



JULY 2026

HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



HELLO FRIENDS!

July is here, and HCPC is excited to kick off a brand-new fiscal year filled with opportunities for children and families across Harnett County!

We're kicking things off with a *bang* by unveiling new schedules for our Ready to Grow Playgroups and Circle of Parents programs. Families can also continue the summer fun with our Grow on the Go Playmobile - bringing play, learning, and smiles to neighborhoods throughout the community. We're also thrilled to introduce our new Family Navigation program, helping families navigate life's changes while building strong connections and bright futures.

As you enjoy fireworks, backyard barbecues, popsicles, and family fun this month, don't miss the chance to *spark* new adventures with HCPC! From learning and laughter to support and connection, we're here to help your family shine all summer long. Here's to a *star-spangled* July, a *sparkling* new fiscal year, and plenty of opportunities to celebrate, grow, and make memories together.

Here's to a July filled with sunshine, smiles, and plenty of opportunities to learn, play, and grow together!

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.

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on Facebook

@HarnettCountyPartnershipForChildren



on Instagram @hcopartnershipforchildren_



on TikTok @HarnettPartnershipForChildren



on YouTube @harnettcountypartnershipfo9443



LOCATIONS

Benhaven Public Library (BPL):

2815 Olivia Rd, Sanford

Dunn Public Library (DPL):

110 E. Divine St. Dunn

Erwin COP & RTG Groups:

494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn

Erwin Public Library (EPL):

110 W. F St. Erwin

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, 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

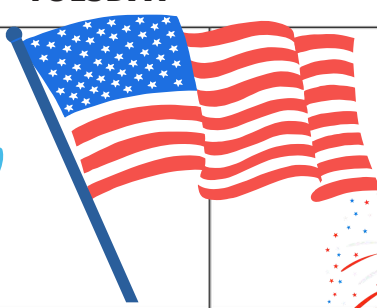
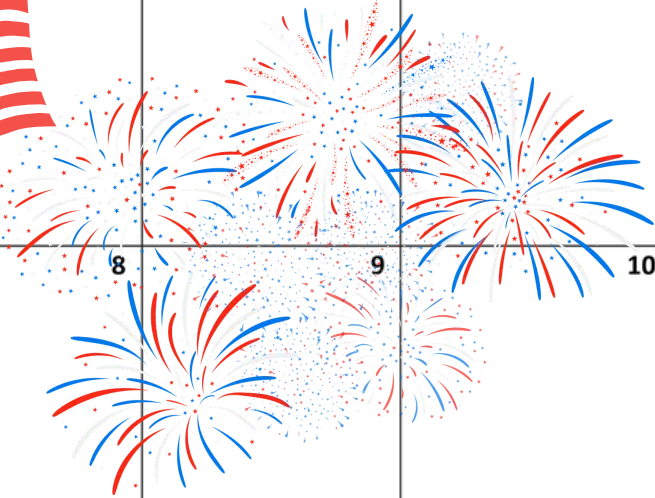


170 Pine State St, Lillington, NC 27546 / 910-893-2344 / www.harnettsmartstart.org



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

***Event addresses can be found on page 2.**

SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		10am – 11am: GOTG (BPL)				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am – 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)		9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 10am – 11am: GOTG (EPL) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	9:30am – 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am – 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)		9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am – 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)		9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 10am – 11am: GOTG (DPL) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	9:30am – 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am – 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)		9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
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)		9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	
						



JULY WITH FUN & PURPOSE:

JULY 19TH: NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY

National Ice Cream Day scoops up pure joy every third Sunday in July. This sweet holiday, established by President Reagan in 1984, celebrates a treat enjoyed by over 90 percent of Americans. Celebrate with a sweet family treat and turn it into a learning opportunity. Let your child practice counting scoops, naming colors and flavors, or talking about what they see, smell, and taste, because even ice cream time can help build language and early math skills!

2-Ingredient Banana Ice Cream

Ingredients:

- 2 ripe bananas, sliced and frozen
- 2-4 tablespoons milk (dairy or your favorite non-dairy milk)

yum!



