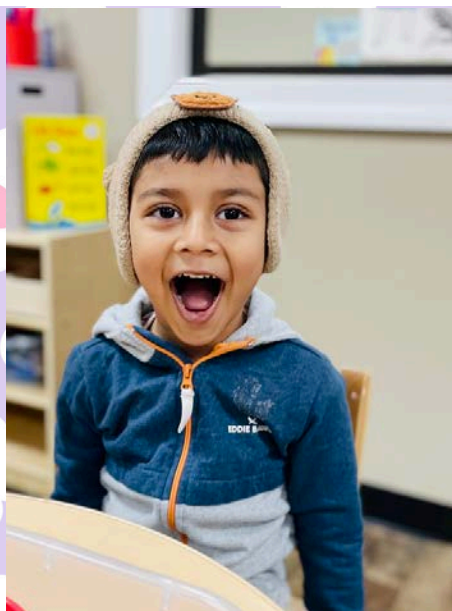




APRIL 2026

HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



HELLO FRIENDS!

Welcome to the April edition of HCPC Connections! We're *baa-ck* with a month full of meaningful celebrations and opportunities to connect, and we're not feeling one bit *sheepish* about how excited we are to share them with our families across Harnett County.

We kick things off with our annual Bunny Bop on April 2nd, a community event that's sure to have everyone hopping with joy. From April 13th-17th, we celebrate the Week of the Young Child with Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. Artsy Thursday will feature our 6th Annual Children's Art Exhibit, open to the entire community, a *shear* delight you won't want to miss!

April is also Prevent Child Abuse Month. Through our annual pinwheel garden planted with our Circle of Parents families, we're reminded that when we rally around children and caregivers, our whole community grows stronger. It's always a *baa-ril*liant time to stand together for kids!



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

Cameron RTG Group & Healthy Kids Day:

107 Carletta Cagle Dr, Cameron

Erwin COP & RTG Groups:

494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn

Jack Marley Park:

145 State Rd 1441, Angier

Lillington COP & RTG Groups:

170 Pine State St, Lillington

Riverfront Park:

151 E Duncan 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





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

SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
APRIL						
			1 9:30am – 11am: COP (Erwin) 10am – 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	2 10am – 11:30am: Bunny Bop Event (Riverfront Park) 	3 HCPC OFFICES CLOSED 	4
5 	6 9am - 10:30am: RTG (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: RTG (Lillington) 10am – 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	7 9:30am – 11am COP (Lillington) 1:30pm – 3pm: RTG (Cameron)	8 9:30am – 11am: COP (Erwin) 10am – 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	9 9:30am – 11am: COP (Lillington) 1:30pm – 3pm: GOTG (Jack Marley Park, Angier)	10 9am -10:30am: Open Play (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: Open Play (Lillington) Wear Blue Child Abuse Prevention Month 	11
12 	13 9am - 10:30am: RTG (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: RTG (Lillington) 10am – 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	14 9:30am – 11am COP (Lillington)	15 <u>NO GROUPS</u>	16 <u>NO GROUPS</u> 4:30pm - 6:30pm: Annual Children’s Art Exhibit (Lillington) 	17 <u>NO GROUPS</u>	18 10am - 2pm: Healthy Kids Day (Cameron)
19	20 9am - 10:30am: RTG (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: RTG (Lillington) 10am – 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	21 9:30am – 11am COP (Lillington) 1:30pm – 3pm: RTG (Cameron)	22 9:30am – 11am: COP (Erwin) 10am – 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	23 9:30am – 11am: COP (Lillington) 1:30pm – 3pm: GOTG (Jack Marley Park, Angier)	24 9am -10:30am: Open Play (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: Open Play (Lillington)	25
26 	27 9am - 10:30am: RTG (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: RTG (Lillington) 10am – 11:30am: RTG w/ Zumbini (Erwin) 	28 9:30am – 11am COP (Lillington) 1:30pm – 3pm: RTG (Cameron)	29 9:30am – 11am: COP (Erwin) 10am – 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	30 9:30am – 11am: COP (Lillington) 1:30pm – 3pm: GOTG (Jack Marley Park, Angier)		

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT: HERNANDEZ & SANCHEZ FAMILY

Which HCPC programs do you participate in?

