

CCR&R Parent/Provider Newsletter -November 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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Craven Smart Start office will be closed Thursday, November 11th & Friday, November 12th for Veteran's Day



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Craven Smart Start office will be closed Thursday, November 25th & Friday, November 26th for the Thanksgiving Holidays.



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.



From the Desk of the Parent/Provider Specialist

Bianca Salinas



Coming Up in Craven Smart Start Office

Craven Smart Start/CCR&R will be doing a canned food drive during the month of November to donate to our local food bank for the Thanksgiving holidays. We will have a box out in our front lobby for those who would like to donate. Food drives help food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens collect food donations to keep their shelves stocked. Hunger affects every community, but many people don't realize it. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, many schools closed, millions of people found themselves out of work, and families are finding that they don't know where their next meal will come from. To make matters worse, most food banks and pantries are being depleted of their resources faster than they can replenish them. It is important now more than ever that we come together as a community and help to stock the food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens. Your donations are greatly appreciated! You can drop off your donations at Craven Smart Start Monday- Friday from 8:00 AM -5:00 PM. If your Child Care Center or FCCH would like to collect can goods for our food drive, you are welcome to drop off your collection here at Craven Smart Start, or give us a call, and we will be happy to pick up your food drive collection at your facility. We thank you for all your donations!



Toys for Tots

We will be doing Toys for Tots this year! We will be accepting toys from December 1st through December 14th. Please feel free to stop by during office hours to bring in toys you would like to donate. Remember that these toys must be new and unwrapped.



Activities to do with Your Children

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to spend with your family and loved ones. Since a lot of children will have a break during the Thanksgiving holidays, you can plan to do various activities with them while they are at home. Doing activities together is a great way to spend time and bond with your child(ren), as well as helping them with their development and being able to see any early signs of developmental issues (if there are any). Below is a list of different days during the month of November that you can do an activity or craft with them.

*National Family Literacy Day- November 1st

-Read a book, singing a song (Alphabet song, handwashing song, rhyming songs, etc.)

*National Play Outside Day- November 6th

-Go for a walk, play an outside game (hide and seek, tag, etc.), go to a park

*National S.T.E.M./S.T.E.A.M. Day- November 8th

-Doing an art project, playing a counting game, shape sorting game

*Thanksgiving Day- November 25th

-Do a Thanksgiving placemat (you can even do it the day before if using paint). You can find a free printable one [here](#)



Craven Smart Start Office Updates

CCR&R Director- Bonnie Gould



Division of Child Development Updates

The Child Care Stabilization Grant:

If you are a new licensed Child Care Center, or Family Child Care Home Provider, you are still eligible to receive the "Stabilization Grant." Please contact us at Craven Smart Start and we will help you to get the information you need to begin the process!

Clear Window Face Masks Now being Distributed to Child Care Providers Statewide

DCDEE is sending 3 clear window masks to each employee at child care facilities that are open and operating to serve children and their families. The masks began being sent earlier this year. Currently, over 22,000 have already been shipped and distributed, with approximately 4,500 masks going out every week. DCDEE encourages child care providers to be on the lookout for their allotment. Due to the number of licensed child care programs and the staff in each facility, it will take until February 2022 before all facilities receive their allotment. If you have any questions, you are asked to contact Branda Watford at branda.watford@dhhs.nc.gov

*Additional Reminder.

Contact your State Consultant immediately if your Child Care Center or Family Child Care Home has a positive case of Covid-19. Your State Consultant is your first point of contact.

Teaching Children to be Kind and Compassionate

Children may understand the concept of being kind and compassionate, but sometimes they have difficulty knowing how to put this concept into action. There are many books available in our Craven Smart Start Lending Library that will help teach young children how to be kind and compassionate to others. One of the ways that providers can help young children learn these concepts is to allow children to make cards for people in our community. A beautiful picture with bright colors will brighten up the day of the elderly living in the nursing homes who may not have anyone able to visit them during the Covid-19 pandemic. A hand-made decorated card that simply says "Thank You for Your Service" will touch the hearts of every Military Soldier serving in our Country. Our Firefighters, EMT's and Police Department would be so humbled to receive a decorated card from a child that said, "Thank You for Protecting Me." Childcare Providers can help young children learn how to be kind, compassionate, and brighten the lives of others during this season of Thanksgiving.

Blessings,
Bonnie Gould

"IF YOU SEE SOMEONE WITHOUT A SMILE, GIVE THEM ONE OF YOURS."

Dolly Parton

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



Program Assistant- Venus Miller

Fall into some good reads at the Lending Library

Autumn Walk

A puppy goes on a walk outside in the fall and sees leaves, birds, and squirrels.

Love Your Neighbor: Stories of Values and Virtues

A collection of thirteen stories, featuring animal characters and lessons about life.

Festivals Together

A gathering of celebrations, activities, songs, and stories which reflect the diversity and life of the community.



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



Hold On... the Holidays Are Coming! - Helping School-Age Children Stay Focused During the Holiday Season

Between October and January, children are very busy. With all of the family holiday events and community festivals, there can be competition with time for celebrating and time for school. Here are some ideas on how to keep your child focused on school work and homework while enjoying family and holiday times.

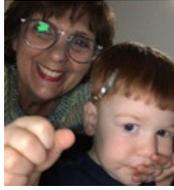
1-Stick to routines - Children, and adults too, love routines. Knowing what is coming next is a comfort. There will be special occasions when routines must be altered but on all days have no special activities planned, keep the regular schedule.

