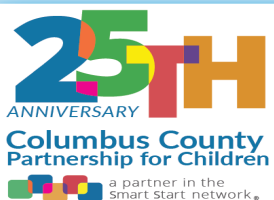


Early Years Are Learning Years



Celebrating the Week of **THE YOUNG CHILD** April 2-8, 2022



In celebration of the “Week of the Young Child” and to bring attention to April as “Child Abuse Prevention Month,” Smart Start is pleased to present this special section focusing on the care, health and development of young children.



Did You Know?

- Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start), is celebrating it's 25th anniversary this year. The Partnership convenes stakeholders and families to discuss and resolve issues that impact the education, health, literacy and well-being of young children and their families.

- The Partnership also administers Smart Start funds appropriated from the state legislature to support local programs that benefit children ages birth to 5 and their families living in Columbus County.

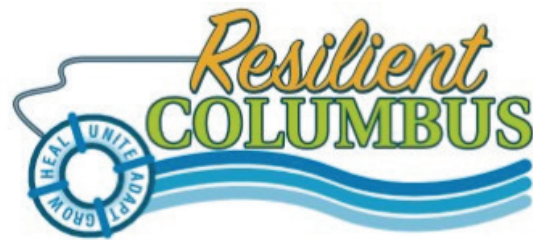
- Over the years the Partnership has offered evidence-based programs such as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Quality Enhancement for childcare providers, Raising A Reader, Reach Out and Read (in partnership with local pediatricians), the Early Learning Facility (ELF) Lending Library, Smart Start Subsidy for child care, Transportation for expectant mothers and children ages birth to five without Medicaid, WAGE\$ supplement for teachers; Ready, Set, Go! behavioral support; and Parents as Teachers for teen parents. Columbus County Partnership for Children (CCPC) is launching three new grant funded programs.

- Ready and Resilient Children, funded by United Way of the Cape Fear Area and the North Carolina Community Foundation (Healing Communities Fund), is a program dedicated to building resilience in children as well as promoting early childhood literacy and targets all children, especially those in community- and family-member care.

- Family Engagement and Leadership is a Preschool Development Grant funded project that seeks to engage family leaders and community stakeholders as a coalition to impact decisions and policy-making at local and state levels.

- Ready and Resilient Families and Communities, funded by Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, is a program focused on building awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), toxic stress and resilience in an effort to decrease incidents of child abuse and neglect.

The Columbus County Partnership for Children seeks to provide the options and resources necessary for children and their families to lead healthy, happy and productive lives and we could not do that without the support we receive from our funders.



Resilient Columbus, funded by Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, is a coalition of stakeholders and family leaders who address the issues of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and building resiliency in Columbus County by educating within the community. Flyers and brochures are being circulated and informational sessions are being provided to the faith community, school systems, and local agencies. The

coalition also offers virtual and in-person screenings of the film, Resilience –The Biology of Stress and The Science of Hope. The goal of Resilient Columbus is that all families, businesses, service organizations and faith communities in Columbus County are trauma informed and resilient. For more information about the coalition or how to register for a film screening or information session, contact Sherry Baldwin at 910-642-8226 Ext. 109. Follow Resilient Columbus on Facebook at Columbus County Resiliency Task Force.

Need a ride to a medical appointment?

Children ages birth to five and expectant mothers who do not have Medicaid reimbursable transportation can ride free of charge to medical appointments by scheduling a ride with Columbus County Transportation. This service, which is free to qualified families, is funded through Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start). To check eligibility or to schedule a ride, call Columbus County Transportation at 910-642-7201.



Children are like seeds... they need help to grow up well.

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Columbus County Family Engagement and Leadership Coalition 'Children First Columbus'

A Family Engagement and Leadership Coalition, Children First Columbus, has been formed to focus on uniting family leaders with agencies that offer services to families with young children. The coalition is composed of family leaders and community stakeholders who are working together to bring the family leader's stories to light so that relationships, services, and policies can be improved and/or created to meet the needs of families with children ages birth to 5-years old.

Family partnerships create improved system-, program-, family-, and child-level outcomes across early childhood sectors. Early childhood sectors include local and state government agencies and legislators; non-profit and private community agencies, faith-based and

advocacy agencies, researchers, technical assistance providers, and higher education institutions.

