

DECEMBER 2020

CCR&R Parent/Provider Newsletter

-December 2020-



From the Desk of the Parent/Provider Specialist

Bianca Salinas

December is Safe Toys & Gifts Month

Safe Toys & Gifts Month came about as to help people remember the importance of buying age appropriate toys for children. Here are things to keep in mind when buying toys:

- Inspect all toys before purchasing. The toy should have no sharp edges or points and should be sturdy enough to withstand impact without breaking, being crushed, or being pulled apart easily
- When purchasing toys for children with special needs try to: Choose toys that may appeal to different senses such as sound, movement, and texture; consider interactive toys to allow the child to play with others
- Do NOT give toys with small parts (including magnets and “button” batteries which can cause serious injury or death if ingested) to young children as they tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking. If the piece can fit inside a toilet paper roll, it is not appropriate for kids under age three.

Here are some ideas for age appropriate toys based on age:

- Young Infants (birth-6 months)
 - Things they can reach for, hold, suck on, shake, make noise with—rattles, large rings, squeeze toys, teething toys, soft dolls, textured balls, and vinyl and board books
 - Things to listen to—books with nursery rhymes and poems, and recordings of lullabies and simple songs
- Older Infants (7 months-12months)
 - Things to drop and take out—plastic bowls, large beads, balls, and nesting toys
 - Things to use their large muscles with—large balls, push and pull toys, and low, soft things to crawl over
- One Year Olds
 - Board books with simple illustrations or photographs of real objects
 - Things for using their large and small muscles—puzzles, large pegboards, toys with parts that do things (dials, switches, knobs, lids), and large and small balls
- Two Year Olds
 - Things for solving problems—wood puzzles (with 4 to 12 pieces), blocks that snap together, objects to sort (by size, shape, color, smell), and things with hooks, buttons, buckles, and snaps
 - Things to create with—large non-toxic, washable crayons and markers, large paintbrushes and fingerpaint, large paper for drawing and painting, colored construction paper, toddler-sized scissors with blunt tips, chalkboard and large chalk, and rhythm instruments
- Three to Six Year Olds
 - Things for pretending and building—many blocks for building complex structures, transportation toys, construction sets, child-sized furniture (“apartment” sets, play food), dress-up clothes, dolls with accessories, puppets and simple puppet theaters, and sand and water play toys
 - Things to create with—large and small crayons and markers, large and small paintbrushes and fingerpaint

What's Going On in Craven?

Pancakes for PIE (Partners in Education)

Join us for Pancakes for PIE at Morgan's Tavern & Grill, 235 Craven Street, downtown New Bern. Breakfast will be served Saturday, December 5, from 7:00 – 10:00 am to benefit Partners In Education. Morgan's will be festively decorated for the holiday season and is the perfect setting to start your day with pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, orange juice, coffee, and water. All this for just \$7 per adult, and \$5 for children 12 and under.

A face mask is required to enter Morgan's and we ask that you wear a mask when not seated at your table. Hand sanitizer will be placed at every table for your convenience. Morgan's will have their standard safety precautions in place. As you enter Morgan's for Pancakes for PIE, remember the three W's: Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Watch your distance.



35th Annual Coastal Christmas Flotilla – December 5, 2020

Join our community at Union Point Park in Historic Downtown New Bern to watch in amazement at the 36th Annual Coastal Christmas Flotilla! Boats will float from the park down the river in their most festive look of the year! Flotilla will begin at 5:30 pm. The Annual Coastal Christmas Flotilla is organized and sponsored by City of New Bern Parks & Recreation. For additional questions, contact Kari Warren, Special Event Coordinator at 252-639-2902.



***For more information on local events happening please visit <https://bearymerrychristmas.com/event/> or <https://visitnewbern.com/>**

Director's Corner From Bonnie Gould, CCR&R Director



Attention Center Directors and Family Child Care Home Providers
We will have only one session of Coffee & Conversation in December 2020!
Child Care Center Directors: Wednesday December 2, 2020 from 7:00-8:00 PM
Family Child Care Home Providers: Thursday December 3, 2020 from 7:00-8:00 PM

Building relationships through coffee and conversations!

Child Care Resource & Referral Technical Assistance

Important Technical Assistant Information!

Our Craven Smart Start Child Care Resource & Referral Technical Assistance Team is available to our providers through email, phone consultations, and scheduled zoom meetings. Please reach out to our T.A. staff or to me directly and we will get your facility scheduled to receive virtual T.A.

Please contact me at 252-447-0825 or bonnie@cravensmartstart.org.

Bonnie Gould
CCR&R Director
Craven Smart Start
bonnie@cravensmartstart.org



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 December

*Developmentally Appropriate Behavior: But, I'm supposed to act like this! with Sonia Sumner

Tuesday December 8th, 2020

6:30PM-8:30PM

*All About the Family: Building Lasting Partnerships in your Facilities and Classrooms with Tammy Cullom

Wednesday December 9th, 2020

6:30PM-8:30PM

*Preventing Child Abuse: Knowing the Signs with Courtney Cartwright

Thursday December 10th, 2020

6:30PM-8:30PM

*It's SIDS with Sandra Arasim

Monday December 14th, 2020

6:30PM-8:30PM

*We are NOT Babysitters: The Importance of Linking Professionalism and Higher Wages with Kelly Shaw

Tuesday December 15th, 2020

6:30PM-8:30PM

To register for a training, please RSVP to venus@cravensmartstart.onmicrosoft.com and more information will be sent regarding 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



Are you looking for Child Care? We can help!

If you are still looking for child care, the "Find Child Care NC" call center is still available to help! Specialists (including myself) are available to assist you on weekdays between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST.

Call 1-888-600-1685 to connect with the childcare facility fit for you and your child.



COVID-19 Updates

Here are some COVID-19 updates:

- Indoor mass gathering limit has been lowered to 10.
- Executive Order 180 goes into effect on Wednesday, November 25 and runs through Friday, December 11
 - The order tightens the existing statewide mask requirement – making it clear that everyone needs to wear a mask whenever they are with someone who is not from the same household. The Order also adds the mask requirement to several additional settings including any public indoor space even when maintaining 6 feet of distance; gyms even when exercising; all schools public and private; and all public or private transportation when traveling with people outside of the household.
- Updated COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Programs (Nov. 10th, 2020):
 - <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/childcare/NC-Interim-Guidance-for-Child-Care-Settings.pdf>
- Here is a link for NCDHHS Interim Guidance on Fall-Related Events
 - <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Fall-Events.pdf>

If you leave home, know your Ws!



Reminder for Child Care Facilities Wearing A Mask

- Who are **Required** to wear a mask?
 - All workers, all adults, and school-aged children five years or older (kindergarten and up) on site wear a face covering when they are or may be within six feet of another person.
- What kind of mask is acceptable?
 - In child care settings Face Cloth Coverings can be used. These are not surgical masks, respirators (N-95), or other medical personal protective equipment.
- How should Face Cloth Coverings be worn?



- Children's books available to use to teach about wearing a mask.
 - Lucy's Mask by Lisa Sirkis Thompson
 - A Little Spot Wears a Mask by Diane Aber
- We Wear Masks – A Social Story about the coronavirus
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnP-uMn6q_U

For more information or other Health and Safety guidance please contact Courtney Cartwright at courtney@cravensmartstart.org



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.