

Early Years Are Learning Years



Celebrating the Week of THE YOUNG CHILD April 23-28, 2017

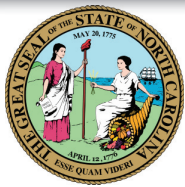


In celebration of the “Week of the Young Child” and to bring attention to April as “Child Abuse Prevention Month,” Smart Start is pleased to present this special section focusing on the care, health and development of young children.





Smart Start & The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.



State of North Carolina Governor's Proclamation Month of the Young Child™

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is nationally recognized for its early care and education system and is committed to ensuring access to high quality, early childhood education opportunities and health services; and

WHEREAS, quality education from the start is vital to building a strong North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council, the North Carolina Education Cabinet, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, along with the North Carolina Partnership for Children and the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children, join together in recognizing and supporting the people and programs

that are committed to providing high quality, early childhood education and services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, do hereby proclaim April 2017, as **"MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fifteenth day of March in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

What is Smart Start?

Experiences during early childhood literally shape the structure of the brain. Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders, parents and workers, everyone has a stake in making sure that all children have the experiences they need to thrive. Smart Start brings together all the people involved in a young child's life—families, teachers, doctors, caregivers, social workers, and many others—to ensure every child has all they need for healthy growth and development.

What is Smart Start?

Smart Start was created in 1993 as an innovative solution to a problem: Children were coming to school unprepared to learn.

Policymakers recognized that progress would require tapping into the same innovative spirit that inspired private sector advances, and

therefore, established Smart Start as a public/private partnership. Independent, private organizations work in all 100 North Carolina counties through The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., and 76 Local Partnerships.

The power of Smart Start is that it delivers outcomes by giving communities local control to determine the best approach to achieving them.

Smart Start's Vision

Every child reaches his or her potential and is prepared for success in a global community.

Smart Start's Mission

Advance a high quality, comprehensive, accountable system of care and education for every child beginning with a healthy birth.

This and other information about how Smart Start works can be found online at www.smartstart.org.



Openings Now Available

We Offer 2, 3 & 5 Day Programs

**Before/After School
Infant/Preschool**

We Offer Fun Filled, Engaging Activities

**Enchanting Tree
Learning Center**

Hwy 130 East, Whiteville • 642-5319

Open Monday - Friday 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

33 Years
Experience
Keeping
Your
Children

Kaleidoscope Kidz

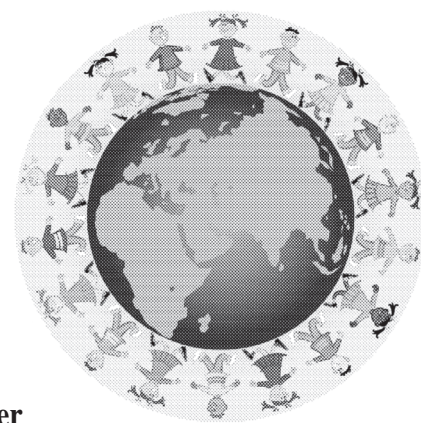
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 Star Center

"Parents Always Welcome"

FREE Registration for the month of May

"Thank you to all the children who enrich our lives."

- Ages 6 Weeks to 12 Years
- Creative Curriculum for all ages
- Nutritious Meals & Snacks
- Fun Filled Activities
- Great year-round preschool 4-5 year olds
- Experienced, Caring Staff
- 5 Star Licensed Day Care Center



**STRIVING FOR A HIGHER
STANDARD OF QUALITY CARE!**

1830 Prison Camp Road, Whiteville, NC
Gwen Sanderson,
Owner/Director

640-2544

Linda Singletary,
Assistant Director

Healthy Kids Task Force

The Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) collaborates with medical providers/health care agencies, community organizations and individuals to improve health outcomes for young children in our service area. We have developed the Healthy Kids Task Force that has participation and support from representatives of the Columbus County Department of Social Services, Columbus County DREAM Center, Columbus County Department of Public Health, Columbus Pediatrics,

Sandpiper Pediatrics, Southeast Pediatrics, Columbus Regional Health Care System, Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear, Columbus County Transportation, Children's Developmental Services Agency, and dozens of other family support services agencies.

The task force meets quarterly and is always seeking input from community members and agencies. If you are interested in learning more about our efforts or would like to join the conversation, call 499-4548.



These are a few of the participants in the Smart Start Healthy Kids Task Force.



Working Together For Their Future



At Trinity Baptist Child Care, teachers and families work closely in partnership to ensure high-quality care and education for children. Parents feel supported and welcomed as observers and contributors to the program.

The program is staffed by adults who understand child and family development and who recognize and meet the developmental and learning needs of children and families. The program is efficiently and effectively administered with attention to the needs and desires of children, families and staff.

Trinity Baptist Child Care

201 S. Thompson St., Whiteville • 910-642-7676

Like a good neighbor

...we believe in helping to meet the needs of families in our community. Loving our children means providing the very best protection for their futures. Mary Bullard Williamson continues the caring tradition started by her father, Lonnie Bullard.

State Farm is there.



MARY BULLARD
WILLIAMSON

642-3753 Office
642-8682 Home



1011 North Powell Blvd., Oliver Plaza, Whiteville



Week of the young child schedule of events

During the month of April, the Smart Start staff invites families in Columbus County, North Carolina to come together for young children April 23-28, during the Week of the Young Child. As part of the national Week of the Young Child celebration across the country, Columbus County is honoring young children and all those who make a difference in their lives.