"The strength of our community lies in the stories of its citizens," stated Dr. Selena Rowell, executive Director of CCPC. "This creates an opportunity for community service, civic and other agencies throughout the county to work with local families to strengthen policies and practices that affect young children and ultimately entire families," she concluded.

To fully implement the North Carolina Early Childhood Family Engagement and Leadership Framework into Columbus County, the coalition invites family leaders and stakeholders from all sectors of the county to volunteer to become members of the coalition and help develop plans,



Pictured, left to right, are Lisa Clewis (Family Leadership & Engagement Coordinator), and family leaders Jennifer Stringfield, Alyssa Lewis, Andrea Jacobs Rofail, and Di'Shena Peterson.

and provide community support and resources in the community.

For more information about

the Family Engagement and Leadership project, call Lisa Clewis, at 910-212-4689 or email lisa.clewis@columbusmartstart.org

start.org or contact Sherry Baldwin at 910-642-8226 Ext. 109, or email sherry.baldwin@columbusmartstart.org.

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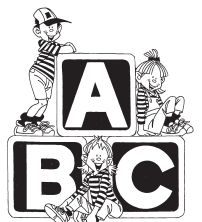
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Week of the Young Child 2022 virtual events

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year our activities and videos will be posted virtually on Columbus County Partnership for Children's website at www.columbusmartstart.com and Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) Facebook page @ColumbusSmartStart.

Schedule of Events

Movement Monday, April 4

Join us virtually as Pamela Young Jacobs, Tribal Chairwoman of the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe demonstrates traditional dancing and teaches us about their indigenous culture!

Tasty Tuesday, April 5

It is time to talk about healthy nutrition and eating healthy! Meleah Collier, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent from the NC Cooperative Extension of Columbus County will teach us in a virtual video

how to make healthy eating choices and she will show us how to make a colorful delicious healthy snack that can easily be made right in your own home!

Work Together Wednesday, April 6

Tune in virtually as we work together with Brian Wuertz of The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville to offer you an educational virtual experience to learn more about butterflies!

Artsy Thursday, April 7

Get ready to be creative and virtually join Sally Mann of the Columbus County Arts Council as she demonstrates a fun art project! Allowing your child to be creative and imaginative helps them grow intellectually, socially, emotionally and even physically.



Family Friday, April 8

It's family time! Family members play an important role as young children's first and most important teachers. Join us for a virtual story time then find a cozy corner in your home and spend some time reading together. There are many advantages to reading to your child including strengthening your bond, increasing their vocabulary, improving cognitive development, enhancing focus and boosting memory.



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Good oral health starts early

By JUGTA KAHAI, MD, FAAP
Advanced Pediatrics, Whiteville, NC

Tooth decay (dental caries or cavities) is one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in the United States. The good news is there are ways to prevent it.

Even the tiniest teeth can decay. There are habits you can start now to keep your baby's teeth healthy.

Who can get tooth decay?

Everyone, even babies, can get tooth decay. Some things put children at more risk, such as living in poverty, being in an ethnic or racial minority group, or having special health care needs. There are other reasons a child could be high risk.

- The child's mother or main caregiver had tooth decay in the past 12 months or does not have a regular source of dental care.
- There are white spots on the child's teeth. These spots are a sign that the tooth is losing calcium and minerals that keep it strong.
- There are tan, brown or black spots or you see holes (pits) on the teeth. This is a sign that the tooth is decaying.

How water helps

• Fortunately, your family's tap water probably has fluoride added to it. Fluoride is a safe and useful cavity-fighting ingredient that has been added to drinking water since 1945.

• Fluoride is a natural mineral that can slow down or stop cavities from forming. When you drink water every day, the fluoride makes it hard for bacteria in your mouth to make acid. Fluoride also rebuilds tooth enamel (the outer layer of the tooth) and it even makes teeth stronger.

• Check with your local water utility agency to find out if your water has fluoride. The health benefits work when the drinking water has 0.7 mg/L of fluoride. If your community water supply does not have fluoride or you live on a private well, ask your doctor if you should get a prescription for fluoride drops or chewable tablets for your child.

Fluoride toothpaste

As soon as your baby's first tooth erupts, it's time to start using fluoride toothpaste. Here's how to do it:

- Use a tiny smear --- the size of a grain of rice --- until age 3. Clean the teeth at least twice a day. It's best to clean them right after breakfast and before bedtime.
- Use a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste when your child is 3 years old. Teach your child to spit without rinsing.
- It is best if you put the toothpaste on the toothbrush until your child is about age 6.
- As your child gets older let her use her own toothbrush. Until children are 7 or 8 years old, you will need to help them brush twice a day for at least 2 minutes. Try brushing their teeth first and then letting them finish.

