:30pm - 3pm: GOTG (Ballard Woods, Fuquay-Varina)</p>	<p>9am - 10:30am: Open Play (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: Open Play (Lillington)</p>		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>9am - 10:30am: RTG (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: RTG (Lillington) 10am - 11:30am: RTG w/ Zumbini (Erwin)</p>	<p>9:30am - COP (Lillington) 1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Cameron)</p>	<p>9:30am - COP (Erwin) 10am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</p>	<p>9:30am - COP (Lillington) 1:30pm - 3pm: GOTG (Ballard Woods, Fuquay-Varina)</p>	<p>9am - 10:30am: Open Play (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: Open Play (Lillington)</p>	<p>THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR DAY</p>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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# KIDDO SPOTLIGHT:

ZOEY, 4 YRS OLD

**What is your favorite part of Ready to Grow Playgroups?**

“My favorite part of Ready to Grow Playgroup is the toys!”

**If you had to go on a trip to the moon, what snacks would you want to take with you?**

“I would bring pretzels and goldfish.”

**If you could paint a planet any color, what color would you choose?**

“I would paint a planet pink and purple because they are my favorite colors.”

**What do you think stars are made out of?**

“I think stars are made out of yellow.”



## MARCH WITH FUN & PURPOSE:

### READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY (MARCH 2ND)

Read Across America Day, also recognized as Dr. Seuss Day, is an annual event that promotes the joy of reading, especially among children. Books have the magic to transport us to different worlds, spark imagination, and instill a lifelong love of learning. Here are some ways to celebrate Read Across America with young children and help encourage literacy skills:

- **Story Retelling with Puppets**
- **Make a Bookmark**
- **Build the Setting**



### ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE KID DAY (MARCH 19TH)

Every year on the third Thursday in March, Absolutely Incredible Kids Day encourages adults to tell kids how absolutely incredible they are. Take the challenge a step further and WRITE it down in a letter for that absolutely incredible kid. Children are amazing creatures! Their ability to learn, adapt and bring joy to the world is never-ending. Take out a piece of paper and write down all the ways a child in your life shines. Tell them how much you appreciate them and encourage them to keep doing big things, and they will change the world!

*You're awesome*

### Future Generations Day (March 20th)

National Future Generations Day serves as a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to nurture the health and well-being of those yet to come. Our decisions don't just affect our own well-being; they are passed down to future generations. By prioritizing our own well-being, we encourage a shift from reactive to proactive measures. Here are a few ideas on how your lifestyle and habits can help positively impact future generations:

- Replace fast food meals with healthy, homecooked options.
- Swap scented detergents and household cleaners with fragrance-free, natural options.
- Organize a community garden.
- Incorporate fresh air activities and sunshine into your family's daily routines.





Circle of Parents  
Círculo de Padres



# GROW ON THE GO

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER

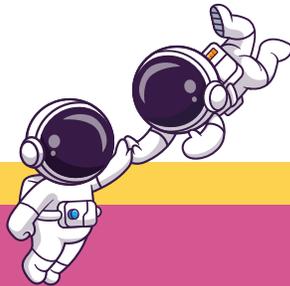
Parenting is joyful, but can also present difficulties and challenges.

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.



- 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](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 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!

### MARCH SCHEDULE:

**DATES:** March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 1:30pm - 3pm

**LOCATION:** Ballard Woods Community (215 Ruth Cir. Fuquay Varina, NC 27526)





# 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



# zümbini<sup>®</sup>

with Ms. Katie!

- **March 16<sup>th</sup> / 10am**  
494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn
- **March 27<sup>th</sup> / 9am & 11am**  
170 Pine State St., Lillington



Registration  
NOT Required!

# GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

## TEMA DEL MES:

La alegría de la lectura



## LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

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



## MENSAJES CLAVE:

1. Leer y disfrutar de libros junto con nuestros hijos les ayuda a convertirse en buenos lectores en el futuro.
2. Hay algunas cosas simples que podemos hacer para que nuestro tiempo de lectura sea agradable:
  - Utilizar libros que tengan ilustraciones atractivas e historias que interesen al niño, tanto historias imaginarias como reales
  - Dejar que el niño elija los libros



## LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:

- Dreaming Up by Christy Hale
- The Cow that went OINK, by Bernard Most
- Red Hat by Lita Judge
- What Animals Really Like by Fiona Robinson



# 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 help them to become good readers later on.
2. 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
  - Have the child pick the books



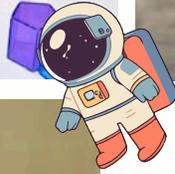
## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Dreaming Up by Christy Hale
- The Cow that went OINK, by Bernard Most
- Red Hat by Lita Judge
- What Animals Really Like by Fiona Robinson

# A LOOK BACK AT FEBRUARY



YOU'RE  
A  
STAR



You are  
OUT  
of this  
WORLD