In recognition of the Week of the Young Child, the Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF) will host several fun and educational events daily from April 24-28. Events will be open to all children ages birth to 5 and their caregivers (Professional child care facilities, parents, grandparents, baby sitters) free of charge. All events will be in Downtown Whiteville at the ELF, located at 107 W. Main Street or at another nearby location.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register a group or if you have questions, please call



Clemenza Graham at 212-6352; or call the Partnership at 642-8226.

Schedule of Events

WOYC Kick-off Event - Sunday, April 23 at 2:30 p.m.

Open House/Community Partners Day

at the Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start) - 105, 107 & 109 W. Main St. in Whiteville.

Storyteller Wallyce at 3:30 p.m.

Join us for an interactive and fun activity as we explore "The Beauty of Butterflies!"

Music & Movement with Belkie Bear

Monday, April 24 at 11 a.m.
Belkie Bear will visit the ELF to move to the groove of a healthy beat! Music and movement are healthy activities!

Fun & Games
Tuesday, April 25 & Wednesday, April 26 at 11 a.m.

Children will enjoy themselves as they engage in playful learning games and win prizes! Activities include bowling, bean bag toss, cookie walk, three in a row and fishing.

Science Day
Thursday, April 27 at 11 a.m.

Children will enjoy a science story & activities with Casey Geer and her friends from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Whiteville.

Paint the Town!
Friday, April 28 at 11 a.m.

Children are invited to come and enjoy a fun activity painting the town with their favorite colors.



American
Association of
Orthodontists

recommends

Your Child's First Orthodontic

Check-up

No later than Age 7



Janice Timothée, DMD, PC
900 Spivey Road • Whiteville, NC 28472
P. 910.642.4529

www.timotheeorthodontics.com



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

Being specialists in agriculture for Columbus County farmers, we feel a real investment in the future. We believe in investing in our children as well. Programs like Smart Start give Columbus County children a definite edge in reaching their full potential.

If it helps our children, it helps our community. And we all prosper!

SEEDS • FARM CHEMICALS • FERTILIZERS

HARVEY'S SOUTHEAST

HWY. 701 NORTH

WHITEVILLE

642-5872

• Don Formyduval • Chris Edge • Linda Clark • Mark Suggs • Don Formyduval, Jr
• Al Davis • Jerry Turner • Mike Bianchini • Matthew Simmons • Nathan Sellers

Grant to provide meals for kids

A Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center grant serving all of Columbus County has been received. This grant is an opportunity to promote and encourage more participation in the efforts of feeding children ages 1 through 18. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides nutritious meals for the children in the county at no cost and is offered in the summer when school is not in session.

The grant provides resources to encourage more participation county-wide. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides daily meals for children in the following combinations: breakfast and lunch, breakfast and snack, snack and snack, supper and snack, breakfast and supper, breakfast only, lunch only and supper only.

Whiteville High School is a walk-in site for breakfasts and lunches Monday through Thursday, during the summer. Children can also be served in the schools, during community activities and basically

anywhere that there is a gathering of supervised children throughout the county (Vacation Bible School, Sunday school, Dance schools, sporting activities at recreation departments, at libraries, etc.). Anyone interested in sponsoring a site or learning more about the program is invited to participate in a required one-time training session. The training sessions will be offered at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Thursdays at the Whiteville City Schools Administrative Offices located at 107 W. Walter Street in Whiteville. To register for the training, call Rhonda Dutton at 640-8080, 641-6430 or e-mail rdutton@whiteville.k12.nc.us; or contact Jamesie Gentry at 641-6429.



WAGE\$ award helped Powell earn degree

By **DIANA MATTHEWS**
dianamatthews@nrcolumbus.com

Amanda Powell has worked in early childhood education for eight years, beginning as a substitute worker during her days as a student at Southeastern Community College.

"I found my interest in early childhood, and that motivated me," Powell said. I didn't qualify for financial aid, but the WAGE\$ supplemental award helped me pay for my classes and textbooks. It was really handy."

WAGE\$ is a program of Smart Start that boosts the income of childcare workers in positions that do not have very high pay. Powell used her additional funds to complete her associate degree in early childhood education.

At the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project, formerly Ninos, Powell obtained a job in the infant/toddler class, then moved up to pre-kindergarten, and now works in the family services department, where advises parents on application and enrollment. Bilingual ability helps her communicate with the many Spanish-speaking families who use the center.

Powell said that some of the classes she took using Smart Start funds included Psychological and Social Foundations of Early Childhood, Health Issues from Birth through Kindergarten, and Community Partnerships for Families.

Powell's award was renewed for a total of five years, helping her to advance toward the bachelor's degree she plans to earn in 2018 from Mt. Olive University in Wilmington.

With the additional degree, she will qualify for a new position, where she hopes to mentor newer teachers. "I hope my education and experience will give them guidance," Powell said. "Support from other teachers is what helped me when I was starting work. That's what I hope to do for others now."

Need Help Feeding Your Young Family?

North Carolina WIC Program Continue to Provide Healthy Foods And Nutrition Education For Eligible Women, Infants And Children In Columbus County

If you are concerned about the high cost of the food products you need to feed your young family, check to see if you meet the requirements for WIC (the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). In addition to receiving assistance in purchasing a variety of nutritious foods, you can receive age-appropriate health and nutrition education, obtain breastfeeding education and support, and receive referrals to various health care and community resources.