A toothbrush should be the last thing to touch your child's teeth every night....

Do not put your baby to bed with a bottle at night or at naptime. It is also not a good idea to let your baby use a bottle filled with a sweet drink or dip your baby's pacifier in anything sweet like sugar or honey. If you do put your baby to bed with a bottle, fill it only with water. You can give your baby about 4-8 ounces of water per day starting at around 6 months.

Remember

Oral health starts early. Be ready to discuss your family's plan for a "dental home." All children need access to a dentist for regular care.

More Fruits and Vegetables for Women and Children



As the weather warms, we begin to think of more outdoor activities. Those might include grilling some of your favorite vegetables (and possibly fruits). Over the last year, the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) has increased the amount allowed for the Cash Value Benefits (CVB) used to buy fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables. Originally, the increase was a part of the American Rescue Plan that was a part of legislation enacted as a response to Covid-19. Most recently, President Biden signed into law an Omnibus Budget package which includes an increased amount children and women receive for their CVB. Children (ages 1-5) receive \$24/month in CVB's per month to purchase fruits & vegetables. Pregnant women and non breastfeeding postpartum women receive \$43/month. Breastfeeding postpartum women receive \$47/month. This increase will last until September 30, 2022. Congress and the president then have the choice to pass legislation to extend the increase, make the increase permanent or reduce the amount offered to women and children to previous amounts (\$9/month for children, \$11/month for women).

Remember that WIC program is much more than a food give-away. WIC clients receive physical assessment, nutrition education and tailored food packages. The goal is to promote healthy life-styles that support better outcomes for some of our at-risk neighbors.

The **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children** (WIC) is a public health nutrition program designed to influence lifetime nutrition and health behaviors. The program is federally

funded to serve low to moderate-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. WIC serves over 1500 clients who receive assessment, nutrition education and approved healthy foods in Columbus County each month.

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audio-tape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they can apply for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information is available in languages other than English.

For more information about WIC in Columbus County, call 910-641-3904 or visit the Columbus County Website (www.Columbusco.org) For the latest general information about the WIC program benefits and requirements, visit: www.nutritionnc.com or come see us at the Columbus County Health Department.



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**Week of the
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Advanced Pediatrics is committed to providing more than quality pediatric healthcare to the children of Columbus County and surrounding communities. We realize that our role goes beyond providing checkups, flu shots or treating children when they feel under the weather. We are here to make sure that children are healthy, so that early learning can happen in their lives.

This week we salute the teachers, families and communities that are still making early learning possible!

Advanced Pediatrics 
Columbus Regional Healthcare System

Elizabeth DeLouise, DO

Jugta Kahai, MD, FAAP

Ashlee Pinion-Raby, FNP-C

Cassandra Schimmoeller, PNP-C

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We're still here supporting communities in strengthening N.C. families

BY: KRIS DEMERS,
Prevent Child Abuse N.C. Communications Manager

All children need safe, stable, nurturing environments and relationships to thrive. Science tells us that positive experiences and caring connections are vital in creating healthy brains that form a sturdy foundation for children's future development. We all have a chance, every day, to nurture the supportive relationships everyone needs to build resilience – at any age.

But the COVID-19 pandemic put many families under great stress, like economic insecurity and social isolation. The caring connections that parents and children would confide in, learn from, vent to, laugh with, lean on, and love who lived outside the household were reduced to virtual connections, or even became nonexistent for a while in the early days of the pandemic.

Just like a car can only bear so much weight before it stops moving forward, challenging life circumstances can overburden families, making it hard for them to provide the best kinds of care and support. To prevent a breakdown in care, we can all do our part to keep the weight of heavy stressors from weighing families down.

Both parental stress and social isolation are risk factors for abuse and neglect. But what if we focused on getting ahead of the issue? What if we, as adults, all saw ourselves as key players in changing outcomes for the future, today? Imagine the possibilities for future generations if we took it upon ourselves to increase the factors that foster the safe, stable, nurturing environments North Carolina's children need.

