

JUNE 2020

CCR&R Parent/Provider Newsletter

-June 2020-



Craven Smart Start in the News: "Police, nonprofit show appreciation for child care workers amid pandemic"

On Thursday May 7th, Craven Smart Start Executive Director, Patricia Morrow and Child Care Resource & Referral Director Bonnie Gould, other staff and the New Bern Police Department visited more than 46 licensed child care facilities in Craven County with the help of New Bern's Police Department. As a token of recognition and appreciation each childcare program was presented with a "Heroes Work Here" yard sign and handmade masks for each employee. We wanted our childcare providers to know that we appreciate them, and they are essential businesses also! Without these Essential workers other Essential workers would not be able to perform their jobs.

Our Executive Director Patricia Morrow also had the opportunity to be interviewed by WCTITV 12 during their stop at Kiddie Kollege Learning Center. We were humbled to be able to highlight all the hard work our childcare providers do daily, not only during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a quote from our Executive Director during the interview:

"Without our childcare workforce, our workers, our community couldn't work and thrive," she says, "so, we want to make sure that they are recognized and thanked and honored for the service that they provide."

-Patricia Morrow, Executive Director of Craven Smart Start

All of us at Craven Smart Start just wanted to thank the unsung heroes of this pandemic. We are truly honored to work with these professionals daily. Please visit our Facebook page and our website for pictures of our visits with our childcare providers.

A big thank you to Craven Smart Start Board Member, Toussaint Summers, New Bern Police Chief, who joined us on our visits to the childcare facilities in New Bern. Thank you to the volunteers affiliated with Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church and the Craven County Disaster Recovery Alliance and the "Carolina Colours "Maskteers," for the face masks donated to Craven Smart Start. Also, a big thank you to the local businesses for the monetary support donated to help our child care community.



Director's Corner

From Bonnie Gould, CCR&R Director



Craven Smart Start Child Care Resource and Referral will launch the first “Coffee and Conversation” meeting on Wednesday June 10, 2020. This meeting is for Craven County Childcare Center Directors, and Family Childcare Home Providers. The meetings will be held every two weeks for 1 hour and run through the end of September 2020. Two sessions will be offered on each scheduled date. The morning sessions are for center directors, and the evening session will be for family home providers. The meetings will be offered through a Zoom link that will be emailed prior to the meeting date.

Coffee and Conversation is designed for CCR&R staff to have meaningful conversations with our early childhood directors and provide connections to our community partners during this time of need. Each of these sessions will include self-wellness tips and relaxing activities just for directors. It is important that our early childhood leaders feel their best so that they can provide quality care to their staff and the families they serve. We look forward to our first session on June 10th. Look for the informational flyer that will be sent to all Craven County directors the first week of June! Thank you for being Essential and Amazing!

Always,

Bonnie Gould,
CCR&R Director



Supplies Drive for Our Child Care Providers

Craven Smart Start is still a drop off site for items that our local childcare community needs. We are still collecting items such as masks, gloves, bleach, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, diapers, baby wipes paper towels, and cleaning/sanitizing products. If you are a childcare provider in need of any of these items, or would like to donate any items to our providers, please contact our Executive Director, Patricia Morrow at 252-626-5412



Moving into Phase 2 and Safer at Home

Effective 5 p.m., Friday May 22, North Carolina moved into Safer At Home Phase 2 of lifting COVID-19 restrictions. Since the earlier part of the year, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on our Craven County community. With social distancing now being the new norm to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and shelter in place orders being given to help protect our community, families are now staying home more than before. While staying home is beneficial because it limits your chance of getting COVID-19, it also can increase fear in those whose homes may not be the safest place for them. In times of difficulty, families can be under a lot of stress and that can lead to an increase in the risk of child maltreatment, which includes emotional and physical abuse/maltreatment. Prevent Child Abuse NC has great resources to help recognize, prevent and respond to suspicions of child maltreatment.

Here are some tips from Prevent Child abuse NC:



Practice self-care.

Schedule time to participate in restorative activities like taking a bubble bath, listening to music, reading a book, or going on a walk. When we care for ourselves, we're better able to care for loved ones.



Praise your children often.

Take note when your child does something without being told or does something right and shower them with praise to reinforce that positive behavior in the future.



Be kind and forgiving to yourself.

If you're not working, know that you're doing a great job and this is temporary. If you're working at home, remember you're not simply working remotely, you're working at home during a global pandemic.



Trainings at Craven Smart Start

Craven Smart Start staff are still teleworking!! Please email us with any questions and needs you may have or feel free to call our office and leave us a message. We are checking voicemails daily. We still are no longer holding face-to-face trainings due to COVID-19, but we are offering trainings online via Zoom. Our new online training calendar has been sent out and there is no cost for these trainings during the COVID-19 crisis. Please check your email for information on our trainings and check our website.

Our office is proud to announce that we will be offering trainings through an online platform in the near future. These trainings will be available at a self-paced basis. We are very excited to be using this new online platform. Please keep a look out for more information that will be sent out soon!

THANK YOU, CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, FOR ALL YOU DO!



Activities to Do Together

Outdoors

- Play I-Spy
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Do a gardening activity
- Set up and obstacle course



Indoors

- Build a blanket fort
- Throw a dance party
- Read a book together, maybe pick one of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library books
- Look through family pictures and/or home videos



Arts & Crafts

- Do finger painting
- Make instruments out of recyclables and/or old pots and pans
- Draw a picture of your family
- Do sidewalk chalk art



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Looking For Childcare? We Can Help!

The "**Find Child Care NC**" call center is still available for those who are looking for child care! Call **1-888-600-1685** to connect 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.

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

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**
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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.