In Columbus County, WIC is available through the Columbus County Health Department at 304 Jefferson Street, Whiteville, NC Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Starting July 1, 2017, we will also run a once-a-week clinic on Wednesday mornings at the Recreation Center in Tabor City.

Our team of qualified nutritionists, breastfeeding peer counselors and dedicated support staff will help guide you through the process. In addition, women and older children have the opportunity to receive special vouchers for use at the Columbus County Farmer's Market each summer.

To be eligible, a person must:

- Be a pregnant woman; a breastfeeding woman who has had a baby in the last 12 months or a woman who has had a baby in the last 6 months; a newborn infant or child up to his or her 5th birthday.
- Live in North Carolina.
- Have an identified nutritional risk as determined by a health professional. This can include, but is not limited to, anemia, poor growth, underweight or overweight, dental problems, previous poor pregnancy outcomes, inadequate dietary intake and other nutrition and diet-related problems.



• Meet the income eligibility scale. The gross household income cannot exceed 185% of the federal poverty guidelines (That means, for example, that a household of 3 people must have a monthly income of less than \$3,108). Our WIC staff can help you determine if you are eligible. You do not have to receive Medicaid to receive WIC, but all Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps) and Work First recipients do meet the WIC income eligibility criteria. A call to the WIC office at the number listed below can help you determine if you are eligible and what you need to bring. You can also find more information on the Columbus County Website (www.columbusco.org).

To apply for WIC, please call 910-641-3904 to make an appointment or get more information. When applying in person or coming for the first appointment be sure to bring proof of current address, identification and proof of household income for each applicant. If anyone in the family receives Medicaid, please bring his or her card also.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the Columbus County WIC program is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

(Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY),. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. You may view more general information about WIC at www.nutritionnc.com.



What People are saying about Smart Start & the ELF

"We love visiting the ELF! The kids have been coming here since they were born. It is a safe, child-friendly space for kids to explore and learn. They have access to age-appropriate books, toys, music and crafts that build and support their language, writing and communication skills. Like most parents, I couldn't provide all these things for my child alone! We have also built social skills and listening skills through story times and play groups. This is a treasure for our community!"

~ Elise Belmont

"I have learned to let my children participate and help more. For example, turn pages while reading, help measure & pour ingredients while cooking. This program has offered

a chance for me to play with my children outside the home & allowed them to be social with other children their own age. The program is important to me because it offers a safe learning environment for my kids."

~Katelyn Watts

"I learned from this program from trinity Baptist Church. Lethan is becoming more independent and interacting with other children. The program helps with the early development of learning. The teachers are great."

~ Shawn St

"The Elf has been a great environment for special need children and typical children. The facility has made a difference in the children's lives

due to a clean environment for therapy. They have great toys and programs to enhance children's nervous system & education. The program is important for the children I work with for safe place to receive therapy."

~Mechell Price

"I Observed OT session for professional growth as COTA. ELF is well equipped to provide therapy to children & to help them succeed in their daily lives/development. Facility was very clean & organized upon each visit."

~Caitlin Long

"The Smart Start program is a wonderful addition to any county and offers assistance, materials, & an open space to help children learn & grow."

~Jacquelyn Knox

"Staff is friendly, caring, and loving toward the children. They are clearly professionally trained and have caring hearts. Their enthusiasm was evident and the joy was evident in the children's faces and attitudes. I will recommend Smart Start to others without hesitation."

~Sherry Smith

"We have been coming the ELF for 3 years. I have learned so much from programs here about early child development and how to interact with my children in a more positive way. Smart Start is important to my family because it issues positive messages that as a single mom, I need to hear."

~Kelly Hart

"As a stay-at-home mom, I'm so thankful for our Early

Learning Facility! We were unaware of this amazing program throughout my first child's infancy and now as a mom of a toddler and infant, we hardly miss a week! My toddler has started playing with other children and being exposed to all new toys, stories, and activities that his brother wasn't. I love the staff! They really take the time to get to know each child and spend time with them. They get in the floor and roll the ball, build Lego buildings and imagine they are trains. During music and movement, they make sure every child, no matter the age or ability is involved and helps them to have fun! I'm so glad that we have a amazingly fun and safe place to learn and grow!"

~Jessica McPherson



**Come and see us
at the ELF!**

Open House, Dancing and Story Time Kick-off Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child begins Sunday, April 23 with a kick-off event at the Columbus County Partnership for Children beginning at 2:30 p.m. The afternoon begins with an Open House at 109 W. Main St. in Whiteville, and will culminate with a special presentation by Storyteller Wallyce. Other special guests have also been invited including dancers from the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, Tigger, the loveable tiger; and personalities from some of the more popular children's stories! A mini "agency expo" will be conducted with representatives from local community service agencies that provide services to families.

The event is free of charge and open to the public. There will be free goodies for the children. Parents are asked to chaperone children as they participate.

Also included in the Open House tour is the Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF), located at 107 W. Main St. in Whiteville.

Following the tour of the Partnership facilities, children and their parents will be treated to a special Sunday story time presentation, the Beauty of Butterflies by Storyteller Wallyce (also known as Wallyce Todd) of Whiteville. This presentation will be held at the Whiteville City Schools Civic Room, located at 107 W. Walter Street in Whiteville.

