

MAY 2020

# CCR&R Parent/Provider Newsletter -Special Edition-

## \*Celebrating Our Craven County Child Care Providers\*



# "Craven County's Unsung Heroes" Child Care Provider Appreciation

**"Child care is an essential service as we respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Our health care professionals caring for those who are sick, grocery workers who are restocking shelves, and truck drivers delivering packages to our doors all need child care so that they can go to work – and we want to be sure child care teachers and programs have support in providing safe, quality care".**

**-NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, M.D**

Everyday we hear a lot about "Essential Workers", which includes first responders, hospital staff, front-line healthcare providers and others. We want you, our child care providers, to know that you are essential workers. By your facilities staying open, you are helping other essential workers be able to go to work.

## CRAVEN SMART START & CCR&R APPRECIATES OUR UNSUNG HEROES!



#ProviderAppreciationDay

### Child Care Provider Appreciation Day is Friday, May 8 !!

This year, during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is especially important to let your "Essential Childcare Provider" know how much you appreciate them. While it is important to appreciate your provider every day, our **Unsung Heroes** have kept their childcare centers and family childcare homes open to provide quality care for first responders and other essential workers! Craven County Childcare Providers are on the front lines working long hours to provide a nurturing environment for children during this difficult time. Childcare providers continue to serve even though they do not have enough supplies such as diapers, cleaning supplies and other necessary items to protect the children in their care. Our unsung heroes give peace of mind to our first responders and other essential workers!

# "Craven County's Unsung Heroes" Child Care Provider Appreciation continued. .

# Why are Early Childhood Programs So Important?

Children need quality care that keeps them safe, healthy and engaged in learning. Our Craven County Childcare Providers shape children's lifelong capacity for learning, emotional resilience, confidence, and independence.

Craven County Childcare Providers nurture, teach, and care for our children daily, and it is important that we recognize these individuals for the critical role they serve in providing high-quality childcare while providing peace of mind to working parents.

Craven Smart Start wants to say **THANK YOU** for always providing high-quality care that engages and instructs children in their first five years of life! **YOU** make an impact on their development more than any other intervention over the course of their lifetime.

Craven Smart Start & CCR&R wants our Childcare Providers, our unsung heroes, to know that they are **appreciated** for the important work they do!!

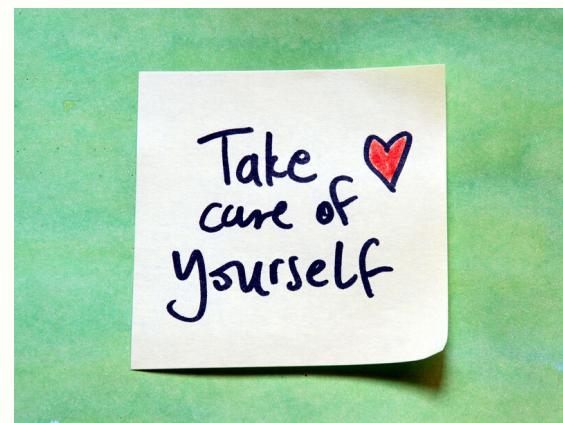
**-Bonnie Gould, CCR&R Director**



# Self-Care for Providers

## Self-Care Tips from our CCR&R Director Bonnie Gould

- Make Time for Yourself
- Read a Book While Sitting in Your Backyard
- Take a Hot Bubble Bath
- Take a Long Walk
- Enjoy Some Chocolate
- Laugh With Your Best Friend
- Spend Quality Time With Your Pet
- Play Games With Your Family



## Staying Active

- Go For A Walk a Couple Times a Week
- Play an Outside Game with Your Family
- Maybe Find a Workout Video Online to Do



## CCR&R Directors Corner- Bonnie Gould, CCR&R Director

Beginning in May 2020, I will host a zoom meeting weekly for Craven County Childcare Centers and Family Child Care Home Directors. This will be a time to touch base with our Craven County Smart Start Team, discuss the current COVID-19 issues facing our providers, and enjoy some time learning how to provide self-care.

Please be looking for additional information next week!!

***Thank you for giving your time, talent and love to the children and families of essential workers! You are all essential and amazing!!!***

# Craven Smart Start Assists In Securing Essential Child Care Items

*Craven Smart Start assists in securing essential child care items*

**By Pat Morrow**

**A**s Stated in the Sun Journal: "Childcare is an essential service as we respond to the COVID-19 crisis." Mandy Cohen, the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, said in the press release. "Our healthcare professionals caring for those who are sick, grocery workers who are restocking shelves, and truck drivers delivering packages to our doors all need child care so that they can go to work – and we want to be sure child care teachers and programs have support in providing safe, quality care."

**Craven Smart Start:**  
Craven Smart Start is working hard to lead and collaborate with organizations to ensure

that all childcare programs have critical expert health and safety consultation and are connected to available resources for funding, supplies and teacher supports. We must remember that many of these Essential Childcare Teachers, center based, and home based, lack medical insurance, are paid low wages, and are now unable to obtain the resources needed to meet the health and safety requirements to eradicate this pandemic.

