



Save the Date!!!

Craven Smart Start Holiday Hustle

Saturday, December 9th, 2017

Union Point Park

Register at:

<https://runsignup.com/>

Search for:

Craven Smart Start Holiday Hustle



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Welcome our newest staff members!!

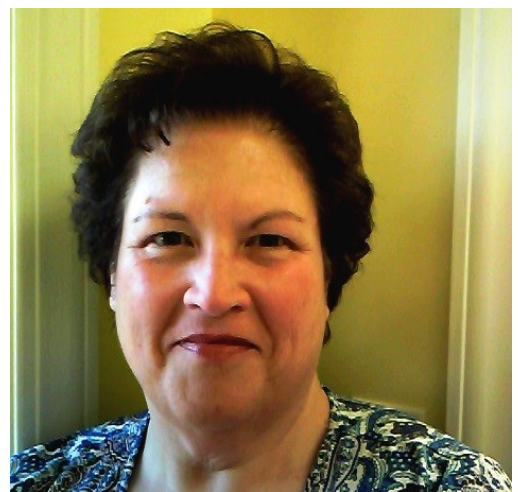
Natalie Shirley—Infant/Toddler Specialist

I was born and raised in Mount Olive, NC; then moved to Greenville for college and have lived in Pitt County for the past 17 years. I have worked in the field of childcare and Early Childhood Education for the past twelve years. I am a graduate of East Carolina University with a Masters of Science in Child Development and Family Relationships. My role with Craven Smart Start, Inc. is the Region 2 Infant Toddler Specialist. My journey with local Smart Start agencies began as an intern back in 2004. Since that time, I have been a part of local Smart Start events in Wayne County, worked in the Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children office and taught Early Childhood Education at Pitt Community College. I am excited to begin my journey as the Region 2, Infant Toddler Specialist. I certainly look forward to being part of the Smart Start family while serving local childcare providers within Eastern North Carolina.



Tammy Cullom—Quality Enhancement Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that Tammy Cullom began working as Quality Enhancement Coordinator for Craven Smart Start on November 1, 2017. Tammy began her career as a teacher in first and second grades with Craven County Schools. Following her 10 years of teaching, she served as Assistant Principal, Principal and Director of Elementary Education with Craven County Schools. Tammy retired on October 1, 2017 after 31 years of working with the school system. At East Carolina University, Tammy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education and certification in Curriculum and Supervision. Congratulations, Tammy, on your new position.



7 Family Time and Learning Tips for the Holidays

The holiday season is here! Like most families, my household is already in a flurry of activity—decorating, purchasing gifts, preparing for guests and baking cookies and pies.

This is also a special time for family fun and togetherness. But with the holiday rush, the to-do list seems to grow exponentially by the minute.

In the busyness of the season, it's important to keep learning and quality time with family at the top of the list while your kids are home on break from school.

Research shows that families who spend quality time together and connect activities at home to what children are learning in school have a stronger emotional bond and better communication—and the kids do better academically.

The holiday season also provides great opportunities to expose children to new ideas and information, reinforce skills and knowledge, and encourage creativity, which supports their success in school.

As you are shopping, baking and celebrating special traditions, here are some ideas to mix quality time with learning:

- **Create a Budget** — Encourage your kids to write a list of the people they want to buy gifts for. Then have them allocate a certain amount for each person on their list. While shopping for gifts, help your kids keep track of spending and their remaining budget.
- **Cook Together** — Include your children in meal prep and baking for holiday gatherings. It's a great way to have fun and teach kids about cooking and nutrition. While you're cooking, you can practice math and reading skills—and demonstrate cool science concepts through various cooking techniques.
- **Make Holiday Greeting Cards and Gifts** — Have your kids write holiday cards or letters to family and friends. It's a great opportunity for children to practice their handwriting, as well as their grammar, spelling and creative writing skills. Also, making gifts at home is a way to encourage creativity.
- **Explore Your City** — When you feel a bit of cabin fever, plan a family outing. Many local parks and zoos feature light displays and other festivities to celebrate the season. You can also visit a local museum and historic sites, or see a play at a local theater.
- **Play Games** — Playing board and trivia games during holiday get-togethers is a good way to enjoy quality time together. Look for ideas online. There are a variety of games—for all ages—that are fun and educational as well.
- **Enjoy the Great Outdoors** — Play with your kids in the backyard or at a local park. If it snows, build a snowman or hit the slopes! You can find fun outdoor games that promote physical activity.
- **And Read Every Day** — Take your kids to the local library and borrow books to read over the winter break. And spend time reading together—it helps children develop their literacy skills and excel academically.

Family schedules can be grueling during the holidays, but remember the most important part of the season is spending time with the people you love. And when you add learning to your quality time, it will enhance the special moments with your children and support their success.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2015/12/7-family-time-and-learning-tips-for-the-holidays/>

What's Going On At Our Office

Trainings in December

***Building Relationships with Children and Youth that Challenge Us:**
Tuesday, December 5th, 2017 6:30pm - 8:30pm CCR&R / Cost: \$6.00 for Library Members, \$8.00 for non-members / Credit: 2 CHC's

***IT'S SIDS:** Wednesday, December 6th, 2017 6:30pm - 8:30pm CCR&R / Cost: \$6.00 for CCR&R Library Members, \$8.00 for non-members / Credit: 2 CHC's

***Making Music Marvelous :** Tuesday, December 12th, 2017 6:30pm - 8:30pm CCR&R / Cost: \$6.00 for CCR&R Library Members, \$8.00 for non-members / Credit: 2 CHC's

***Be Active Kids:** Thursday, December 14th, 2017 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm CCR&R / Cost: FREE / Credit: 3 CHC's

MAXIMUM OF 12 PARTICIPANTS

Please check Craven Smart Start/CCR&R website for upcoming holiday hours!

<http://www.cravensmartstart.org/>



December 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 Basketball Day | 2 Special Education Day |
| 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities | 4 National Sock Day | 5 World Soil Day | 6 Find five things that are red. | 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day | 8 National Brownie Day | 9 National Pastry Day |
| 10 Human Rights Day | 11 UNICEF Birthday | 12 National Cocoa Day | 13 National Violin Day | 14 Yoga Day | 15 National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day | 16 National Chocolate-covered Anything Day |
| 17 Clean Air Day | 18 Go somewhere you've never been | 19 National Hard Candy Day | 20 Games Day | 21 Celebrate Short Fiction Day | 22 Forefathers Day | 23 National Roots Day |
| 24 Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas | 26 National Thank You Note Day | 27 Free Balloon Day | 28 Pledge of Allegiance Day | 29 YMCA Day | 30 Bacon Day |
| 31 New Years Eve | | | | | | |

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.**

Do you shop on Amazon?

You can now support Craven Smart Start with every purchase!

Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com> before you start
shopping!

