

CCR&R Parent/Provider Newsletter -October 2021-



Holiday Hustle! Saturday, December 11, 2021

This year Craven Smart Starts Holiday Hustle will be held both in-person and virtually! We are excited to be able to do this event in person, at Union Point Park in New Bern. Registration is open and you can register [here](#), as well as find more information on how to do the races virtually! We hope to see you there!



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Congratulations to These Newly Opened Facilities!

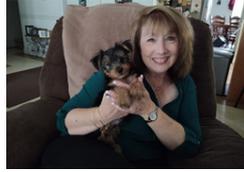
Dragonflies' Learning Center, LLC (Center, New Bern)

Little Bundles of Joy FCCH (Family Child Care Home, New Bern)

Sunshine Scholars Academy (Center, New Bern)



Craven Smart Start Office Updates



CCR&R Director– Bonnie Gould

As an early childhood professional and advocate for children and families, I wanted to share this vital information from the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (NCAEYC). As a current NCAEYC Board Member, I understand the importance of educating our Craven County Early Child Care Providers on how to advocate for the children and families in their care. This informational Advocacy Toolkit from NCAEYC will help you take the first step in advocating for those precious children you work with every day! For more information on how to advocate for children, families, and your profession, visit their website at www.ncaeyc.org.

Blessings,

Bonnie Gould



Advocacy Toolkit

In North Carolina, our high-quality early care and education system was created by hard work, passion for early education, and legislation that required safe, developmentally appropriate, and accessible childcare.

To preserve and enhance the high quality early education system that we have, Early Education professionals and families need to stay informed, advocate for positive legislation, and encourage their communities to support early education as well.

Here are eight ways to make an impact and spread the message about WHAT young children need for positive development, WHY early education matters in the world at large, and HOW members of our communities can get involved to ensure a bright present and future for all of us.

1. Advocate and Educate where you live and work.

Share your advocacy message with the people most impacted by Early Education policies—the teachers and families who take part in childcare each day. Encourage each other to get educated on current Early Education policies, speak up, and pay attention to state and federal Early Education legislation.

2. Stay Informed.

The North Carolina General Assembly has a major impact on Early Education funding and policy. Know who your representatives are, and urge them to support funding and high quality standards for Early Education in North Carolina. You can find your representative's contact information at bit.ly/11PF5K8.

Sign up for the NC Early Education Coalition's Action Network at bit.ly/11OVCS9 to receive alerts on Early Education legislation issues and action campaigns that you can join.

3. Share the resources of NAEYC with co-workers and families.

Check out www.naeyc.org/positionstatements to learn NAEYC's take on issues in Early Education.

Share resources from families.naeyc.org to help families understand the importance of high-quality early education.

4. Recommit to Professionalism.

Print and post NAEYC's Code of Ethical Conduct Statement of Commitment in your center or classroom. Download a PDF at bit.ly/2sqHKH1.

Take time to remind yourself and others that as Early Educators, we take our profession seriously, have shared ideals and principles, and strive towards the highest standards.

5. Connect with advocates and engage your community resources.

Connect with NCAEYC members in your own community. Learn more about NCAEYC Local Affiliates and Chapters at ncaeyc.org/affiliates or contact generalinfo@ncaeyc.org.

Share resources from your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency. Find the CCR&R agency in your community at childcaresrnc.org/directory.php. Share resources from your local Smart Start. Find Smart Start in your community at bit.ly/1RBTIUu.

6. Share the First 2000 Days resources with your community.

NC Early Learning Foundation created The First 2000 Days presentation, an excellent tool explaining why high quality, accessible care is crucial to families, and the positive impact it has in communities. It speaks to those outside the world of early childhood, and is ideal for civic, religious, non-profit, and community groups. Find a First 2000 Days Champion in your area at bit.ly/1TwKVUj or become a champion yourself by sharing this video (bit.ly/1RSULwJ) and leading a conversation at your group event.

7. Invite community leaders to tour your high-quality program.

Give a tour of your program in action. Invite local business leaders, community leaders, public school teachers and administrators, City Council members, the Mayor and mayoral staff to view your program on a typical day, and explain how each aspect of your program (classroom, teachers, outdoor environments, and curriculum) are designed to best engage and teach young children.

8. Take care of yourself so you can take care of others!

Pat yourself on the back! The work you do matters. Your health and well-being is an important factor in early care and education. Reflect upon your own professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment. Celebrate those qualities in yourself, and in the early educators in your life and your community. **NCAEYC thanks you for all you do to serve and support children, families, and your communities!**

TA Quick Quality Tips From Craven Smart Start/CCR&R Staff

Program Assistant- Venus Miller



Books In Our Library To Enjoy!

Allie Gator and the Mixed-Up Scarecrow - The scarecrow on Merriweather Farm is all mixed up, and Allie Gator needs your help. Turn the wheel to find the best head, hand, leg, and foot for the scarecrow. Once you're done, he won't be mixed up anymore.

