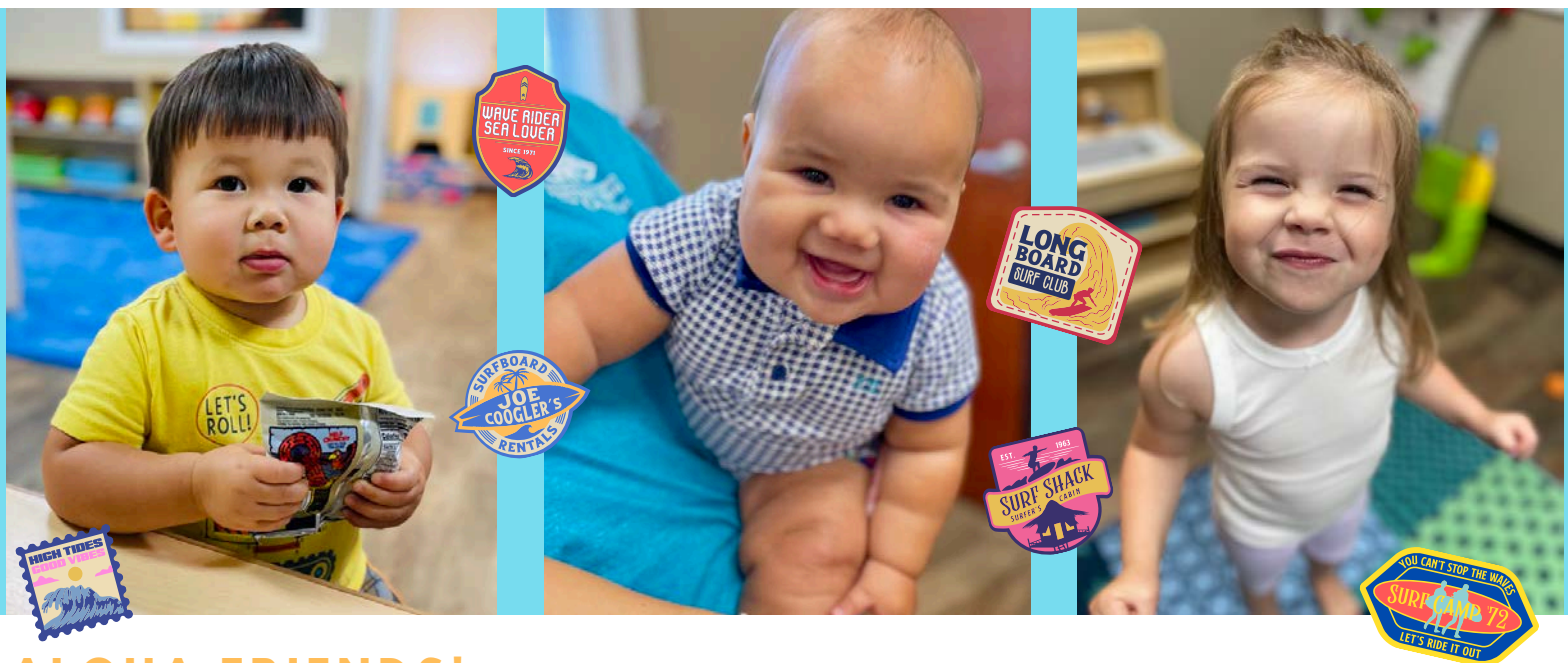




AUGUST 2026

HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



ALOHA FRIENDS!

Surf's Up! Aloha and welcome to a month full of sunshine, smiles, and *island-sized* fun! Like a *moana*-inspired adventure, there are new discoveries waiting around every wave. Whether you're *hanging ten* at Ready to Grow Playgroups, connecting with your Circle of Parents 'ohana, or cruising around the community with the Grow on the Go Playmobile, HCPC has plenty of opportunities for little ones to learn, play, grow, and thrive.