Continued on page 10



Storyteller Wallyce delights children of all ages and adults with her interactive and animated stories.

Need to Build a Better Understanding of Math Concepts?



Enroll in our Math Enhancement Summer Program
June 20 - June 29, 2017

Grade levels 2-4 9:00-10:30 am
Grade levels 5-7 10:30-12:00 noon

Pre-registration and Pre-payment required
\$80.00 a Session, Due June 20, 2017 Max enrollment 15

Precious Minds Child Care Center

123 Haynes Lennon Hwy., Cerro Gordo, NC

At Opening Doors Preschool...



We pride ourselves in bringing the community quality child care for infants through twelve year olds. During the summer months, we offer an exciting program for school age children.

Opening Doors Preschool II
5 Star Center

Rhonda & Robert Creech, Owners/Operator
201 S. Lee St., Whiteville • 642-2460

Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF)

Mission: The Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF) assists in the development of pre-literacy skills by promoting reading, writing, playing, singing and talking for children ages birth to five.

The ELF is an interactive learning environment that is accessible to child care early educators in pre-K programs and child care facilities as well as to families needing educational materials and resources to help prepare their young children to enter kindergarten.

A variety of children's books, videos, prop boxes, resource kits, toys and materials on specific topics related to children is available through a check-out/check-in loaner

program. Access to a laminating machine, comb binder, Ellison and Cricut die-cut machines, art supplies, copier and access to online resources may be available to ELF members at a nominal fee.

ELF staff offers training on all equipment and demonstrate its appropriate use. Consumer awareness materials on subjects such as early care and education, health, family support and child wellness are

available in English and Spanish.

The ELF is operated by the Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start), which is part of a statewide effort that works with families with children ages birth to five to ensure that the children are healthy and ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten.

To reach the ELF, call 212-6352. To learn about the other activities of the Columbus County Partnership for Children, call 642-8226, visit the office at 109 W. Main St. or the website at www.columbusmartstart.org. "Like" us on Facebook to keep up with the special events and other information about the Partnership.



Early Learning Facility hours of operation

Monday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Special story time sessions can be arranged for child care providers.

Southeast Pediatrics

Columbus Regional Health Network



Saturday, April 29, 2017

10:00am—1:00pm

612-36 Jefferson St (McNeill Plaza) Whiteville

FREE Activities for the Children: Inflatable's, Trackless Train Rides, Face Painting, Hot Dogs, Sunset Slush & More!

Meet Our Pediatricians:

Dr. Kahai, Dr. DeLouise,

Dr. Rust, & Dr. Yandle

COME HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 1ST ANNIVERSARY!

Early Childhood Educator Workshop

Bringing the Outdoors In

Lessons Learned from the Discovery Forest

"Loose parts" in nature such as stones, shells, acorns, and twigs are all multi-dimensional materials that children can use in a variety of ways to learn about their world. Join the staff of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences as we explore nature objects that best enrich the classroom as well as how to best find, use, and care for natural science materials. Each participant will receive a Discovery Box that combines natural loose parts with puppets, books, and science tools to explore a local nature theme. Depending on weather, part of this workshop may be held outside on the grounds of the Museum.

This workshop is sponsored, in part, by a PNC Foundation "Grow Up Great" grant and in partnership with Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start).



Date: Thursday, May 18th 2017

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: NC Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville

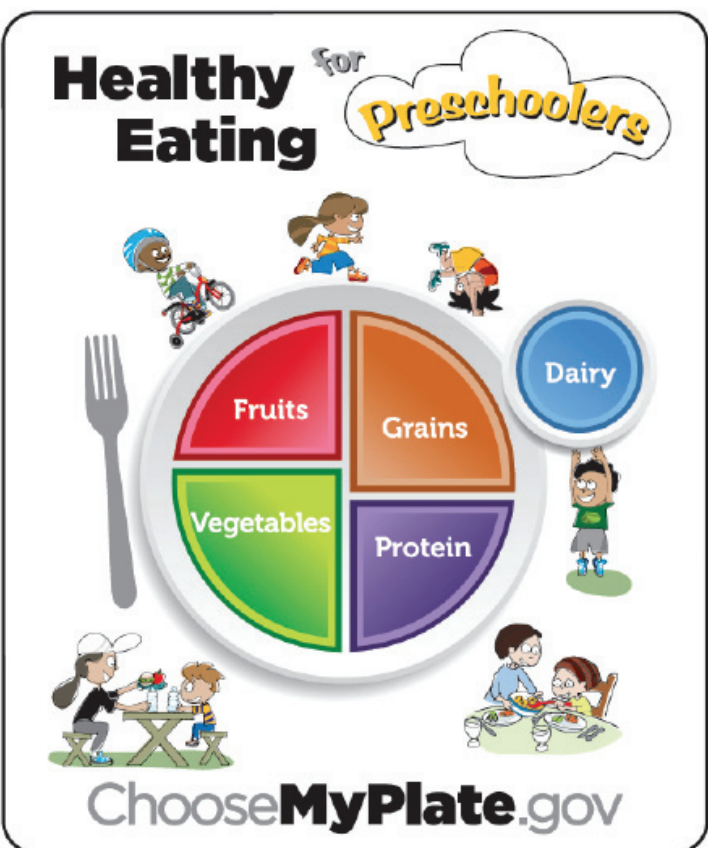
Fee: Free, but pre-registration is required

Credits: 2 NCDCE EE
Contact Hours; NCEE
Criteria II or III hours

To register contact Casey Geer.