Franklin And The Tooth Fairy - Franklin's friends are losing their teeth, but Franklin doesn't have any teeth to lose. Will the tooth fairy visit Franklin anyway?

When the Teddy Bears Came - When Tom's mother brings home the new baby, so many teddy bears arrive as gifts that there is no room for Tom, but she assures him that there will always be a place for him.



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Quality Enhancement Specialist & School Age Specialist- Tammy Cullom (252-635-8242)



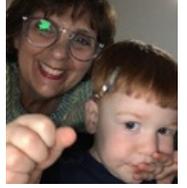
Preparing for Parent Conferences

At the beginning of the school year, teachers will ask parents to attend a Parent-Teacher Conference. Here are some tips for how to have a successful conference.

- 1- Be on time - This shows your child is important to you.
- 2- Bring questions to ask - You can think better if you plan questions before you get there.
- 3- Ask for clarification on what you do not understand- A lot has changed in school since you attended. Don't be embarrassed to ask for more information.
- 4- Stay calm - Things may be brought up that upset you. Remember the teacher is giving you a picture of what happens in a classroom full of other children. That may be different from how things are at home with only 1 or a few children. Listen then ask the teacher, "How can we make this better?" That question puts you and the teacher on the same team to help your child.
- 5- Confirm how you and the teacher will communicate back and forth this school year - Some teachers give out their school email address for questions that can wait for a day or two to be answered. Make sure you ask how to get urgent communication to the teacher if you need a response quickly.
- 6- Ask how you can help at home - This may be with school work, homework, organization, or behaviors.
- 7- End on time and with a Thank You - Teachers are working really hard. During this time they are wearing masks and keeping the children safe, all while trying to teach the curriculum. They deserve a little Thank You!

Don't forget to thank your childcare providers also! A sincere Thank You goes a long way!

TA Quick Quality Tips From Craven Smart Start/CCR&R Staff



Infant-Toddler Specialist- Sandra Arasim (914-589-1886)

Infant Toddler Connections is a monthly “town hall-style” meeting for infant and toddler teachers, administrators, and support staff. This forum is a collaboration of Infant Toddler Specialists from the four regions surrounding Craven County. The Specialist from R1, R2, R3 & R14 facilitate discussions on topics of interest to early childhood educators, particularly infant and toddler staff. Past topics include self-care for teachers, communicating with parents during COVID, and the value of interactions. There have also been guest speakers, for example, an assessor joined the August meeting and helped participants navigate the ITERS indicators as well as the new Modified Assessment Process.

Although there is a pre-determined format and topic for each meeting, the discussions are a free exchange of ideas. The four Specialists act as facilitators while participants explore discussion points. Infant Toddler Connections is a safe place to ask questions and voice concerns. The group is evolving into a collaborative where teachers and administrators can share strategies to promote developmentally appropriate care and lend support to each other. Early childhood teachers share a bond and common desire to nurture our children. This group is a living example of the old adage, “It takes one to know one.” These professionals are there for themselves, their children, and each other.

If you are interested in joining or just popping in for a visit, please reach out to Sandra Arasim, @ 914-589-1886 or email Sandra@CravenSmartStart.org. We will be sure to include you in our next invitation mailing. The next Infant Toddler Connections are planned for October 26th and November 30th.

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Quality Enhancement Specialist - Courtney Cartwright



During outdoor play, children use their minds, bodies, and imaginations. They use large muscles for scooting, crawling, climbing, running, swatting, and throwing. This helps build strength, endurance, and coordination. Outdoors, children can experiment freely with their voices. They can be messy, digging in sand and dirt, creating exciting adventures. They can be scientists learning about bugs, plants, stars, and weather.

Do you remember playing outdoors as a child? Plan activities appropriate for the seasonal weather. When planning major outdoor activities, have preschoolers help get materials ready ahead of time. Learning to help with preparation and clean-up provides children ways to be responsible for their environment.

Many indoor activities can also be done outside. Sometimes all it takes is bringing a few things to the classroom outdoors. Sometimes just minds and bodies are enough.

TA Quick Quality Tips From Craven Smart Start/CCR&R Staff



Healthy Social Behavior Specialist- Sonia Sumner (252-876-1645)

With families returning from the summer or new families joining you for the new school year, this is a great time to focus on building a relationship with your families. Having a relationship with your families can help ease something so simple like drop off to something like a difficult conversation. If your families feel welcomed, understood and as a partner then they are more open to listening and working with you. I know it can be hard to build a relationship with some families because you may not see them on a regular basis and that is okay. You can still continue to connect with them when you do see them. Even having just a little bit of a relationship is better than none. Here are some ways you can make them feel welcome:

- Set each family up with materials for an art project that can be done at home then shared at school
- When giving information to parents have it written in a way they understand and in their main language if possible
- Offer different ways to have parent-teacher conferences. You may be able to get more meetings from parents if they could do it virtually and not have to take time off from work
- Have classroom events like an outside picnic, community helper day where parents share what they do for work, or a Gallery Day where parents come to see all the children's artwork on the walls

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Quality Enhancement Specialist/Professional Development Coordinator - Kelly Shaw



Professional Development Plan. No Problem!

