

CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS SPRING 2024



Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2nd, which is also the birthday of renowned children's author Dr. Seuss. The initiative was founded by the National Education Association (NEA) in 1998 with the goal of promoting literacy and encouraging children to develop a love for reading. To commemorate Read Across America, the Partnership joined in the celebration by creating Read Across Alamance. As part of the event, staff members visited NC Pre-K classrooms and shared the book "I'm Not Just a Scribble" by Diane Alber. This heartwarming tale follows Scribble who discovers his uniqueness when encountering his first drawing. Despite feeling excluded for being different, Scribble teaches the drawings the importance of embracing one another's differences and fostering acceptance. Thirty NC Pre-K classrooms, spanning across ABSS, Head Start and private sites, enthusiastically participated in the Read Across Alamance event. Our staff had an enriching experience connecting with the students and imparting a story that resonated with themes of kindness and inclusivity. The students delighted in a creative activity where they crafted their own unique scribbles, fostering a sense of individuality and expression.



From the Desk of the Executive Director, Cass Wolfe

Greetings and Happy Spring!

In the enclosed pages you can see some of the wonderful programming that occurred at the Partnership over the past three months. We made a national literacy event local by hosting Read Across Alamance where we read a book in each of our NC Pre-K classrooms. We also continue to use our Outdoor Learning Environment to the max by hosting Nature Explorers field trips for young explorers and parent-child playgroups with our Kaleidoscope curriculum. We also of course continue to sign families up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Also in this edition, your wait is over to learn Michelle's literacy pick for this quarter. Go to page 8 to learn all about [I Don't Want to Be a Frog](#), by Dev Petty. It is a delightful tale of a young frog finding his place in the world.

Like the frog, navigating the world is something we do our entire lives. And right now, those of us who care about early childhood are navigating some very unsettling times as North Carolina's Early Care and Education programs face the end of grant funding that served to stabilize the child care market through the pandemic. These very important funds will be eliminated on June 30th in North Carolina, and without them, many centers and family child care homes will be faced with the question of whether, and for how long, they can afford to keep their doors open. You see, the child care market has never been stable and rocky finances are a way of life. But this has all gotten worse as the cost of care rises, centers close classrooms, educators leave the profession to work in big box stores for more money and less stress, etc. etc. A recent survey commissioned by the NC Child Care Resource and Referral Council found that fully 29% of licensed centers and family child care homes will likely close their doors over a period of months following June 30th. NC could see over 91,000 child care spaces evaporate. It is beyond time to SOUND THE ALARM.

Recently, Partnership staff and community members welcomed Congresswoman Valerie Foushee to our offices to talk about the child care crisis. With her extensive experience and community engagement, the Congresswoman is well aware of the problems in child care and has worked with her colleagues to seek solutions. The Partnership will continue to advocate with policy makers and community members to beat the clock and find solutions before we lose child care not only in Alamance County, but across the state of North Carolina!

All the best

Cass



Outdoor Learning Environment

The OLE is open 7 days a week and free for the whole community to use.



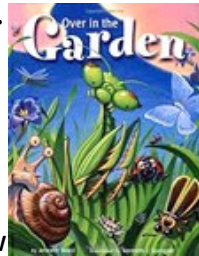
Early spring is an exciting time in the garden. The dormant soil is awakening, and insects and organisms are becoming active again. Spring bulbs are showing their colors. April is a great time to begin planting seeds in the garden. Gardening with preschoolers not only engages them in hands-on learning but also begins to build positive experiences with healthy food. If they grow it, meet the farmer who grew it, or help prepare it, they are more likely to eat it. Gardens, farm field trips, and cooking with young children are strategies to build positive relationships with fresh, healthy, local food.



We are thrilled to announce our partnership with the NC State Extension Master Gardener program. The Master Gardener team has generously provided their expertise to seven child care centers, assisting them in developing personalized planting plans for their respective sites. Additionally, the team has been on-site to guide the planting process and offer ongoing support. Their presence has proven to be a valuable resource for child care providers and has fostered a love of nature in the children they work with.