"We usually attend Ready to Grow, sometimes the Circle of Parents and the amazing special/seasonal events."

What does it mean to you to be able to attend these activities with your grandson?

"This program means a lot, as a Grandma (Gamma, as he calls me) means to be part (outside from home) of his daily and constant learning/development, being a part of each milestone and seeing how much he enjoys each time we visit and participate in HCPC services."

What have been some of the greatest benefits in participating in HCPC programs for you and your family?

"Some of the great benefits are the social development, constant interaction and making new friends with kids, parents and other grandparents."

What would you say to another grandparent who might be considering attending?

"Grandparents, HCPC offers great programs to attend with your grandchildren. HCPC is equipped with lots and different tools for your child's development/learning, the staff is amazing, respectful and supportive."

If you could describe your experience with HCPC in three words, what would they be?

"There are more than three; they will be: Positive, Community, Growth, Welcoming and Caring."



APRIL: MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

The Month of the Military Child in April recognizes the unique challenges 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. 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. The month of the Military Child recognizes the sacrifices and the courage of these young Americans.



NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

National Child Abuse Prevention Month, dedicated to raising awareness and implementing community-based solutions to support families and prevent child maltreatment before it occurs. National Child Abuse Prevention Month serves as a critical reminder that everyone has a role to play in ensuring children grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing environments.

How to Get Involved:

- Wear Blue: Participate in Wear Blue Day to show support and raise awareness.
- Learn and Share: Educate yourself and others on the signs of abuse and neglect, and the protective factors that help families.





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 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 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!

APRIL SCHEDULE:

- April 9th, 23rd, and 30th
@ Jack Marley Park, Angier





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[®]

with Ms. Katie!

- April 27th
494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn



Registration
NOT Required!

GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

TEMA DEL MES:

Saltar, Brincar, Correr



LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- Formas de apoyar el desarrollo de los músculos grandes y la coordinación de los niños (también conocidas como habilidades motoras gruesas)
- Por qué es importante que los niños desarrollen músculos grandes y coordinación

MENSAJES CLAVE:



1. Una de las áreas en las que los niños se desarrollan es en sus habilidades motoras gruesas, para que puedan rodar, sentarse, gatear, caminar, trepar, saltar y correr.
2. Nuestros niños necesitan oportunidades para aprender y practicar estas habilidades.
3. Los niños no necesitan un gimnasio ni equipo especial para hacer ejercicio. Muchos niños encontrarán de manera natural formas de moverse y estar activos.

LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:

- From Head to Toe, by Eric Carle
- Let's Dance, Little Pookie, by Sandra Boynton
- Barnyard Dance, by Sandra Boynton
- Animal Action ABC, by Karen Pandell & Art Wolfe

READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

THEME OF THE MONTH:

Hop, Jump, Run



CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- Ways to support the development of children's large muscles and coordination (also known as gross motor skills)
- Why it is important that children develop large muscles and coordination

KEY MESSAGES:

1. One of the areas in which children develop is in their gross motor skills so that they can roll, sit, crawl, walk, climb, jump and run.
2. Our children need opportunities to learn and practice these skills.
3. Children don't need a gym or special equipment to exercise. Many children will naturally find ways to move and be active.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- From Head to Toe, by Eric Carle
- Let's Dance, Little Pookie, by Sandra Boynton
- Barnyard Dance, by Sandra Boynton
- Animal Action ABC, by Karen Pandell & Art Wolfe

naeyc®

Week of the Young Child®

April 13th- 17th



Music Monday

Tasty Tuesday

Work Together Wednesday

Artsy Thursday

Family Friday



A LOOK BACK AT MARCH



EWE ARE THE BEST! 