2- Talk to your child - Ask your child about what they are learning in school. Ask for specifics and examples to make sure they really understand the skill. Check on homework a little closer during this season so your child knows that learning and school success are very important to you.

3- Use the holiday events as a Learning Time - As a holiday event approaches, ask your child about the origin of that event. This makes for a great learning conversation. Before you attend a family holiday event, talk to your child about family traditions, how they started and how you celebrated when you were young.

4- Keep communication open- Send notes, emails, or schedule a conference as soon as you see grades slipping or incomplete work. The teacher wants your child to succeed just like you do. Team up with the teacher and have a plan to keep the learning going through this season.

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



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

Dragonflies of New Bern, has been awarded the first ever, Infant Toddler Science Project Kit in North Carolina history. Dragonflies is a new program on the site of the former Kellie's Kids. The new owners and operators have worked hard to improve outcomes for the children of Craven County.

The Science Kit includes a classroom full of developmentally appropriate science exploration material. Intensive Technical Assistance is provided as part of the Pilot. The teachers at every program that applied for the Science Project are entitled to attend the brand new pilot training, "Science for Infants and Toddlers" free of charge. Every infant and toddler teacher along with the administrators will receive the free training along with NITTO (New Infant Toddler Teacher Orientation) training and coaching.

The material will be delivered to Dragonflies in the next few weeks; and our Infant Toddler Specialist will help establish a Science Learning Center in the one and two year old classrooms. Ongoing technical assistance will be provided to help teachers learn to link the materials to Foundations.



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Quality Enhancement Specialist - Courtney Cartwright

Directors' Forum

Beginning in June of this year, the Quality Enhancement Team began providing a twice a month forum for directors' to learn more about the Environmental Rating Scales.

We have begun to post the videos of the meeting on our Thinkific training platform. You will be able to view the videos and then participate in an activity, as well as ask any questions you may have about the discussed subscale. Our hope is that by adding the outside viewing option more directors will be able to join with us in this journey to fully understand the Environmental Rating Scales. You can find the link to the videos below.

<https://cravensmartstart.thinkific.com/courses/directors-forum-quality-care>

We will also be taking a break during the months of November and December because of the Holidays. We will return in the January and will possibly be changing some of the formatting and opening it up to teachers. We will have that information and will let you know more as we get closer to the new year.

For more information please contact Courtney Cartwright at courtney@cravensmartstart.org



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



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

Reconnecting with Families

Connecting with parents used to be easier because you could speak during drop-off or pick-up. Now, it is hard to communicate with parents because you may not see them at all. Go “old school” and become pen pals by getting notebooks to write in. Not only can you write a note to the parents about how the child is doing, but you can also ask the parents how they are doing. Even share a little about something that you’ve been up to. Again, remember it is a way to keep that connection. Encourage parents to write back, but if they do not, that’s okay. I’m sure they would appreciate getting some information about their child’s day. If you are worried about cleaning, get a notebook that has a hardcover so you can wipe it down. These notebooks can serve as a good substitute for those morning and afternoon conversations that would typically take place.



**Quality Enhancement Specialist/Professional Development Coordinator –
Kelly Shaw**



Thinkific is Terrific!

Is your schedule super busy? Are evening classes hard for you to attend? Are you working long hours and unsure how to receive your professional development hours? Thinkific may be the option for you!

Thinkific is Craven Smart Start: Childcare Resource and Referral's online learning platform. This platform allows you to take self-paced trainings on your own time. Each training has been approved to give training hours by the Division of Child Development.

There are a variety of trainings that focus on multiple topics. The topics vary from connecting with parents to the prevention of child abuse. It is as easy as making an account, watching the videos, and completing the assignments. There are no more worries about being on time. They can be completed in the comfort of your home when it is convenient for you!

Do you want to know what is even better? Our Thinkific trainings are currently FREE! To begin a training today, the website is <https://cravensmartstart.thinkific.com>. If you would like to ask questions first, please feel free to reach out to me at: kelly@cravensmartstart.org or 252-636-3198.

Let's Talk About...

T.E.A.C.H.

Are you looking to enhance your career? Have you ever thought about going back to school? Are you unsure if you can afford it? T.E.A.C.H can help! For more information, please join our information Session on December 2, 2021 from 6:30- 7:30.

WHEN: Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 6:30pm- 7:30 pm

WHERE: Virtually- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83646399360?pwd=bU4vUHhBRE94a3g0aE1ONTY1WlMwZz09>

RSVP TO: Kelly Shaw at <https://forms.gle/dcyRcVKso4keSgk27>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kelly Shaw at 252-636-3198 or kelly@cravensmartstart.onmicrosoft.com.

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 November

*Toxic Stress and Its Impact on Children

Presenter: Sonia Sumner

Thursday, November 4th, 2021

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

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

Presenter: Courtney Cartwright

Monday, November 8th, 2021

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

*Introduction to Exceptional Children: Connecting with Parents

Presenter: Kelly Shaw

Wednesday, November 10th, 2021

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

*Fire Safety

Presenter: New Bern Fire Department

Tuesday, November 16th, 2021

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

1401 Neuse Blvd. New Bern, NC 28560

*Leading from Within: Fostering Leadership in School Age Professionals

Presenter: Tammy Cullom

Tuesday, November 16th, 2021

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

*Infant Toddler Early Literacy Learning

Presenter: Sandra Arasim

Thursday, November 18th, 2021

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Upcoming Local Events

- Community Christmas Tree Lighting
 - At Union Point Park
 - Friday, November 26th at 6 PM



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- Berry Merry Scavenger Hunt
 - Will start on November 27th
 - Click [here](#) for more information



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.