The protective factors are conditions in families and communities that, when present, increase the health and well-being of children and families. Research has shown that the protective factors are linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect.

The five protective factors are:

1. Parental Resilience
2. Social Connections
3. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
4. Social and Emotional Competence in Children
5. Concrete Supports in Times of Need
6. During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina (PCANC) was still here, equipping communities with the knowledge, support, and resources to make child maltreatment prevention a priority in North Carolina. In partnership with North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, PCANC created the COVID-19 Parent & Caregiver Guide and an accompanying Social Media Toolkit, both in English and Spanish, to help families navigate the challenges inflicted on them during the pandemic. The guide also includes tips for community members to help unload some of those weights from the families.

7. But without someone like you, the guide is just a document at the ready to help the next family and community. It takes you, the caring adult, to see yourself as the invaluable piece of the puzzle that can build community and strengthen families. It takes you, the neighbor, teacher, friend, and family-member, to choose to get ahead of the issue, before it ever occurs, unleashing all children's untapped potential.

8. We're still here – and we're glad you are, too!

*Permission to reprint by Kris Demers (she/hers)
Director of Communications and Marketing for Prevent Child
Abuse North Carolina*

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To learn more about this Smart Start activity, call 642-7201 (Columbus County Transportation).

The Imagination Library

The Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library are still working together to get books into the hands of each eligible child in Columbus County.

Research has shown that "children who are read to at an early age are more successful in school and that reading aloud to infants and children encourages social, emotional and cognitive development. The ability to learn language skills is greatest before the age of six and children who are read to have bigger vocabularies when they enter school." Adults who read just one book a day with a child will reach 1,000 books in less than three years. <https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/>

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was first launched in 1995 in singer, actress and author Dolly Parton's home state of Tennessee. Her vision

included promoting a love of reading in preschool aged children as well as their families. She wanted every child to have books regardless of their family's income. Thanks to the Imagination Library, many families across Columbus County enjoy receiving their child's monthly book.

In 2021, 24,519 books were mailed to Columbus County Children and nearly 90,000 total books since the program's inception. This year, Smart Start celebrated the milestone of providing 10 Million books to children statewide since 2017.

One Columbus County mom, Kayla Hinson, stated, "We love receiving our monthly books for our daughter! Such a joy to see her face light up when we open a new book and read together as a family! This program is such a blessing to children everywhere and we appreciate our county's part-

nership with Imagination Library."

All children, ages birth to 5 years old (children must be within 10 weeks of their fifth birthday to receive books) who are residents of Columbus County are eligible to participate. The number of books each child receives will depend on the age of the child at registration. Children can potentially collect a 60-volume set of books between the birth to age five timeframe. Eligible children will receive high-quality, age appropriate books mailed directly to their home each month until their fifth birthday. This project is made possible through funding appropriated by the North Carolina Legislature.

For more information about the Imagination Library and how to register, contact Gloria Riddick, at gloria.riddick@columbusmartstart.org or 910-642-8226 Ext. 110.

Smart Start Education Awards

Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) Education Award offers local, qualifying individuals financial support in completing classes in the Early Childhood or related fields.

As part of the Partnership's commitment to the improvement of early care and education quality, the education awards encourage higher education among child care professionals. Sixteen teachers, representing nine early childhood education programs, received education awards for courses completed during summer & fall semesters of 2021. Of the recipients, one earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Birth-Kindergarten Education, another is working towards a Birth-Kindergarten Add-On Licensure, three are working towards a Bachelor of Science

Degree in Birth-Kindergarten Education, and 11 are working towards Early Childhood Associate Degrees. The financial support provided by the Education Awards serves to diminish the financial barrier that often delays or prevents the completion of an educational program.

Following are comments from recent recipients of education awards.

"Receiving an education award will help me by giving me the motivation to want to continue my education in the Early Childhood Education field. The education award helps me provide new materials for my class as well" said A.R. Singletary, with Child Care Professionals.

"This education award will

Continued on page 10

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Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

Supported by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Opioid STR/Cures (Grant #1H79T080257) and SPFF-RX (Grant #1U79P022087).

Education

Continued from page 9

assist me to pay on bills (especially medical ones) and gas for upcoming classes. This award has made me feel better about myself as an educator. Not only am I learning; but I'm getting paid while I do it" said C. Mitchell, with Beverly's Day Care Center.

