



OCTOBER 2026
HCPC CONNECTIONS
HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



HAY THERE, OCTOBER!

The *crows* are *cawing*, the *scarecrows* are *standing tall*, and we're *caw-fidently* heading into a month packed with fun, connection, and community at HCPC. With so much happening, you might find yourself in a bit of a *caw-nundrum* trying to decide what to check out first!

Our Ready to Grow Playgroups are bringing play, learning, and connection to families in Erwin, Lillington, and Spout Springs, while Circle of Parents continues to bring parents together in Erwin and Lillington. And our Grow on the Go Playmobile will be rolling into Coats on Thursday mornings throughout October, bringing hands-on fun right into the community.

But wait, there's more! *Caw-n* you believe it? Our 4th Annual TRUCK-or-Treat is back on October 29th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This free touch-a-truck-style event pairs big trucks with trick-or-treating for children ages birth through 5 years old and their families. It's sure to be an *ex-straw-dinary* day filled with big wheels, little treats, and lots of smiles!

And if that doesn't stir up some *strawing* feelings, October also brings our 4th Annual Raise with Clays fundraiser. This annual skeet shoot helps support the work of HCPC, and we're incredibly grateful for the sponsors and teams who continue to show up for our mission. Their support helps us keep our programs and services growing for young children and families throughout Harnett County.



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.

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

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



REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY TO RECEIVE FREE BOOKS!



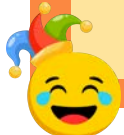
www.harnettsmartstart.org

KIDS' CORNER

What is a scarecrow's favorite fruit?



STRAWBERRIES!



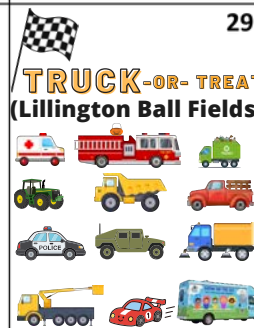
How many scarecrows can you find in this month's newsletter?

98

I'm a Little Scarecrow
(Tune: *I'm a Little Teapot*)

I'm a little scarecrow,
Raggedy and worn,
I wear a hat,
And my shirt is torn.
When the crows fly here,
I wave and shout,
"Away from my garden,
Get on out!"



SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
 				1 10am – 11:30am: GOTG (Lillington River Park) 1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)	2 9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	3
4	5 9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	6 9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	7 9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	8 10am – 11:30am: GOTG (Coats Public Library) 1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)	9 9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 	10
11	12 9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	13 9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	14 9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	15 10am – 11:30am: GOTG (Coats Public Library) 1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)	16 	17 
18 	19 9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	20 9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	21 9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) National Apple Day 	22 10am – 11:30am: GOTG (Coats Public Library) 1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)	23 9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (River Park) 	24
25	26 9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)	27 9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington) 11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)	28 9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin) 9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)	29 	30 9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington) 	31
	LOCATIONS: Coats Public Library: 29 E Main St, Coats, NC Lillington Ball Fields: 405 S. 1st St, Lillington River Park: 151 E. Duncan St, Lillington Erwin RTG & COP: 494 Antioch Church Rd, Dunn Lillington COP & RTG Groups: 170 Pine State St, Lillington Spout Springs RTG Groups: 2277 NC-24, Cameron					



KIDDO SPOTLIGHT

LIVELY, AGE 2

What is your favorite part about coming to playgroups?

“Ms. Whitney and the rollercoaster.”

What is your favorite thing to do at playgroup?

“I go in the kitchen.”

If you had a scarecrow, what would you put on its head?

“A spider.”

What would you name your scarecrow?

“Lucy.”

What kind of snack do you think your scarecrow would like?

“They might eat carrots, a bagel, or grapes!”



COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Children’s Developmental Services Agency of the SANDHILLS (CDSA)



The Children’s Developmental Services Agency of the Sandhills (CDSA) helps families connect with early intervention services for children from birth to age 3 who have developmental delays, disabilities, or other developmental concerns.

As part of the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program, CDSA works with families, caregivers, and professionals to help identify a child’s developmental needs and connect families with appropriate services and supports. Services may include developmental evaluation, service coordination, and connections to early intervention providers.

CDSA of the Sandhills serves families in Anson, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties.

Families or professionals with concerns about a child’s development can contact CDSA to learn more about the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program and available early intervention services at [910-621-6200](tel:910-621-6200).



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!



OCTOBER SCHEDULE: THURSDAYS / 10AM - 11:30AM @ COATS 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 / 9:30m - 11am

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

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



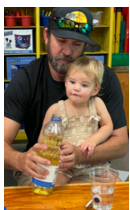
MONTHLY HOME ACTIVITY



Try this simple, colorful STEM activity at home! Children can watch what happens when the ingredients interact and explore cause and effect.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A clear cup
- Water
- Vegetable oil
- Food coloring
- 1 Alka-Seltzer tablet

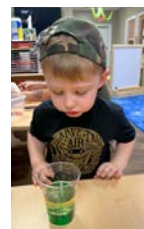


DIRECTIONS:

- Fill a clear cup about $\frac{1}{3}$ full with water.
- Add a small amount of vegetable oil.
- Add a drop of food coloring, watch it move through the liquids.
- Drop in one Alka-Seltzer tablet & watch the colorful bubbles!

Ask Your Child: What do you notice? What happens when the tablet is added? What do you think will happen next?

Safety Note: Always closely supervise children during this activity. Keep Alka-Seltzer tablets out of children's reach when not in use and make sure they are handled by an adult.



GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

TEMA DEL MES:

Evacuación por incendio



LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

- Qué hacer si escuchan sonar una alarma de humo
- Cómo crear un plan de evacuación en caso de incendio



MENSAJES CLAVE:

1. Es importante crear, compartir y practicar nuestro plan de evacuación del hogar con todas las personas que viven allí.
2. El plan de evacuación no tiene que ser complicado ni elegante. Lo más importante es que todas las personas en el hogar sepan dónde están las salidas.
3. Al crear su plan de evacuación, incluya:
 - 2 rutas de salida desde cada dormitorio.
 - Un lugar de encuentro designado y acordado, ubicado a una distancia segura del edificio, donde los miembros de la familia puedan reunirse.
4. Practique el plan de evacuación regularmente con su familia y con otras personas que viven en su hogar o que pasan mucho tiempo allí.



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:

Fire Evacuation



CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

- What to do if they hear a smoke detector go off
- How to create a fire evacuation plan

KEY MESSAGES:

1. It is important to create, share and practice our home evacuation plans with everyone that lives there.
2. The evacuation plan does not have to be complicated or fancy. The most important thing is that everyone in the home knows where the exits are.
3. When creating your evacuation plan, include:
 - 2 exit routes from each bedroom
 - A designated and agreed upon meeting spot a safe distance away from the building where family members can gather.
4. Practice the evacuation plan regularly with your family and other people that live in or spend a lot of time in your home.



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



2026

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 information and resources! 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
29**

A LOOK BACK AT SEPTEMBER

