



NOVEMBER 2026

HCPC CONNECTIONS

HARNETT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



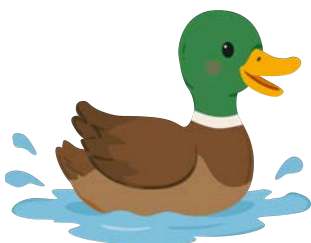
WADDLE WE BE THANKFUL FOR?

Welcome to the November *intro-duck-tion* of HCPC Connections! With Thanksgiving just around the corner, we've been taking a moment to *pond-er* all the things we have to be thankful for, and one of the biggest is the opportunity to serve the children and families of our community.

This month is filled with *quack-tastic* ways to learn, play, connect, and grow. At Ready to Grow Playgroups, little ones can enjoy *pro-duck-tive* play and hands-on learning while parents and caregivers connect with others. Circle of Parents provides a place for parents and caregivers to share, learn, and build their confidence together.

As we head into the holiday season, we're feeling like some pretty *lucky duckies*. We're thankful for the families who welcome us into their lives, the community partners who help make our programs possible, and everyone who believes in giving children a strong start. Each playgroup, conversation, activity, and community connection is one more opportunity to make a difference.

So, *water* you waiting for? Take a peek at what's happening around HCPC this month, get your *ducks in a row*, and join us for all the fun. We hope your November is full of good memories, meaningful connections, and plenty to be thankful for!



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 YouTube @harnettcountypartnershipfo9443

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



A LOOK BACK AT OUR 4TH ANNUAL RAISE WITH CLAYS FUNDRAISER!

Thank you to all our sponsors and participating teams!



SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
<div>1</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington)</div> <div>11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)</div>	<div>4</div> <div>9:30am - 11am: COP (Erwin)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div>	<div>5</div> <div>1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div> </div>	<div>7</div>
<div>8</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</div> <div> </div>	<div>9</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9am - 10:30am: COP (Lillington)</div> <div>11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)</div>	<div>11</div> <div>HCPC Closed</div> <div> </div>	<div>12</div> <div>1:30pm - 3pm: RTG (Spout Springs)</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div>	<div>14</div>
<div>15</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div>	<div>19</div> <div>11am - 12:30pm: Turkeys & Tots (River Park, Lillington)</div> <div> </div>	<div>20</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div> </div>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <div> </div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>11am - 12:30pm: COP (Lillington)</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>HCPC Closed</div> <div> </div>	<div>27</div> <div>HCPC Closed</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9:30 - 11:30am: RTG (Lillington)</div> <div>9:30am - 11:30am: RTG (Erwin)</div> <div> </div>	<div>NOVEMBER</div>				



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

CLOUD FAMILY

What encouraged you to give Circle of Parents and Ready to Grow Playgroups a try for the first time?

“Our first visit was at the special Christmas event where I met some of the staff and found out about all of the programs that were offered. I ended up going to the next playgroup and fell in love with the place and staff. Everyone was so warm and welcoming!”

Have you noticed any changes in your child since participating in playgroups, such as new skills, increased confidence, or social interactions?

“Madi was one when we started coming. She has just become so much more confident. I have loved seeing her make such good friends and interact!”

What led you to participate in Circle of Parents, and what has your experience been like?

“Once I got to know the staff and realized Madi would be in such a safe place, I tried COP. IT HAS BEEN LIFE CHANGING! I have had a rough year postpartum with Cami. She was a very angry baby. Pretty sure during one COP, every mom in there held her so I could have a break. Dealing with postpartum depression and then major surgery this past year, I don’t know how I would of survived without COP.”

How has connecting with other parents and caregivers impacted you or your parenting journey?

“I was introduced to Jessica at my first playgroup because we had just found out we were expecting baby #2 and 2 under 2 sounded absolutely terrifying! We and our kids are now the best of friends! I have made some of the best friends through the partnership!”

What is one thing you wish more parents and caregivers knew about these programs?

“That they are free! We are so incredibly lucky to have these programs offered through the partnership!”

What would you say to a family who is thinking about joining one of our programs but hasn’t taken that first step yet?

“You won’t regret it! The partnership and staff have truly changed my life. I will be forever grateful for all of the love and support!”





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!



Nov. 14th / 10am - 2pm: Harnett County Ag Day (301 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd, Lillington)



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



REGISTER YOUR CHILD
TODAY TO RECEIVE
FREE BOOKS!



www.harnettsmartstart.org

"Everywhere I go, the kids call me 'the book lady.' It makes me feel like I've done something good with my life and with my success."

- Dolly Parton

GRUPO DE JUEGOS LISTO PARA CRECER

READY TO GROW PLAYGROUP

TEMA DEL MES:

Actividades cotidianas (hacer las compras, cocinar, bañarse, vestirse)



LOS CUIDADORES APRENDERÁN:

Que las actividades cotidianas, como vestirse, hacer las compras, cocinar y bañarse, pueden convertirse en oportunidades de aprendizaje.

- Estrategias para incluir a los niños en las actividades cotidianas.



MENSAJES CLAVE:

Durante las actividades cotidianas, podemos ayudar a los niños a desarrollar una variedad de habilidades nuevas, como la motricidad fina y gruesa, las habilidades sociales y las habilidades de autocuidado. Las actividades cotidianas también fomentan la alfabetización y ofrecen experiencias sensoriales.



LIBROS RECOMENDADOS:

- Supermarket by Charlotte Doyle
- Bebé Goes Shopping by Susan Middleton Elya
- Don't Forget the Bacon by Pat Hutchins
- At the Supermarket by Anne Rockwell

THEME OF THE MONTH:

Everyday Activities (Grocery shopping, cooking, bath time, getting dressed)



CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN:

That every day activities such as getting dressed, going grocery shopping, cooking and bath time can be learning activities.

- Strategies to include children in every day activities



KEY MESSAGES:

During every day activities we can help children learn a variety of new skills such as: Fine, gross motor, social, and self-care. Every day activities also support literacy and offer sensory experiences.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Supermarket by Charlotte Doyle
- Bebé Goes Shopping by Susan Middleton Elya
- Don't Forget the Bacon by Pat Hutchins
- At the Supermarket by Anne Rockwell



MONTHLY HOME ACTIVITIES:

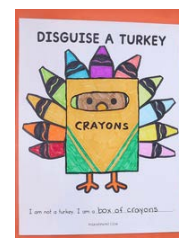
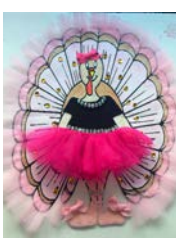
GROCERY LIST

Have your child help make a shopping list and help check off the items using a crayon or marker as you get them in the store.



TURKEY IN DISGUISE

Pick up a turkey template from HCPC during playgroups or office hours! Use crayons, markers, and other art supplies to create a fun disguise for your turkey. Let your child's creativity shine and help your turkey stay undercover!





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

42

Why did the duck fall down on the sidewalk?



HE TRIPPED ON A QUACK!

Waddle, Waddle, Little Duck

(Tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Waddle, waddle, little duck,
Quack along the way!
Paddle, paddle, in the pond,
Have a ducky day!



A LOOK BACK AT OCTOBER