We're excited to share that Ready to Grow Playgroups are riding a new wave into Spout Springs! Our newest location in western Harnett County will help even more families discover the joy of play-based learning, build connections, and create memories close to home. We can't wait to welcome new families into our growing Ready to Grow 'ohana!

As many of our youngest learners begin their NC Pre-K journey this month, we're sending *warm island wishes* to children, families, and educators starting a brand-new school year. Whether your family is setting sail on a new adventure or riding familiar waves, HCPC is here to support you every step of the way.

So grab your *surfboard*, put on your *flower lei*, and *dive* into all the fun waiting inside! *Mahalo* to our families and community for being part of our HCPC 'ohana - we can't wait to share this August adventure with you!



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



October 29th: TRUCK-or-Treat: Join us for a touch-a-truck event that will also include trick-or-treating, crafts and activities for young children, community resources, and information! Food trucks will also be on-site, offering delicious lunch and snack options!



“Ohana means family, and family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.”



REGISTER YOUR CHILD
TODAY TO RECEIVE
FREE BOOKS!



www.harnettsmartstart.org

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, Family Navigation Coordinator

Kim Polinski, NC Pre-K Program Support Specialist

Lynda Turlington, Early Childhood Program Coordinator

Lena West, NC Pre-K Program Support Specialist

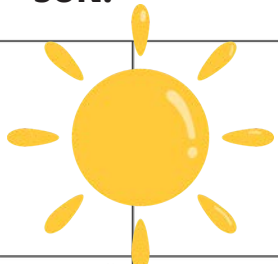
Katie Willoughby, Family Support Specialist



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

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

 - Spout Springs Ready to Grow Playgroup (RTG)
  - Circle of Parents (COP)

SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
  						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	10am - 11am: GOTG (Jack Marley Park, Angier)	9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	10am - 11am: GOTG (Jack Marley Park, Angier) 1:30pm – 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)	9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	10am - 11am: GOTG (Jack Marley Park, Angier) 1:30pm – 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)	9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)		
						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	10am - 11am: GOTG (Jack Marley Park, Angier) 1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)	9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	
30	31					
9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)				 		



LOCATIONS:

Erwin RTG & COP:
 494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn
 Jack Marley Park:
 126 N Willow St, Angier

Lillington COP & RTG Groups:
 170 Pine State St, Lillington
 Spout Springs RTG Groups:
 2297 NC-24, Cameron

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

EAKER FAMILY

How has participating in Circle of Parents helped you as a parent/caregiver?

It's helped me realize that every kid is different - learns differently and acts differently. It's also helped me by talking with other parents and trying to help each other through the difficulties that come with raising kids.

What does your children enjoy most about attending?

Playing with all the different toys available, seeing the staff and friends they have made along the way.

What would you tell another parent who is thinking about attending for the first time?

Definitely go! It's a great opportunity for the kids and parents alike to socialize, learn, and play. I feel like I tell a lot of parents about the Partnership and how great it is.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SERVICES (Daycare Assistance)

Due to the rising cost of childcare, the Subsidized Child Care Services Program provides financial assistance to eligible families for their child care needs. Each Year Harnett County receives an allocation from state and federal funds in order to provide this service. The program enables families to access child care and developmental experiences for children less than 13 years of age. Most families are required to pay a parent fee (percentage of the child care cost) to their child care provider, which is based on the family's gross income.



To learn more or apply visit: <https://tinyurl.com/bdcuyzu2>





Circle of Parents

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.

TUESDAYS:

9AM - 10:30AM & 11AM - 12:30PM
170 PINE STATE ST. LILLINGTON

WEDNESDAYS:

9:30AM - 11AM
494 ANTIOCH CHURCH RD. DUNN

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.



FAMILY NAVIGATION **New!**

The Family Navigation Program provides support to families with children from birth to age five who reside in Harnett County. The program helps families navigate community resources by offering referrals, follow-ups, and ongoing case management tailored to each family's unique needs. Through a personalized intake process, families identify their highest priority needs and develop goals while receiving assistance connecting to available community services and resources. The program also provides ongoing support to help families monitor their progress and achieve greater stability and success. For more information, call 910-893-2344.