“Over in the Garden” by Jennifer Ward
This vibrantly illustrated book takes us on a counting and rhyming adventure in the garden.

From a bug’s eye view, we learn alliteration and action verbs as we buzz with the bees, slither with the snails, and glow with the fireflies. In the back, there is a section of fun and educational facts about each insect.



The Nature Explorers program is ongoing and this month we focused on learning about frogs and toads. The children got the opportunity to explore frog eggs and understand the differences between frogs and toads. Next month, we will be discussing the life cycle of plants and planting in our garden. If

interested, please follow the Eventbrite link to sign up!
<https://www.eventbrite.com/myevent?eid=663859741357>

Quality Child Care

Alamance Partnership for Children offers Professional Development at no cost. You can find our trainings on the Child Care Services Professional Development Calendar (www.childcareservices.org). If you want FUN in LEARNING, join the Quality Child Care Team for the following Upcoming Professional Development.

ALAMANCE COUNTY PROVIDERS ONLY

- April 18 – Naturalizing Your Outdoor Space
- April 23 – Be Active w/Infants & Toddlers
- April 23 – Understanding and Intervening in Bullying Behavior
- May 16 – Teaching Children How to Take Risks and Create Adventures Outdoors
- May 21 – Be Active Kids: Preschool
- May 29 – ITS SIDS
- June 27 – Promoting Child Development and Growth in Natural Outdoor Spaces

Do you want to increase interactions with children, build their vocabulary, but most of all create a lasting bond with the children in your classroom? If you answered yes, Language Environment Analysis (LENA) is the program for you.

Kiara Moss a Preschool teacher at Children's Cottage Learning Academy is teaching the children in her classroom how to make healthy eating choices. They are learning about different fruits, textures, colors, and shapes all during their LENA Day of recording. Kiara helped the children add new words to their vocabulary such as: Parfait, yogurt, granola, and the types of fruits. This was a fun experience, and the end result was the best. The children were able to eat what they made.



Lisa Rettie, Early Childhood Specialist, has developed a new and fun professional development training called "Hoop it Up!". This make and take session teaches Early Childhood providers how to make their own hoops for their child care programs. They also have hands-on experiences teaching each other new games to incorporate into the learning environment as children strengthen their gross motor skills. At the first workshop, the participants had a good time as they helped each other make hoops and play games that they can use in their classrooms. Lisa will be presenting this training again in the 2024-25 fiscal year, so be sure to keep checking the professional development calendar on the Child Care Services Association website at www.childcareservices.org.



NC Pre-K



NC Pre-K is enrolled at 97% for the current school year.

We are now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year and have already received over 250 applications!

We are also in the process of selecting sites to host NC Pre-K classrooms for the 2024-2026 term. Applications were due in early March and the Alamance NC Pre-K committee is undergoing a process to determine which sites will be awarded classrooms. Announcements will be made before the end of the school year.

Speaking of the end of the year, NC Pre-K classrooms are coming to the end of another productive learning year for 490 four-year-olds across Alamance County. Children learned so much over the 10-month program. Below are some great examples of children learning both cognitive and social skills.



Children in Ms. Davern's NC Pre K class at Newlin Elementary sharpening their fine motor, literacy and math skills.

Parents As Teachers



Parents as Teachers

All children's needs are unique and all deserve the best possible start in life. Your child was born ready to learn.

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

Benefits of our FREE Parents as Teachers program:

- We are a no cost family program serving Alamance County families throughout pregnancy until the age of 5.
- We support parents increasing their knowledge of their child's development.
- We connect parents with other families, resources in our community, and free activities for their children.
- We help parents understand their children's learning process to be ready for Pre-K and kindergarten.

FUN FAMILY SPRING ACTIVITIES:

- Blow bubbles outdoors.
- Play hide-and-seek outdoors.
- Paint a birdhouse together to create a birdfeeder.
- Play catch at the park.
- Plant flowers together.
- Go for a hike at the park or to a nature trail.
- Paint nature rocks together.

UPCOMING PAT GROUP CONNECTIONS:

April 13th– Day of the Child– Celebrating our Alamance County children and their families with interactive fun activities dedicated to our little ones.