The Smart Start Education Award not only benefits the recipients, but also the child care programs where the recipients are employed. Early educators working with children ages birth

to five years old at any star-rated, temporarily licensed or GS110 childcare facility in Columbus County may be eligible to apply. Transcripts must be submitted with all applications. Applications for the Spring 2022 awards are due May 27, 2022.

For applications and additional information about the education award process, contact Sandra Newkirk at sandra.newkirk@columbusmartstart.org or call 910-499-4547.

Support for teen moms and babies in Columbus County

The Early Parenthood Program (EPP) offered by the YWCA of Lower Cape Fear provides services to expectant or parenting teen moms in Columbus County. The program was created in partnership with the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the NC Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives and works in collaboration with the Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start). EPP works with pregnant and parenting teens ages 12-19 to provide direct services and one-on-one support through virtual home visits, individualized goal plans, intensive case

management services, and group educational sessions. The program empowers young mothers with the tools they need to stay in school, build a strong, healthy future for their families, and reduce repeat teen pregnancies.

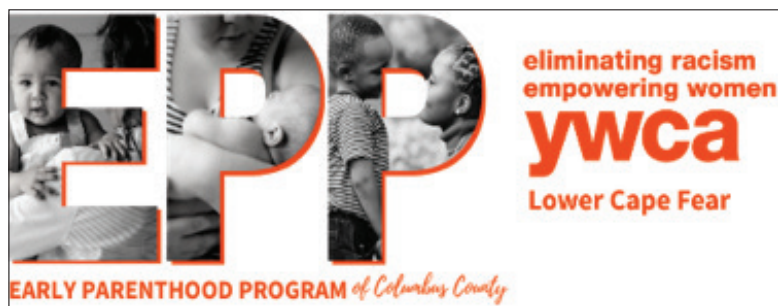
Here is what a recent participant shared about her experience in EPP:

"Thank you so much for providing me everything you have through the Early Parenthood Program. I decided to participate in the Early Parenthood Program as a way to connect with other teen moms. I also received a support group! The resources, and direct contacts with services have been a huge help. I have

tons of access due to this program to help with college, work, my child's early education, and more. At visits I receive in-

formation about the development of my child, building my relationship with my child, and/or helpful tips regarding my child's safety and learning. Early Parenthood has provided for all my needs and gone above and beyond to provide the best for me and my child. I am beyond grateful! "

Participation in the Early Parenthood Program is free. EPP is currently enrolling new participants. If you would like more information, or know a young woman who could benefit from the YWCA's Early Parenthood Program, contact Kathy Robson, Program Coordinator at epp@ywca-lowercapefear.org or 910-520-4816.



management services, and group educational sessions. The program empowers young mothers with the tools they need to stay in school, build a strong, healthy future for their families, and reduce repeat teen pregnancies.

EPP provides access to prenatal and community resources and helps mothers develop strong parenting skills to raise healthy and school-ready children. Eligible mothers must be attending school or be enrolled in a High School equivalency program and live in Columbus County.

EPP participants receive support and incentives to complete their educa-

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

...a time for communities to come together to build caring connections, supportive environments, and positive life experiences for all children

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, the Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Columbus County a better place for children and families.

By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by creating strong and thriving children, youth, and families in our communities. Research shows that protective factors are present in healthy families. Promoting these factors is among the most effective ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. The factors are:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional competence of children

April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children and strengthening families. In support of these efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, the FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention and over 30 national prevention partners have created 2021/2022 Prevention Resource Guide: Strong and Thriving Families.

The resource guide, designed for service providers who work throughout the community to support families, is available online at https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/guide_2021.pdf.

Friday, April 1st is Wear Blue Day! This is a way that you can be a connection to strengthen families and help them thrive. Show your blue by posting pictures on your Facebook page and tagging Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) and hashtag: #WearBlueDay & #BeAConnection on your social media.

Pinwheels gardens represent the efforts to focus on community activities that support families along with public policies that prioritize prevention from the beginning of life to make sure child abuse and neglect never occur. Pinwheels are great reminders of how important it is to support children and their families!

Columbus County Partnership for Children

a partner in the smart start network.

109 W. Main Street
Whiteville, N.C. 28472
910-642-8226

Columbus County Partnership for Children Activities 2021-2022

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides books to children living in Columbus County. Each month, children ages birth to five, who are registered for the program receive a brand new book mailed directly to their homes. The books are free of charge to the family. For more information, call 910-212-6352.

