

CCR&R Parent/Provider Newsletter- August 2017



August is Get Ready for Kindergarten Month!

As the first day of school approaches, you may want to do a few more things to set your child on the path to school success.

1. Find out if the school that your child will attend has a registration deadline. Some schools have a limited number of slots for children. Start early to find out your school's policy and the procedures.

2. Learn as much as you can about the school your child will attend before the school year begins. Schools-even schools in the same district-can differ greatly. Don't rely only on information about kindergarten that you have received from other parents-their schools might have different requirements and expectations. Some things you can learn can be: the principals name, what forms you will need to fill out, procedure for transportation and etc.

3. Find out in advance what the school expects from new kindergarten students. If you know the school's expectations a year or two ahead of time, you will be in a better position to prepare your child. Sometimes parents and caregivers don't think the school's expectations are right for their children. For example, they may think that the school doesn't adequately provide for differences in children's learning and development or that its academic program is not strong enough. If you don't agree with your school's expectations for your child, you may want to meet with the principal or kindergarten teacher to talk about the expectations.

4. Visit the school with your child. Walk up and down the hallways to help her learn where different rooms-her classroom, the library, the gym, the cafeteria-are. Let your child observe other children and their classrooms.

5. Talk with your child about school. During your visit, make positive comments about the school-your good attitude will rub off! ("Look at all the boys and girls painting in this classroom. Doesn't that look like fun!") At home, show excitement about the big step in your child's life. Let him know that starting school is a very special event.

Talk with your child about the teachers she will have and how they will help her learn new things. Encourage your child to consider teachers to be wise friends to whom she should listen and show respect. Explain to your child how important it is to go to class each day. Explain how important and exciting the things that she will learn in school are-reading, writing, math, science, art and music.

6. Consider volunteering to help out in the school. Volunteering is a good way to learn more about the school and to meet its staff and to meet other parents.

As your child leaves home for her first day of kindergarten, let her know how proud of her you are!

https://www2.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/preschool/part_pg9.html

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10 Delightful and Inspiring Tips for Teachers this Summer

Whether you're a new teacher about to start your first year of teaching or an experienced pro in the classroom, everyone can use a little inspiration and laughter now and then. Shirley Raines offers some of the best advice for teachers in her book *Never, Ever, Serve Sugary Snacks on Rainy Days*. Here are just a few of the delightful and inspiring teaching tips she shares.

1. **Never, EVER say, "I'm just a teacher."** Even if you're coming off a rough teaching season, try to never minimize your role in education. You impact children's lives every day, and the hard work and dedication you put in should be recognized, especially by yourself.
2. **Take time to reflect on your teaching. Reflection requires more than a mirror.** Teaching is tough, and it requires constant reflection. Am I doing everything I can? Is there anywhere I need to improve? How can I better engage my students? How can I get more parents involved in their child's learning? All of these are questions teachers constantly ask themselves, but it's important for you to actually sit down and reflect on your answers to these type of questions.
3. **Take advice from the teachers who are the best. Ignore the rest.** Your coworkers can provide you with plenty of tips and advice—some good and some not so good. Make sure you pay attention to the teachers who are your role models. Strive to find out why they're the best at what they do.
4. **Sing, dance, move—it keeps you young and sane.** Take time for yourself this summer. Go to a concert, sign up for a dance class, have lunch with friends, take a spontaneous road trip—all of these things are great for your mental, social, emotional, and physical well-being.
5. **Ask your family and friends to save magazines for art projects.** The summer is a great time to restock your classroom with art materials and other classroom essentials. Don't be afraid to ask your family and friends to save magazines, newspapers, etc.
6. **Keep your camera handy.** Whether it's a landmark, plant, funky art piece, or a new food you tried, take pictures of all the places you go this summer and interesting things you see. You never know what you can use for inspiration! You can also share your pictures with students or use them in different lessons and activities.
7. **Invite musicians, artists, and dancers to your class.** Take note of local artists, musicians, and dancers in your community. Visit as many of their shows as you can and invite them to visit your class once school is back in session. Summer provides plenty of opportunities to get out in the community and discover local talent you can bring in for students to learn from and enjoy.
8. **Do small things with great love.** Memorize some favorite quotes that inspire you. Print them out on small cards to keep handy, so when times are tough or you're stressed during the school year, you can pull out a little card to read.
9. **Authenticity counts. Make the curriculum as real-life, as authentic, as possible.** Everything you do in the classroom should be intentional and authentic. If you keep the curriculum authentic and you're intentional in what and how you teach, children will be more likely to relate to and understand the concepts you're teaching.
10. **Don't buy markers that smell like fruit; the children eat them.** Don't forget this important tip as you start shopping for back to school!