Casey.Geer@naturalsciences.org or 910-914-4185

Natural Sciences Education Specialist | North Carolina
Museum of Natural Sciences at Whiteville
415 S. Madison Street, Whiteville, N.C. 28472
www.naturalsciences.org



Open house

Continued from page 7

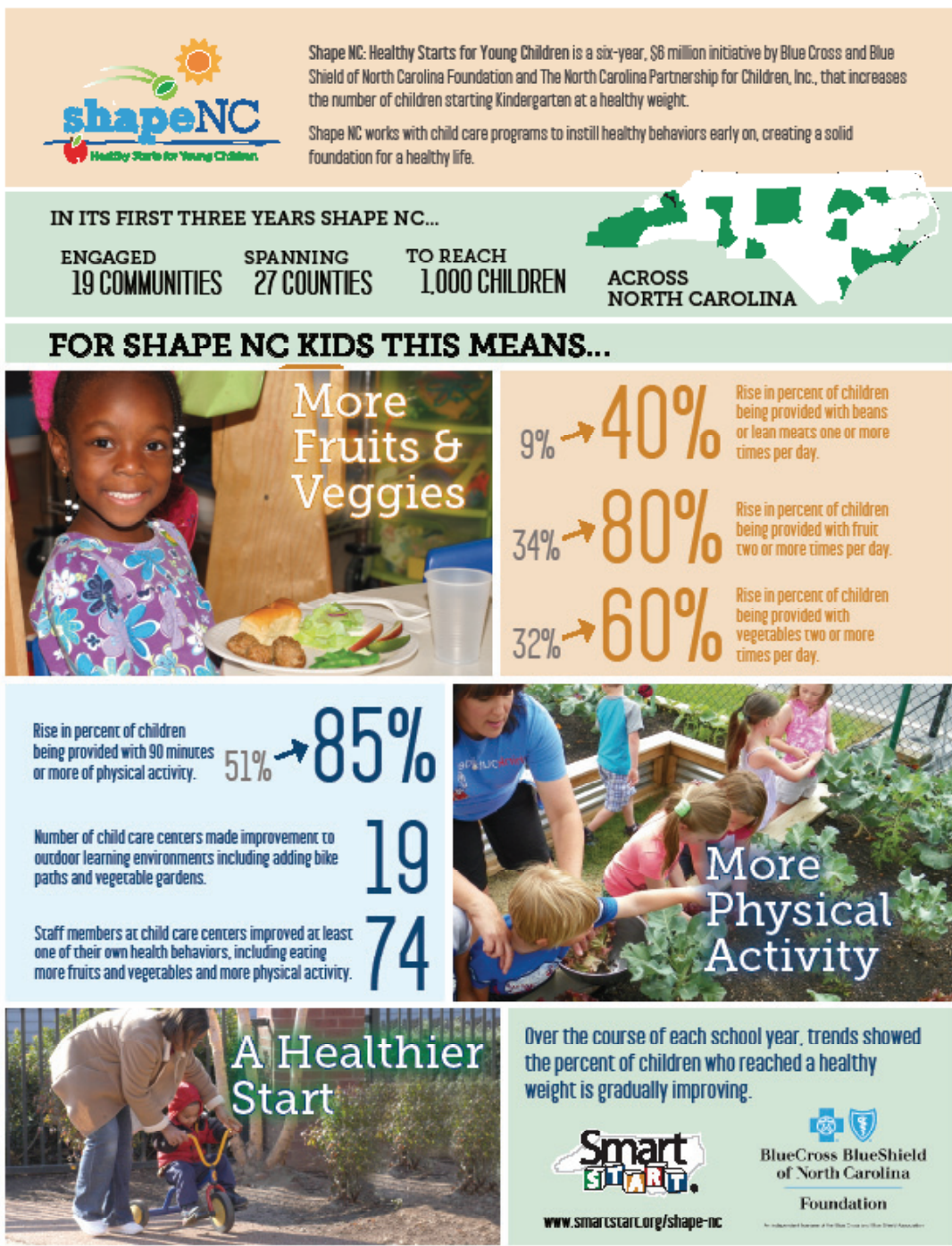
For more information about these and the other events planned for the Week of the Young Child, call the Partnership office at 642-8226 or the ELF at 212-6352.

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 100,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional affiliates. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet their needs.

Visit the Partnership office at 109 W. Main Street, online at www.columbusmartstart.org or on Facebook to get a list of the Week of the Young Child activities that will be held at the Early Learning Facility April 24-28.



Other guests for the Week of the Young Child Kick-off event may include princesses, fairies, loveable tigers and super heroes.



Every Student Succeeds Act: A new education law

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by Barack Obama on December 10, 2015, and represents good news for our nation's schools. This bipartisan measure re-authorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country.

For example, today, high school graduation rates are at all-time highs. Dropout rates are at historic lows. And more students are going to college than ever before. These achievements provide a firm foundation for further work to expand educational opportunity and improve student outcomes under ESSA.

