

AUGUST 2020

CCR&R Parent/Provider Newsletter

-August 2020-



Craven Smart Start in the News

Craven Smart Start is the July winner of Eastern NC Cares brought to you by Brian Ricci of the Ricci Law Firm

Ricci Law Making A Difference in Craven County.

Craven Smart Start is excited to be featured as WITN's July winner of Eastern NC Cares, brought to you by Brian Ricci of the Ricci Law Firm. See below for the entire story. (copy and paste link in browser) <https://www.witn.com/page/eastern-nc-cares/>



Things to do in Craven

Drive In Movie Theatre – Lawson Creek

Check out New Bern Parks & Recreation website and their Facebook page for what movies will be showing during the month of August. Cost is \$5.00 per car and you must purchase the tickets ahead of time on their website. No tickets will be sold on-site. Call 252-639-2901 for more information.



Director's Corner

From Bonnie Gould, CCR&R Director



Building relationships through coffee and conversations!

- Conversations with Early Childhood Directors.
- Self-Care for Directors
 - Transition Back to School
 - COVID-19 Updates
 - Trainings for August 2020
 - Education of Staff
 - Early Childhood at Craven Community College
 - Professional Development
 - What is on Your Mind?

Child Care Centers: August 11th & 25th 10:00 – 11:00 AM / 6:30-7:30 PM

Family Child Care Homes: August 12th & 26th / 7:00 – 8:00 PM

The zoom link will be sent to all Early Childhood Center Directors and Family Childcare Home Providers prior to the date of our Coffee and Conversation Meeting!

Free for all Craven County Directors and FCCH Providers! Email me at bonnie@cravensmartstart.org to register for your session!



Craven Smart Start
Child Care Resource & Referral
Contact: Bonnie Gould
CCR&R Director
bonnie@cravensmartstart.org



CCR&R Lending Library Updates

Late Fees

The Lending Library is currently closed, and we would like to thank our patrons for their understanding and support as we navigate through the challenges related to COVID-19. The health and safety of our staff and patrons is our top priority.

All late fees accrued have been waived during the library's closure, starting on March 16, 2020 until further notice.

Please continue to visit our website for important updates.

If you have any concerns, please call 252-672-5921—Ext. 32 and leave a message. Someone will contact you shortly.



Late Fees!!!

What Late Fees?



Returning Books/Toys

The Craven Smart Start's Lending Library temporarily closed on March 16th, when the shelter-in-place ordinance went into effect. Due to COVID-19 mandates of social distancing ordered by Governor Roy Cooper, only staff are permitted into the building. We want to start accepting the return of our Lending Library Items. Masks are required, the health and safety of our staff and patrons is our top priority. All late fees accrued during the closure (starting March 16, 2020) will be permanently waived.

Drop off for Lending Library Items will be every Tuesday for the month of August, starting August 4th, 2020. Patrons may drop-off Books/Toys at the door and masks will be required.

The staff at Craven Smart Start appreciates your understanding and support as we combat the challenges related to COVID-19.

QUALITY CONNECTIONS

Fun Summer Activities

As the world that we live in is changing on a daily basis, it is important to keep our children involved and engaged in learning activities. With the current distancing measures in place, it is even more vital to keep our young children busy. The following are quick, fun and easy activities to keep your child busy and engaged in summer learning:

Go on a Scavenger Hunt



Paint Outside



Blow Bubbles



Look for Cloud Animals



Read a Book



Catch bugs



PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS

The Child Care WAGE\$ Program

As our offices new fiscal year begins, we would like to provide ongoing information on different professional development opportunities that our office and state has to offer. Have you heard of WAGE\$ before? The Child Care WAGE\$ Program provides education-based salary supplements to low-paid teachers, directors and family child care educators working with children ages birth to 5 years old. The program is designed to increase retention, education and compensation. The Child Care WAGE\$ Program is a funding collaboration between Craven Smart Start and the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE).