Quality Enhancement Project

This project helps licensed child care programs increase the level of star rated licensure and the level of provider education. Professional Development services are also available for facilities that complete an Educational Facility Plan. Teachers in these facilities who are attending school may be eligible for Educational Awards. For assistance, call 910-642-8226.

Raising A Reader

Raising A Reader helps child care providers work with families to build and maintain the home-based language and literacy experiences young children need for later school success. By rotating high quality children's literature into homes each week, Raising A Reader's research-based program helps children and parents develop the habit of "book cuddling." Families also build the connections to libraries that result in lasting family literacy habits and improved outcomes for children. For assistance, call 910-642-8226.

Reach Out and Read

Reach Out and Read prepares America's youngest children to succeed by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourages families to read together. At each well child visit, children between the age of six months and five years receive brand new, age and developmentally appropriate books to keep and

their parents receive guidance on the importance of reading aloud to their children. For assistance, call 910-642-8226.

Ready, Set, Go!

This activity provides early identification of special needs and enhances the provision of early intervention services to ensure positive outcomes for all children ages birth to five in child care settings. For assistance, call 910-618-9260.

Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF)

The Early Learning Facility provides child development resources which parents and providers can use to enhance the early care and education of young children. A variety of children's books, videos, topic resource books, resource kits and toys, a computer with Internet access and other resources are available to library members at a nominal fee. Training and workshops are offered as well as consumer materials in Spanish. For assistance, call 910-212-6352.

Smart Start Subsidy

This scholarship program provides assistance with the cost of child care to qualified parents with children ages birth to five. For assistance, call 910-642-3178.

Transportation

Expectant mothers and children ages birth to five who are not eligible for Medicaid reimbursable transportation can be transported to and from medical appointments. For assistance, call Joy Jacobs at 910-642-7201.

WAGES

This project provides child care professionals with education-based salary supplements and addresses teacher turnover and increased teacher educational levels. For assistance, call Allison Miller at 919-967-3272.

Biblioteca de imaginación de Dolly Parton

La Biblioteca de Imagination de Dolly Parton ofrece libros para niños que viven en el Condado de Columbus. Cada mes, los niños de entre 5 y 5 años de edad, que están registrados en el programa, reciben un libro nuevo enviado directamente a sus hogares. Los libros son gratuitos para la familia. Para más información, llame al 910-212-6352.

Proyecto del realce de calidad

Este proyecto ayuda a los programas de cuidado infantil certificados a incrementar el nivel de rendimiento y el nivel de educación proveída. Servicios profesionales del desarrollo están disponibles para facilidades que completen un Plan Educativo. Maestros en estas facilidades que asisten a las escuelas pueden ser elegibles para resivir un Premio Educativo. Llame 910-642-8226.

Creando un lector

Esta actividad con los centros de cuidado infantil o guarderías con licencias promueve el intercambio diario de libros entre los padres y sus hijos. Cada niño recibirá una brillante bolsa roja llena de libros de alta calidad, libros apropiados para la edad de sus hijos que se rotaran semanalmente. Llame 910-642-8226.

Lee y Alcanzaras

Lee y alcanzaras prepara a los niños más pequeños de Estados Unidos a tener éxito en su futuro, esto lo hacen asociándose con los medicos que prescriben libros a sus pacientes para alentar a las familias a leer juntos. En cada visita para su chequeo físico anual, los niños entre la edad de seis meses y cinco años reciben libros nuevos apropiados para su desarrollo y los padres reciben también orientación sobre la importancia de leerle a sus hijos. Para más información llame 910-642-8226

¡En sus marcas, listos, fuera!

Esta actividad provee temprana identificación de las necesidades especiales y mejora la temprana intervención en los servicios y asegurar resultados positivos para todos los niños desde la edad del nacimiento hasta los cinco años en los centros de cuidado infantil o guarderías. Llame 910-618-9260.

Smart Start Centro de Aprendizaje Temprano

La centro de aprendizaje temprano provee recursos de desarrollo infantil que padres y proveedores pueden usar para el crecimiento del cuidado y la educación temprana para los bebés y niños. La variedad de libros para niños, videos, libros con temas de recursos, artículos y juguetes, computadora con acceso al internet y otros recursos que están disponibles para los miembros de la centro a un minimo pago. Entrenamientos y cursos como

también materiales en español. Llame 910-212-6352.