The previous version of the law, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, was enacted in 2002. NCLB represented a significant step forward for our nation's children in many respects, particularly as it shined a light on where students were making progress and where they needed additional support, regardless of race, income, zip code, disability, home language, or background. The law was scheduled for revision in 2007, and, over time, NCLB's prescriptive requirements became increasingly unworkable for schools and educators. Recognizing this fact, in 2010, the Obama administration joined a call from educators and families to create a better law that focused on the clear goal of fully preparing all students for success in college and careers.

Congress has now responded to that call.

The Every Student Succeeds Act reflects many of the priorities of this administration.

"With this bill, we reaffirm that fundamentally American ideal—that every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live, deserves the chance to make of their lives what they will."

— Barack Obama

Thursday is Science Day at the ELF

On Thursday, April 27, at 11 a.m., during the Week of the Young Child, the Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF) will host special guests from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. There will be a live animal presentation followed by a science activity. Last year, a blue tongued skink visited us and we had a wonderful time learning about ants!

The Museum will also have activities during the Week of the Young Child. For information about the Museum schedule, call 910-914-4185. To learn more about Science Day at the ELF or to register a group from a Pre-K program, call the Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF) at 212-6352.



Barack Obama

Doing Our Part To Help Children & Families In Columbus County...



Columbus County Transportation

... providing Columbus County with
"transportation you can count on" since 1995.

Call 642-7201

- General Public Transportation
- Work Transportation
- Medicaid Transportation
- Child Care (5 Years & Under Free)
- Veterans' Transportation
- Department of Aging
- Health Department

Partnering with Smart Start...

Expectant mothers and children less than 6 years old who are not eligible for Medicaid reimbursable transportation can be transported to and from medical appointments free. To learn more about this Smart Start activity, call 642-7201 (Columbus County Transportation).

How to get involved - Raising a Reader

By **DANNY RUSSELL**

CCPC Executive Board Member

Can you imagine stepping up a ladder with the first and second rungs missing? Or can you think about learning how to walk without knowing how to crawl. Someone could get on that ladder, but he would have to jump up each time. Someone could learn how to walk without crawling first, but she would take longer because her muscles would not have been as developed. In Columbus County, there are little boys and girls who are like someone learning how to climb a ladder by jumping to the third rung or someone learning how to walk without knowing how to crawl. Smart Start through the Columbus County Partnership for Children offers a variety of programs and opportunities to address this educational need. The Partnership seeks to provide the options and resources necessary for children and their families to lead healthy, happy, and productive lives.



Danny Russell

One such program is Raising A Reader, which offers a series of books for Pre-school children to take home and read during the week. Then, the children receive a new set of books each week. The Raising A Reader program puts books in children's hands to raise their level of understanding of reading and increase their frequency of reading. Basic reading understanding and skills are the first few rungs of a reading

ladder and too many kids begin school without these necessary steps. It is one thing to think about Columbus County and know there are kids beginning Kindergarten already behind because of their lack of basic reading skills. But Smart Start doesn't just think about the issues of Columbus County, they are also creating steps to address those issues. There are eight Raising A Reader sites, serving 260 Pre-school children in the county.

Smart Start has a series of programs to empower the people of Columbus County through a strong emphasis on early education. Smart Start has the program WAGE\$ to offer salary supplements for Pre-School workers based on their willingness to attend classes of higher education to offer more informed care to the children of our community. Another resource of early education is Smart Start's Early Learning Facility (ELF). The ELF hosts a variety of educational events like Family Story Time to

welcome families to enjoy the joyful experience of reading together.

As you look around Columbus County seeing children beginning school behind, there are a variety of ways to make a difference in that child's life. You can support the early educational purposes of The Columbus County Partnership for Children Smart Start.

You are welcome to come by the ELF and volunteer your time. You are invited to support these programs by giving financially to Smart Start. Today, you are provided a way to reinstall the first

and second rungs in a child's educational ladder and help a child crawl to the skills of walking into a healthy, happy, and productive life. Will you join us at The Columbus County Partnership for Children and make a difference in our community?

Thank you for reading these thoughts and considering how you can get involved.



Now Scheduling Pre-K and Kindergarten Well Checks



Calista Shepherd - LPN, Rebecca Mansfield - PA-C, Kim Phillips - Practice Manager,
Randolph Matthews - MD, Lacey Lewis - PA-C, Luis Maggioli - Spanish Interpreter/Reception,
Sherry Hayes - CNA, Nikki Cromartie - CNA, Nora Lund - Medical Records/Reception

Columbus Pediatrics & Adolescent Care

800 Jefferson Street • Suite 116, Whiteville • 642-2642

Open M-F 8-5 (Closed for lunch 12-1:30) • Sat. Sick Clinic 9-12 • "Tenemos interprete todo el dia"

Spring and Summer Safety ✓CHECKLIST



Together we can achieve a bold vision!

Investing Today in North Carolina's Workforce of Tomorrow



Our state's economic vitality depends on how we invest today for tomorrow. Smart investments in children's early years produce the best outcomes in education, health and economic well-being for North Carolina.

Preparing for the Future

By 2020, 67% of jobs in North Carolina will require some post-secondary education.¹ To meet this challenge, we have to start early. After years of research into how to most effectively and efficiently develop human capital, Nobel Laureate Professor James J. Heckman concluded, "The foundation for school, career and life success is largely determined through the development of cognitive and character skills beginning in children's earliest years."