April TBD– Planting Flower Seeds - Families and children will enjoy a learning experience of planting flower seeds to take home and watch them grow.

May TBD– Celebrating mom with Yoga– Celebrating our PAT enrolled moms with a special day of family yoga outdoors with their children.



Sandra Vanover PAT Manager svanover@alamancechildren.org

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Incredible Years



The Incredible Years classes are designed for parents and caregivers of children ages 3-12. We provide weekly classes, led by trained Incredible Years Facilitators. Topics include monitoring your child(ren), positive discipline, and boosting your child's confidence.

Our next session of Incredible Years classes will begin in September. Please contact Di'Quasia Champ for enrollment information.

Kids First License Plate

The North Carolina Children's Trust Fund (NC CTF) is the only source of state dollars dedicated solely to child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. NC CTF awards grants to local child abuse prevention agencies and programs that build strong families and communities. Scan the QR code below to purchase this license plate and support NC CTF.



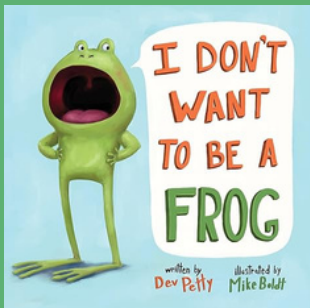
On Friday, April 5, we joined the movement and wore blue to show our commitment to nurturing more positive childhoods by building supportive communities and environments that strengthen all families! #WearBlueDay2024 #NC ❤️



Literacy

Sign up for free book for your child birth to five.

Michelle's Spring Pick



In a story filled with whimsy, a frog yearns to shed his slimy skin and become anything but a frog. He ponders the idea of being a cat, a rabbit, or even an owl. But when a hungry wolf, who despises eating frogs, appears, the frog realizes that being himself isn't so bad after all. Through hilarious dialogue between the spirited young frog and his wise father, this tale delivers a clever message that young children will enjoy, as they laugh at the frog's determined yet lovable attempts to prove himself right.

After reading together, ask your child what animal they would like to be!

Register your child for free books!

Registration is easy:

*Visit: www.AlamanceChildren.org

*Call: 336.513.0063

*Email: mhowe@AlamanceChildren.org

*Scan: QR Code for registration form

[Registration Link](#)



Celebrating Dolly's birthday with cupcakes and free books!



Kaleidoscope Play and Learn

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn (KPL) is a free weekly facilitated parent and child playgroup offered to caregivers with children birth to five years old. Playgroups offer caregivers a space to connect with one another and build community.



Weekly Playgroups!

During each session, parents and children read books and complete activities that focus on the topic for the month.

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn playgroups occur twice a week. Tuesday's classes are held at community locations and interested families can check our calendar [here](#) to find the next playgroup. On Wednesdays, we are at the Partnership's Outdoor Learning Environment. Preregistration is needed for this popular location! [EventBrite](#).

Children enjoy both free play and coordinated group activities during our playgroups.

Spring Curriculum:

- April- Nature
- May- Health Awareness
- June- Language



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Staff members celebrating work anniversaries this quarter are:
Sandra Vanover 8 years- January
Katie Tang 1 year- March
Rushonda Thomas 1 year- March



The Partnership recently received a grant from the United Way to help families with basic needs. Our family store opened in February 2024. To date we have assisted 30 families.



Partnership Staff Out In the Community

Family University at
Cummings High School

ABSS Kindergarten Fair



Partnership Staff are available at DSS the first Thursday of each month.

If you have an event you would like us to attend, please contact Michelle Howe at mhowe@alamancechildren.org or 336.513.0063

Community Awareness

There are many community events coming up and you will find the Partnership there!

Intergenerational Caregiver Resource Fair

**MAY 18TH 1PM-5PM AT
MAYCO BIGELOW COMMUNITY CENTER**

This family-friendly event will showcase organizations and experts in fields such as healthcare, assisted living, respite care, legal assistance, medical professionals, counseling, extra curricular activities, after school care, and many more resources!