<https://www.kaplanco.com/blog/post/2017/06/28/10-delightful-and-inspiring-tips-for-teachers-this-summer.aspx>

Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors through Uncovering the Purpose of Behavior

What is meant by the ‘purpose of behavior?’

When a baby cries, parents and other caregivers run through a list in their head...could he/she be hungry...wet...cold...tired...over-stimulated? Fortunately, it’s relatively easy to uncover the purpose of a baby’s behavior. Just like a baby’s cry, there is a purpose behind the behavior of young children. The adults in the child’s life can become behavior investigators and uncover the mystery; what is he/she trying to tell us through the behavior, what is the purpose or function of the behavior, what is creating the situation that causes him/her to act this way? This process, formally called functional behavior assessment,* is particularly important when the behavior makes it hard for the child to participate in and enjoy classroom activities and routines. As behavior investigators, teachers look for clues in the environment to determine what might be causing the behavior, hoping to discover the events that typically occur before and after the problem behavior. After the purpose of the behavior is uncovered, teachers can design strategies that promote a more successful experience for the child.

Why is it important to uncover the purpose of behavior?

Going through this process gives teachers the information they need to create positive changes in the child’s behavior and, as a result, make the classroom calmer and happier (for children and adults). Studies have shown that use of this investigative model results in more positive interactions with other children, increased participation in classroom activities and, best of all, reductions in problem behaviors.

It’s important to note that children use challenging behavior because the behavior works for them. For example, through your behavior investigation you may determine that a child typically misbehaves in circle because he/she wants attention. He/she has learned that misbehaving at circle time is a sure-fire way to get it ...this strategy works! The key to successful behavior investigation is to figure out how to guide the child to more appropriate behavior while still ‘honoring the purpose’ of the misbehavior. Using the previous example, look for ways to give the child positive attention during circle time before the problem behavior occurs (e.g., let him/her pass out props or select a song) and he/she will likely continue to seek more of that positive attention through appropriate behavior. The purpose of the behavior was ‘honored’ and the problem behavior will diminish.

What you can do in the classroom?

You can try to solve the mystery alone or can pull together a team of fellow investigators, including the parents and a behavior specialist. The process involves collecting information about the child and the behavior through observations, interviews, and review of reports or records about the child’s behavior. Seek to determine what happens before the behavior, during the behavior (what the problem behavior looks like) and after the behavior. This will help you understand what the child is communicating through the behavior. Typically the child is trying to ‘get’ something or to ‘get out of’ something. The child may be trying to get attention, a toy or a special activity or may be trying to get out of an uncomfortable situation or difficult task. When you have enough examples and information you can create an educated explanation (hypothesis) about the purpose of the behavior. Using this explanation, appropriate social and emotional teaching strategies* can be designed and implemented to teach the child new skills to replace the problem behavior and serve the same purpose.

Research on this topic:

Figuring out the purpose of the behavior alone will not change the behavior. However research shows that if appropriate strategies are put in place once the purpose of the behavior has been determined, changes in behavior occur rapidly.