Any child care professional earning at or below the income cap, \$16/hour may qualify after six months of employment at the professional's current facility. Bonuses received from the employer will be included in calculations to determine hourly rate. The supplement recipient must work with children ages birth to 5 at least 10 hours per week in a licensed child care program and must have a level of education appearing on the Child Care WAGE\$ supplement scale. Participants must be working in a qualified facility that is rated 3 stars or higher. Salary supplements are tied to the recipient's level of education, with teachers and family child care providers awarded on a different scale than directors. Craven Smart Start currently has our program funding at a Tier 2.

Interested child care professionals must complete an application and provide verification of (1) current employment in a participating child care program, (2) current wages and (3) education earned, as verified by an official transcript or through Early Educator Certification (EEC). If an official transcript has been submitted to EEC, it may be used to determine the WAGE\$ award. Please note that it is that professionals responsibility to fill out the application, send it, and follow up on the applications status.

More information including the salary scale is available at <https://www.childcareservices.org/wages-nc/>

If you would like additional information on WAGE\$, TEACH, or AWARDS\$, please reach out to Kelly Shaw at Kelly@cravensmartstart.onmicrosoft.com.

Training Information Craven Smart Start

Office Information & Training's

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, face to face trainings will no longer be held until further notice. This is for the safety of our providers and our training staff. Our on-going trainings are now offered online through 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 out our Craven Smart Start website for additional information. Please remember that Craven Smart Start staff are still teleworking!! If you need anything or have any questions regarding our current trainings, please email us, or feel free to call our office and leave us a message. We are checking voicemails daily.

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



Online Zoom Training's in August

*Sanitation and Disease Prevention with Courtney Cartwright

Thursday August 20th, 2020

6:30PM-8:30PM

To register for a training, please RSVP to Kelly@cravensmartstart.onmicrosoft.com and more information will be sent in regard to the online training.

Reminders from Craven Smart Start

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

DONATE



Looking for Child Care? 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. Currently, representatives are available to assist you on weekdays between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST.

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.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES



North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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

COVID-19 Updates

Gov. Roy Cooper has announced that North Carolina public schools will open in the fall for both in-person and remote learning with key safety precautions to protect the health of students, teachers, staff and families. This is a modified Plan B the state previously asked schools to prepare. It is a measured approach that will allow children to attend school in person but provides important safety protocols such as fewer children in classroom, social distancing, face coverings, cleaning and more. As a part of this plan, local school districts can provide a remote learning option for any child who chooses it. In addition, school districts will have the option of Plan C – all remote learning – if that's best for them.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/staying-ahead-curve/opening-public-schools>

Also please remember your 3 W's!

If you leave home, know your Ws!



WEAR
a cloth face
covering.



WAIT
6 feet apart. Avoid
close contact.



WASH
your hands often or
use hand sanitizer.

@NCDHHS

#StayStrongNC

August is Get Ready for Kindergarten Month

What can you, as a parent, do to help prepare?

- establish routines at home
 - bedtime routines
 - reading routines
 - family mealtime routines
- tell your child what to expect
 - Spend time talking with your child about what kindergarten will be like (e.g., who will be the teacher, what will the daily school routine look like, etc.)
 - Involve him or her in picking out their school materials (e.g., backpack, clothes, etc.)
 - You can also talk about what going to kindergarten was like for you to model how your child can share feelings about kindergarten

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/how-to-get-your-child-ready-for-the-first-day-of-kindergarten>

Some Skills Often Expected at the Beginning of Kindergarten

- Identify some letters of the alphabet
- Grip a pencil, crayon, or marker correctly (with the thumb and forefinger supporting the tip)
- Write first name using upper and lowercase letters, if possible.
- Count to ten
- recognizing common sight words like "stop"
- speak using a complete sentence
- Repeat full name, address, phone number, and birthday

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/school-life/grade-by-grade/preparing-kindergarten.html>



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.