It is that time of year again. As the fall begins, it is time to begin thinking about your professional development plans.

Professional Development plans are meant to help with your yearly goals. Did you enroll back in school? Do you need to finish up your training hours for the year? Are you hoping to gain a new skill to help a child in your care? These are all goals that can be added to your PD plan. A blank professional development plan is available on the Division of Child Development website. However, if you need further assistance then feel free to reach out!

I am available to talk through and help you find solutions to meeting your goals. To set up an appointment, please feel free to email me at Kelly@cravensmartstart.org or call the office. I am always happy to help!



Training Information Craven Smart Start

Training Reminders

*Remember that our Thinkific platform is available for you to do online trainings at your own pace. To access our Thinkific platform, you can go to www.cravensmartstart.org and click on the e-learning tab; or, you can access the platform at <https://cravensmartstart.thinkific.com/>. Please reach out to the Quality Enhancement Team if you have any questions! (Kelly Shaw, Quality Enhancement Coordinator/Professional Development)



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

All trainings listed below are \$8.00 for lending library members and \$10 for non-members unless otherwise stated.

Online Zoom Training's in October

* Getting Started Improving Quality with the ITERS-R

Presenter: Sandra Arasim
Monday, October 4th, 2021
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

*Deep Breathing: A Connection to Calm

Presenter: Sonia Sumner
Thursday, October 7th, 2021
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

*Improving Transition Times

Presenter: Tammy Cullom
Monday, October 11th, 2021
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

*Fire Safety

Presenter: New Bern Fire Department
Tuesday, October 12th, 2021
6:30 PM-8:00 PM
1401 Neuse Blvd. New Bern, NC 28560

*Calling All Smile Crusaders!

Presenter: Debi Grzeslo
Thursday, October 14th, 2021
6:30 PM-7:30 PM

FREE

*Playground Safety

Presenter: Courtney Cartwright
Wednesday, October 20th, 2021
6:00 PM-9:00 PM

\$12.00 for members & \$16.00 for non-members

*Introduction to Exceptional Children: Understanding the Basics

Presenter: Kelly Shaw
Tuesday, October 26th, 2021
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

*It's SIDS: Infant/Toddler Safe Sleep and SIDS Reduction in Child Care

Presenter: Sandra Arasim
Thursday, October 28th, 2021
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

From the Desk of the Parent/Provider Specialist

Bianca Salinas

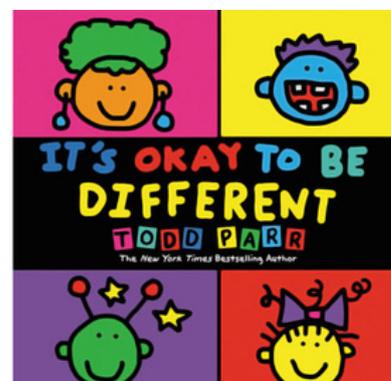


October is a Busy Month!

October is filled with a lot of great holidays and National Days. From National Diversity Day, World Child Development Day, and of course, Halloween, there are many opportunities to do some activities with your family and children. Below are some ways to enjoy these holidays with your loved ones.

National Diversity Day, October 1st

Parents can help children learn and value diversity every day by modeling behaviors and actions that are open and kind. There are many great activities to help children understand and learn about diversity including listening to songs in different languages and learning to say short phrases in other languages; thank you is a great phrase to start off with! Don't forget, you can never go wrong with a good craft activity!



World Child Development Day, October 4th

Most people when they think of child development, think of parenting books or classes, but child development is so much more than that. There are also many ways you can make learning and exploring the child development field more fun. Many times parents can feel like their children have to be doing worksheets to be learning, but there are many more ways that they can learn. You can see how children learn and use gross motor skills and music skills by playing with pots and pans and using fine motor skills by painting/drawing a picture of their choice. Probably one of the most entertaining ways to watch children learn is listening to them talking; by having conversations children are developing good social skills. Take a look at your children at random times during the day and see the different ways your children are learning.



Looking for Child Care? We Can Help!

- If you are looking for child care, our Parent/Provider Specialist can help! Please feel free to call Bianca Salinas at 252-672-5921 (Craven Smart Start office) or 1-888-600-1685 (Find Child Care NC Hotline). The specialist is available Monday- Friday from 8 AM-5 PM and also speaks Spanish and is available to help Spanish-speaking families in need of child care.



Upcoming Local Events



- Mumfest will be going on all throughout the month of October!
 - Mumfest (October 9-10)
 - MumFeast (October 15-16)
 - MumFest Concert (October 29)
- For more information please visit the MumFest page [here](#)



- Beary-Not-So Scary Halloween, Trick or Treat
 - October 30th, 4PM -6 PM
 - Downtown New Bern
 - Check out this [page](#) for more information coming soon

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.