Smart Start Subsidio

Este programa de becas provee asistencia con los costos para el cuidado de niños para calificar padres con niños desde la edad del nacimiento hasta los cinco años. Llame 910-642-3178.

Transportacion

Madres embarazadas y con niños recién nacidos hasta la edad de cinco años que no son elegibles para el reembolso del Medicaid también pueden ser transportadas, y para sus citas medicas. Llame Joy Jacobs en 910-640-7201.

Pagos

Este proyecto provee de profesionales del cuidado infantil, suplementos educación-basada del sueldo y trata volumen de ventas del profesor y niveles de enseñanza, crecimientos del profesor. Llame Allison Miller en 919-967-3272.

CCPC Staff and Telephone Numbers

Selena Rowell – Executive Director	910-499-4548
Charmaine Blue-Singletary – Program Coord.	910-499-4545
Sandra Newkirk – Quality Enhancement	910-499-4547
Lisa Clewis – Community Outreach	910-212-4689
Jennifer Wallace – Early Learning Facility ELF	910-212-6352
Gloria Riddick - Imagination Library	910-642-8226
Sherry Baldwin - Resilient Columbus	910-642-8226
Alyssa Lewis - Ready & Resilient Children	910-642-8226
Frankye Boone - Resilient Families & Communities	910-499-4546
Latrinda Pierce - Resilient Families & Communities	910-499-4549
Kathy Robson - YWCA-EPP (Parents as Teachers)	910-212-4010

Columbus County Partnership for Children
109 West Main Street, Whiteville, N.C. 28472

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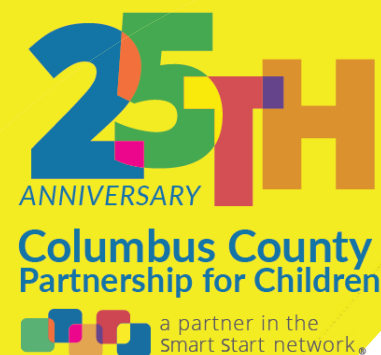
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Smart Start Focus on Literacy

Let's Read Columbus!



Smart Start Receives IP Foundation Grant



International Paper Riegelwood Mill awarded Columbus County Partnership for Children \$2,000 to purchase books and materials for 'Let's Read Columbus,' a county-wide literacy awareness project. Pictured, left to right are Partnership executive director, Dr. Selena Rowell; Beverly Turner, director of Federal Programs and Human Resources for Whiteville City Schools and Kimberly Clewis, Communications Manager with International Paper, Riegelwood Mill.

The International Paper Foundation is one of the ways International Paper strives to reach its vision to be among the most successful, sustainable and responsible companies in the world. Started in 1952, the foundation annually provides millions in grants to 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations to address critical needs in the communities where its employees live and work. Funding priority is given to programs related to its signature causes: education, hunger, health & wellness, disaster relief, and initiatives that improve the planet. For more information, visit ipgiving.com.

Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) is part of a statewide network of nonprofit agencies working to advance a high-quality system of early care and education for families with children ages birth to five in North Carolina. The network seeks to ensure that all children receive the supports that they need in order to be prepared for kindergarten and ultimately, academic success.

For more information about early literacy programs offered by Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start), call 910-642-8226.
www.columbusmartstart.com

Columbus County Partnership for Children Donates Books to Columbus County Teachers



Columbus County Partnership for Children donated books to Columbus County Schools Pre-K and kindergarten teachers during National Read Across America Day. Pictured, left to right are teachers Velvet Hardwick and Rebecca Ham; Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF) coordinator, Jennifer Wallace; Imagination Library coordinator, Gloria Riddick; and teachers Casey Nealy, and Ashlee White. It was our pleasure to donate books to Columbus County Schools Pre-K and kindergarten classes.

Early Literacy Facts

- *Early literacy is a mix of experiences that involves the senses.*
- *The brain grows through sound, sight, touch and talk.*
- *Brains are built, not born. The cells are there but the connections are not.*
- *What a child experiences in the world determines how connections are formed.*
- *Early literacy tactics focus on a child's developmental abilities and preparedness to acquire literacy skills.*
- *The home is the child's first school.*
- *The parent is the child's first teacher.*
- *The more you read and speak to your child, the better he or she will do in school.*