Food for thought:

Try to view misbehavior as mistaken behavior. No one likes to make mistakes and children genuinely want your approval and affection. If you seek to determine the purpose behind misbehavior you are charting a course for a more successful preschool experience for the child and a more fulfilling relationship for both of you.

What's Going On At Our Office

Trainings in August

***Fire Safety:** Tuesday, August 1st, 2017 6:30pm - 8:00pm **New Bern Fire Department 1401 Neuse Blvd. New Bern, NC 28560** / Cost: \$8.00 for Library Members, \$10.00 for non-members / Credit: 2 CHC's

***It's SIDS :** Thursday, August 10th, 2017 6:30pm - 8:30pm CCR&R / Cost: \$6.00 for CCR&R Library Members, \$8.00 for non-members / Credit: 2 CHC's

***The Art & Science of Technical Assistance:** Friday, August 11th, 2017 9:00am - 4:30pm CCR&R AND Friday, August 25th, 2017 9:00am—4:30pm CCR&R / Cost: \$50.00 for CCR&R Library Members, \$55.00 for non-members / Credit: 2 CEU's
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS ONLY

***Be Active Kids:** Thursday, August 17th, 2017 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm CCR&R / Cost: FREE / Credit: 3 CHC's **MAXIMUM OF 12 PARTICIPANTS**

***Creating Outdoor Learning Environments for Infants and Toddlers: It's Not Called a "Playground" Anymore:** Wednesday, August 23rd, 2017 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm CCR&R / Cost: \$6.00 for CCR&R Library Members, \$8.00 for non-members/ Credit: 2 CHC's

***Fostering Emotional Literacy How Are You? How Am I? :** Thursday, August 24th, 2017 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm CCR&R / Cost: \$6.00 for CCR&R Library Members, \$8.00 for non-members/ Credit: 2 CHC's

***Culturally Responsive Teaching:** Thursday, August 31st, 2017 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm CCR&R / Cost: \$6.00 for CCR&R Library Members, \$8.00 for non-members/ Credit: 2 CHC's

Craven County Pre-Kindergarten & Head Start Late Registration for the 2017-2018 School Year

Thursday, August 17th, 2017

10:00 AM—12:00 PM @ New Bern Mall

*Children who will be **4 years old on or before August 31, 2017** are eligible to register

*Participants will be selected based on program criteria

*Please bring **OFFICIAL birth certificate and PROOF OF FAMILY INCOME**

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Respect for Parent's Day	2 National Coloring Book Day	3 Friendship Day/ Watermelon Day	4 National Chocolate Chip Day	5 National Oyster Day
6 National Kids Day	7 Lighthouse Day	8 International Cat Day	9 National Book Lovers Day	10 S'mores Day	11 National Son's and Daughter's Day	12 National Bowling Day
13 Left Handers Day	14 National Creamsicle Day	15 National Relaxation Day	16 National Roller Coaster Day	17 National Thrift Shop Day	18 National Fajita Day	19 Aviation Day
20 National Radio Day	21 Cupcake Day	22 National Tooth Fairy Day	23 National Sponge Cake Day	24 National Waffle Day	25 Brothers Day	26 National Dog Day
27 National Just Because Day	28 National Bow Tie Day	29 Individual Rights Day	30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day	31 National Trail Mix Day		

Child Care Resource & Referral

2111 Suite F
Neuse Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28560
Phone: 252-672-5921 Ext. 23
Fax: 252-672-5922
E-mail: bianca@cravensmartstart.org

*For training calendars
& special events, check
out our website or
Facebook!*



*Child Care Resource and Referral is here
for you. FREE referrals to fit your child
care needs with a licensed, regulated, or
legally exempt childcare program.*

Looking for:

**Full-Time/Part-Time Care*

**Before/After School Care*

**Part-Time Preschool*

**Weekend Care*

**Drop-In Care*

**Hourly Care*

Mission Statement For CCR&R

**To enhance the quality and quantity of child care services in
Craven County by providing a wide range of information,
referrals, advocacy and training
services to families, providers and the community in general.**