Directions:

- Blend the frozen bananas with the milk until smooth and creamy.
- Enjoy immediately as soft serve, or freeze for 1-2 hours for a firmer scoop.
- For extra fun, let your child help add healthy toppings like fresh berries, sliced strawberries, or a sprinkle of cinnamon!

JULY 26TH: NATIONAL AUNT AND UNCLE'S DAY

It's the perfect time to celebrate the aunts, uncles, great-aunts, and great-uncles who help children feel loved, encouraged, and supported. Whether it's reading a favorite book together, playing at the park, or sharing a special family tradition, these moments create lasting memories and strengthen family bonds. Take a moment to say "thank you" to the special aunts and uncles who help children grow!



Using a pencil trace the lines to the stars!

JOKE OF THE MONTH:

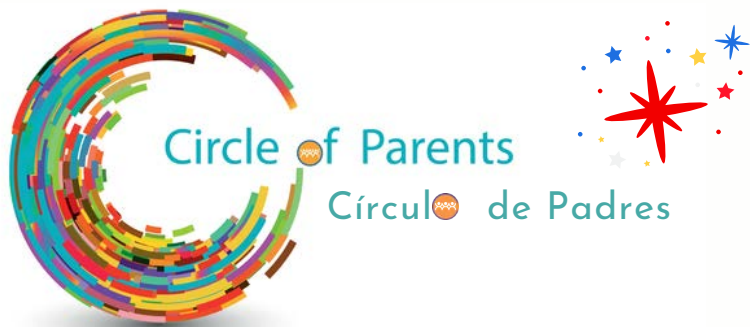
What do you get when you cross a stegasaurus and fireworks?

"Dino-mite"

FUN FACT:

The American flag features 13 stripes for the original colonies and 50 stars for today's states. Its colors also carry meaning:

- Red symbolizes bravery.
- White represents purity.
- Blue stands for justice and perseverance.



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

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.



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!

JULY SCHEDULE:

- July 7th / 10am - 11am
@ Benhaven Public Library
- July 14th / 10am - 11am
@ Erwin Public Library
- July 21st / 10am - 11am
@ Dunn Public Library





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



zumbini®

with Ms. Katie!



We're taking a break in July.
August Zumbini schedule coming soon!

Registration
NOT Required!

GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

TEMA DEL MES:

Posibilidades Infinitas



LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- La importancia del juego para apoyar el desarrollo infantil.
- Cómo el juego libre ayuda a los niños a desarrollar su creatividad, adquirir habilidades y ampliar sus conocimientos a su propio ritmo.

MENSAJES CLAVE:

1. El juego es el trabajo de los niños. Es la forma en que aprenden, descubren y llegan a comprender el mundo que los rodea.
2. Podemos fomentar el juego dándoles a los niños suficiente tiempo para jugar y explorar, además de jugar con ellos y conversar durante esas experiencias.
3. Algunas características del juego libre son: el niño decide qué sucede y cómo utilizar los materiales; no existe un resultado o producto predeterminado; y hay pocas reglas que seguir, o incluso ninguna.



LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:

- Not a Box, by Antoinette Portis
- Roxaboxen, by Alice McLerren
- Bear in Sunshine, by Stella Blackstone



READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

THEME OF THE MONTH:

Endless Possibilities



CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- About the importance of play in supporting a child's development
- That open-ended play can help children build creativity, skills and knowledge at their own pace.

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Play is a child's work. It is how they learn, discover, and come to understand the world.
2. We can encourage children to play by giving them plenty of time to play and explore and by playing and talking with the child.
3. Some hallmarks of open-ended play activities are: The player makes choices about what happens and how to use the materials. There is no pre-determined outcome or product of the play. There are few, if any, rules to follow.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Not a Box, by Antoinette Portis
- Roxaboxen, by Alice McLerren
- Bear in Sunshine, by Stella Blackstone





REGISTER YOUR CHILD
TODAY TO RECEIVE
FREE BOOKS!



www.harnettsmartstart.org

A LOOK BACK AT JUNE



**YOU'RE
A
STAR**