Like other essential workers, childcare teachers are readily on the front lines of this crisis, risking their own health and safety, putting their own families at risk to care for the children of other essential employees such as healthcare workers, first responders,

grocery works, delivery drivers, etc.

**Community Support Needed:**

As our nation faces the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of childcare has never been more evident, and these caregivers and providers have never been more indispensable. We cannot fight this pandemic without ensuring

that the essential workforce can access safe, high-quality childcare ([homegrownchildcare.org](http://homegrownchildcare.org)).

This dedicated, reliable workforce is there to serve the community and support fellow essential workers, even as they have identified needs that are arising as a result of staying open during the Coronavirus COVID19 pandemic. We understand that in each community, the most sought-after items are incredibly difficult to access. Like our medical workers and others that are serving on the front lines, there is a critical need for masks, sanitizer, cleaners, paper products, baby wipes, etc. We implore the community to step up and help with these items where they can.

It is clearer than ever before that the childcare industry is the Silent Driver of Craven County's economy. Without these Essential Child Care Professionals, especially at this time of this COVID-19 Crisis, those who are working hard to meet the needs of the population would be unable to deliver needed critical services to the community. The childcare community must have the vital resources necessary to be successful in protecting our most precious asset...the children.

For more information, please contact Pat Morrow, Executive Director of Craven Smart Start, at [pmorrow@cravensmartstart.org](mailto:pmorrow@cravensmartstart.org). or call (252) 626-5412.

*Pat Morrow, executive director, Craven Smart Start, Inc.*



## Craven Smart Start in the News: Child Care Supplies Drive

Craven Smart Start is collecting items such as masks, gloves, bleach, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, and cleaning/sanitizing products. If you are a child care provider and in need of any of these items, or would like to donate any items to our child care providers, please contact our Outreach Coordinator Pinkie Moore via email at: [pinkie@cravensmartstart.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:pinkie@cravensmartstart.onmicrosoft.com)



# New Hotline for Those Who Need Urgent Child Care - COVID 19 NC Response

## Find Child Care NC

If you are a parent who provides necessary services to, or cares for, members of our communities and your child care has fallen through or is unavailable because of COVID-19 closures, call 1-888-600-1685 to be connected with the right fit for you and your child. At this time, representatives are available to assist you on weekdays between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST.

- Care options are for parents whose typical child care arrangements are unavailable due to school or child care closings and who cannot access other care.
- Options are available for infants up to children age 12.

Si usted es un parent que brinda los servicios necesarios a los miembros de nuestras comunidades o se preocupa por ellos, y su cuidado de niños no se cumplió o no está disponible debido al cierre de COVID-19, llame al 1-888-600-1685 para comunicarse con el apto para usted y su hijo. En este momento, los representantes están disponibles para ayudarlo entre semana de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. EST.  
• Hay opciones para bebes hasta los ninos de 12 años.

### Please Call / Por Favor Llame Al



CALL  
1-888-600-1685

Under the direction of Governor Cooper, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the NC Department of Public Instruction, the North Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral Network and our partners across the state are working together provide these vital child care options.



North Carolina Department of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

www.ncdohhs.gov | www.ncpublicschools.org | NCDHHS and NCDPI are an equal opportunity employer and provider. | 3/20

This call center is a great resource for families during this time. The specialists (including our Parent/Provider Specialist, Bianca Salinas) that are working this call center are eager to help all families in Craven County that are needing help finding child care! Here is feedback from a local parent about our Find Child Care NC call center:

***"Thank you so much for the referrals. I was able to interview and locate child care for my 5 year old during this covid-19 pandemic. When all my other child care options where exhausted I didn't know what I was going to do. This service has been amazing! It was fast and easy for me. You took all the guess work out of trying to find someone on short notice. Again, Thank You"***

-Parent from Craven County

# Craven Smart Start Updates

## Training's at Craven Smart Start

Trainings in the office have been cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19. Safety is our #1 priority and we are also taking the advice of higher authorities by doing social distancing. Please be on the lookout for emails from our office and also check our facebook page/website for any updates. We are still teleworking and we are constantly checking emails as well as checking our office voicemails.



Craven Smart Start will begin to provide free online zoom trainings for our providers. Our staff will be sending out additional information to you next week!

THANK YOU CHILD CARE PROVIDERS FOR ALL YOU DO!



## Goodnight with Dolly: Weekly Read-Aloud

Dolly Parton's new weekly read-aloud video series called "Goodnight with Dolly." The Book Lady reads books from the Imagination Library to children and families. "Goodnight with Dolly" launched on April 2, 2020. This 10-week series will focus on comforting and reassuring children during the shelter-in-place mandates. Dolly hopes these videos will provide a welcomed distraction during a time of unrest and also inspire a love of reading and books in the hearts of the children who see them. Dolly said, Here is the link - [https://youtu.be/tT9fv\\_ELbnE](https://youtu.be/tT9fv_ELbnE)



# Child Care Resource & Referral

2111 Neuse Blvd.  
Suite F.  
New Bern, NC 28560

Phone: 252- 672-5921  
Fax: 252-672-5922  
Email: bianca@cravensmartstart.onmicrosoft.com



**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

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.