Professor Heckman's research shows that the earlier the investment, the greater the return.

"Third grade reading proficiency is key to reversing the skills gap, and it will help create sustainable economic growth and ensure that students graduate from high school ready to succeed in our global economy." – James Goodnight CEO, SAS

Building a Strong Foundation

Professor Heckman's findings are rooted in how brains develop.

Brain scientists have discovered that during children's earliest years, their experiences are built into their bodies – shaping the brains built into their bodies and impacting a child's architecture, affecting how biological systems develop for the rest of his or her life. In other words, **brains are built, not born.**

The early years are so defining that by the time a child turns eight, his or her third grade outcomes can predict future academic achievement and career success. When we invest in creating opportunities for optimal child development, children are more likely to read on grade-level by the end of third grade, graduate from high school, stay healthier throughout their lives, get higher paying jobs and contribute more toward the costs of important public services.²

By investing in our youngest children, we create a stronger North Carolina.

To learn more join us at



/buildthefoundation



@ncecf



www.buildthefoundation.org

Creating Human Capital

67%

of NC jobs will require some post-secondary education by 2020

38%

of NC 4th graders scored at or above reading proficiency in 2015³

25%

of NC 4th graders from economically disadvantaged families scored at or above reading proficiency in 2015³

\$4.4 Billion

amount U.S. businesses lose annually due to employee absenteeism as a result of child care issues⁴

\$8.3 Billion

annual lost wages of working families due to lack of child care⁵

75% & 50%

of mothers and fathers respectively in the US that say they have passed up work opportunities, switched jobs or quit to tend to their children⁶

"Early learning is just good business. That's why the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports funding early childhood education as 'key economic infrastructure' for workforce preparation."
– Kit Cramer, CEO, Greater Asheville Chamber of Commerce



What Works

Fortunately, decades of research have demonstrated what works to build strong brains - health and development on track beginning at birth, supportive and supported families and communities, and high quality birth-through-age-eight learning environments with regular attendance.

- Numerous studies show strong and lasting results, including:⁸
- Improved school readiness and success in school
- Higher third grade reading and math scores
- Reduced school absenteeism
- Reduced youth crime and delinquency
- Higher high school graduation rates
- Stronger job earnings

Strong Returns on Investing in Children

When we invest in early childhood, both individuals and society win through the creation of a skilled workforce, lower health care costs and lower judicial system costs due to a reduction in crime.

"There are very few government programs that have any return close to this. Early childhood programs are one of the highest returns we have available to make in American society, so it's foolish not to use it." Nobel Laureate Dr. James Heckman

Business leaders understand the power of early education and are becoming champions for greater investments in our youngest children.

Actions for Business Leaders⁹

- 1. Encourage reading to young children--and get involved!**
The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends reading daily to children starting at birth. You and your team can volunteer to read in an early learning center or school or your company can partner with a Campaign for Grade-Level Reading collaborative in your community.
Learn more at: www.buildthefoundation.org/cglr
- 2. Adopt policies in your business that support working parents.** Implement programs and policies to help your employees become better informed and more engaged in their children's learning and development.
- 3. Promote early learning as part of economic development.** Strong early learning policies and programs strengthen community economic development. From supporting working parents to realizing the long-term benefits for children who attend high quality programs, investing in children results in better schools and more educated workers.¹⁰
- 4. Encourage business organizations and networks to adopt education policy positions that include investments in high quality early learning.** Many chambers have included such a statement in their public policy agenda. Ensure that your chamber, as well as other business networks such as Rotary, Kiwanis, and others, adopts this priority.
- 5. Convey to policymakers your support for public investment in early education.** Business leaders can be powerful and impartial messengers in support of investment for early learning through a variety of forums: public meetings, personal communications and through the media.

¹ Georgetown Public Policy Institute, "Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020," 2013.
² ZERO TO THREE, "ZERO TO THREE Policy Packet Card," 2015.
³ Mark D'Neen, "Meta-Analysis of the Effects of Early Education Interventions on Cognitive and Social Development," University of Colorado, 2010.
⁴ Art Rolnick & Rob Grunwald, "Early Childhood Development: Economic Development With a High Public Return," 2003.
⁵ National Center for Education Statistics, 2015.
⁶ Children's Institute, "Parents and the High Cost of Childcare," 2016 Report.
⁷ Sarah Jose Glynne and Danielle Costley Center for American Progress, "The Cost of Work-Family Policy Inaction," 2014.
⁸ Danielle Papette and Peyton M. Coughlin, "The Washington Post, 'The Surprising Number of Moms and Dads Seeking Back at Work to Care for Their Kids,' August 6, 2015.



Each North Carolina child has a strong foundation for lifelong success and reading proficiency, supported by the nation's best birth-to-eight system.

NCECF is committed to creating an environment that brings many voices to the table to accelerate collaboration toward a common agenda and a shared course of action.

The Importance of Well Check-Ups

Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear explains why it's important to take your healthy child to the doctor

The first 2000 days of life are so important in a child's development. Your child should reach milestones in how he plays, learns, speaks, acts and moves.

Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear encourages parents and guardians to schedule regular well check-ups for their child. Well check-ups are the best way to detect any developmental needs your child may have. Appropriate screening at a well check-up can determine whether a child is at risk for developmental delays in children as young as one

year.

Recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control indicate that developmental delays, like autism, are often not identified until kindergarten entry or later. Catching delays early can make a big difference in the life of your child. Early treatment can reduce delay effects and help your child learn, grow, and thrive.

"Scheduling well check-ups is one of the most important things a parent can do," says Dr. Henry C. Hawthorne, Jr., Pediatric Consultant and Associate Medical Director of Commu-

nity Care of the Lower Cape Fear. "Treating delays early not only improves chances for treatment but improves your child's chances of living a healthier life."

A parent may not think it important to take their well child to the doctor but keeping up-to-date with these check-ups is a critical part of a healthy start. Most insurance programs cover these preventive care check-ups. Don't wait to schedule your child's appointment.

What happens at a well check-up?

Depending on the age of your child, the following services might be offered:

- Developmental screen
- Immunizations (shots)
- Health history
- Physical exam
- Height and weight
- Vision and hearing check
- Dental check
- Nutrition review
- Lab tests as needed
- Guidance

• Follow-up/Referral if needed

How do Well Check-Ups Help my Child?

• Doctors can check for more things when your child is well.

• Regular Well Check-Ups help the doctor better understand your child's needs.

• Shots that protect your child are given when your child is well.

• Early treatment may keep possible health problems from getting worse.

What are the Recommended Ages for Well Check-Ups?

Within 1st month, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 or 15 months, 12 months, 18 months, once a year for ages 2 years-20 years •Foster Care Children: twice a year for ages 2 years – 20 years

About Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear

(CCLCF)

Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear (CCLCF) is charged with improving health outcomes for nearly 95,000 public and privately-insured enrollees in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties. CCLCF works in collaboration with primary care providers, local hospitals, departments of social services, departments of health, and other healthcare organizations, and is one of 14 similar networks participating in the statewide award-winning Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) program.

To learn more, visit www.carelcf.org.



Columbus County Partnership for Children Activities 2016-2017

Family Focused Inclusion

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 642-8226.

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 LaTonya Brown at 499-4547.

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 LaTonya Brown at 499-4547.

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 LaTonya Brown at 499-4547.

tance, call LaTonya Brown at 499-4547.

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 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 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 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.

Familia Enfocada

Esta actividad provee temprana identificación de las necesidades especiales y mejora la temprana intervención en los servicios y asegura resultados positivos para todos los niños desde la edad del nacimiento hasta los cinco años en los centros de cuidado infantil o guarderías. Llame 642-8226.

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 provehida. 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 recibir un Premio Educativo. Llame 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 rotarán semanalmente. Llame 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 médicos 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 642-8226.

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 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 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 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 Telephone Numbers

Wilbur Smith - Executive Director	910-499-4546
LaTonya Brown - Program Coordinator	910-499-4547
Selena Rowell - Outreach Coordinator	910-499-4548
Eva Hernandez - Outreach Assistant	910-499-4549
Marsha Morgan - Early Childhood Specialist	910-212-4689
Anna King - Early Childhood Specialist	910-212-4689
Wallyce Todd - Support Specialist	910-212-4010



Edu-Care Preschool Center

"Operating for 31 Years"

- NC Certified Teachers in Early Childhood
- Licensed for 6 weeks - 13 years old
- NC Pre-K Program for 4 year olds
- Two convenient locations

Operating Hours: 6:30 am - 6:30 pm

OPENINGS FOR ENROLLMENT AGES 6 WEEKS-12 YEARS

Edu-Care Preschool
Hwy. 701, 1/4 mile south of
Williams Township School
WHITEVILLE • 653-5506

5★ Centers

Edu-Care Preschool
Intersection of
Peacock Road and Old 74
CHADBOURN • 654-4810

Quality Enhanced 5 Star Facilities Accepting NC Pre-K Program
Applications at Both Locations for 2016-2017 School Year



Early Literacy...it lasts a lifetime!

Did you know that over **90% of language development occurs in the first few years of life?** **Columbus County Partnership for Children (Smart Start)** offers programs and services that help to develop early literacy skills needed for school success. These skills will sustain an individual throughout his or her professional career as well as life in general. The local Partnership brings evidence-based, proven, national programs to the children and families of Columbus County. These programs help parents to develop a routine of reading to their children aloud daily. These programs also help children to develop a love for reading and exploring language during their early years.

- **Reach Out and Read** supports doctors in their efforts to “prescribe” reading to young children and families during well-child visits through early literacy guidance. Columbus County Partnership for Children is collaborating with Columbus Pediatrics and Adolescent Care to offer this program to Columbus County children. For more information, contact LaTonya Brown at 910-499-4547.

- **Raising A Reader** rotates bright red bags filled with award-winning books in children’s homes on a weekly basis, exposing children to over 100 books per cycle. For more information, contact LaTonya Brown at 910-499-4547.

- **Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF)** provides an interactive learning environment for young children and their teachers, caregivers and parents free of charge. An ELF membership allows visitors to borrow resources from the facility’s vast collection. The ELF is open Mondays - Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Fridays from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. For more information about the Smart Start Early Learning Facility, call 910-212-6352.



A local pre-K class enjoys story time at the Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF).



A Raising A Reader student poses with Booker, the RAR mascot for the Partnership for Children.



A family shares reading a book as part of the Reach Out and Read early literacy project at Columbus Pediatrics & Adolescent Care.



For additional information about the Columbus County Partnership for Children and its various activities, call 910-642-8226.