El Programa de Navegación Familiar brinda apoyo a las familias con niños desde el nacimiento hasta los cinco años de edad que residen en el condado de Harnett. El programa ayuda a las familias a acceder y utilizar los recursos disponibles en la comunidad mediante referencias, seguimiento y gestión continua de casos, adaptados a las necesidades específicas de cada familia. A través de un proceso de evaluación personalizado, las familias identifican sus necesidades de mayor prioridad y establecen metas mientras reciben apoyo para conectarse con los servicios y recursos disponibles en la comunidad. El programa también ofrece apoyo continuo para ayudar a las familias a dar seguimiento a su progreso y alcanzar una mayor estabilidad y bienestar. Para obtener más información, 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!



AUGUST SCHEDULE: THURSDAYS / 10AM - 11AM @ JACK MARLEY PARK





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.

Erwin Playgroup: Mondays @ 9:30am - 11:30am

Erwin Grupo: Todos los lunes a las 9:30am - 11:30am

Lillington Playgroup: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays / 9:30am - 11:30am

Lillington Grupo: Lunes y viernes / 9:30am a 11:30am, miércoles / 9:30am - 11am

Spout Springs Playgroup: Thursdays @ 1:30pm - 3pm

Spout Springs Grupo: Todos los jueves a las 1:30pm - 3pm



MONTHLY HOME ACTIVITY - WHIPPED CREAM LETTER WRITING

Directions:

1. Spread a layer of whipped cream across the cookie sheet.
2. Model a letter and practice writing it together.
3. Encourage your child to use one finger to make letters in the whipped cream.
4. Wipe the tray smooth with your hand and try again as many times as you'd like!

Materials

- Cookie sheet / tray
- Whipped cream

Learning Benefits:

- Strengthens fine motor skills
- Encourages sensory exploration
- Supports letter recognition



GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

TEMA DEL MES:

Las Letras del Alfabeto



LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- Un paso importante para aprender a leer es comprender que las letras forman las palabras escritas y representan los sonidos de las palabras habladas.
- Estrategias para ayudar a sus hijos a familiarizarse con las letras del alfabeto.

MENSAJES CLAVE:

1. Antes de aprender a leer, nuestros niños necesitan aprender sobre las letras del alfabeto y que las letras:
 - Tienen nombres
 - Se ven diferentes unas de otras cuando están escritas
 - Representan sonidos específicos
2. Podemos ayudar a los niños a familiarizarse con las letras mediante la repetición y realizando actividades divertidas, como:
 - Leer libros del alfabeto que muestren las letras y ayuden a los niños a practicar cómo escuchar y decir el sonido que hace cada letra
 - Señalar las palabras escritas cuando leemos un libro juntos y pronunciar cada sonido de la palabra para demostrar los sonidos que representan las diferentes letras



LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:



- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, by Bill Martin
- Millie Waits For the Mail, by Alexander Steffensmeier
- ABC for You and Me, by Margaret Gurnis

READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

THEME OF THE MONTH:

Letters of the Alphabet



CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- That one step in learning to read is learning that letters make up written words and represent sounds in spoken words.
- Strategies to help their children become familiar with the letters of the alphabet.

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Before they learn to read, our children need to learn about the letters of the alphabet and that letters:
 - Have names
 - Look different from each other when they are written
 - Represent specific sounds
2. We can help children become familiar with letters through repetition and by using enjoyable activities such as:
 - Reading alphabet books that show the letter and that help children practice hearing and saying the sound that letter makes
 - Pointing out written words when we're reading a book together and sounding out the word to demonstrate the sounds the different letters make



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, by Bill Martin
- Millie Waits For the Mail, by Alexander Steffensmeier
- ABC for You and Me, by Margaret Gurnis

A LOOK BACK AT JULY