336-223-8099 849 Sharpe Rd, Burlington, NC 27217

naeyc Week of the Young Child™

FAMILY FRIDAY
Alameda County Week of the Young Child Celebration

Learn about services and opportunities for young children in Alameda County!

APRIL 12
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
BURLINGTON CITY PARK CAROUSEL
1386 S Main St. Burlington, NC 27215

FOOD TRUCKS! Cash and card accepted. **BURRITO BISTRO**

#TINYKIDSBIGFUTURE #ALAMEDACOUNTY #WOYC24

THANK YOU SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS! Achieves, Children, BURLINGTON, naeyc

WOYC Weekly Activities: <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/alan-county-woyc/>

Local Food Pantries

Grace and Peace Tabernacle
Contact Information
600 East Washington Street
Mebane, NC - 27302
Phone: 919-563-0873

The Healing Station
Contact Information
802 Chapel Hill Rd
Burlington, NC - 27215
Phone: (336) 350-9045

More people are eligible for Medicaid beginning December 1st.
See if you qualify!

SCIENCE & SAFETY EXPO

APRIL 20TH 1:00-4:00 PM

SAFE KIDS ALAMEDA COUNTY

North Park 849 Sharpe Road Burlington, NC 27217
Alameda County Public Libraries

ACTIVIDADES

Park and Play	Canoes & Kayaks
Smoke House	Helicopter Exhibit
Car Seat Checks	Bike Helmet Fitting
Tow-a-truck	Hot Car Display
Drug take back	Vaccines & Screening

SCIENCE & SAFETY VENDORS

Alameda County Libraries	Safe Kids Alameda County
Animal Park at the Conservators Center	Burlington Fire Department
Alameda Partnership for Children	North Carolina Forest Service
Burlington Recreation and Parks	Alameda Rescue & Dive Team
Alameda County Health Department	US Coast Guard Auxiliary
Crabtree Recreation and Parks	UNC Air Care
Alameda Citizens for a Drug Free Community	North Carolina Wildlife

(336)226-7185 • SAFEKIDSALAMEDACOUNTY@GMAIL.COM

EXPOSICIÓN DE CIENCIA Y SEGURIDAD

20 DE ABRIL 1:00-4:00 PM

SAFE KIDS ALAMEDA COUNTY

North Park 849 Sharpe Road Burlington, NC 27217
Alameda County Public Libraries

ACTIVIDADES

Estacionando y jugo con arena	Canoes y kayaks
Exhibición de barco y fuego	Exhibición de helicóptero
Chequeo de asientos de carro para niños	Visitas y exámenes de salud
Exhibición segura de medicamentos	Exhibición de bicicletas
Exhibición de helio	Ayuda de enfermería para vacunas
Exhibición de la temperatura en autos	Exhibición de camión de bomberos y carro de policía

PROVEEDORES DE CIENCIA Y SEGURIDAD

Alameda County Libraries	Safe Kids Alameda County
Animal Park at the Conservators Center	Burlington Fire Department
Alameda Partnership for Children	North Carolina Forest Service
Burlington Recreation and Parks	Alameda Rescue & Dive Team
Alameda County Health Department	US Coast Guard Auxiliary
Crabtree Recreation and Parks	UNC Air Care
Alameda Citizens for a Drug Free Community	North Carolina Wildlife

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ALAMEDA COUNTY DSS IS ACCEPTING NEW APPLICATIONS

SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE (SCCA) (DAYCARE)

If you want to apply, please visit: <https://www.alameda-nc.com/dss/programs-and-services/child-care> for more information or scan the QR code

SCAN ME

JAYUDÁNDOLE A HACER SU FUTURO BRILLANTE! EL DSS DEL CONDADO DE ALAMEDA ESTÁ

ACEPTANDO ACTUALMENTE SOLICITUDES PARA VALS DE ASISTENCIA DE CUIDADO INFANTIL SUBSIDIADO (SCCA POR SUS SIGLAS EN INGLÉS) (GUARDERÍA)

Si le interesa solicitar, visite por favor: <https://www.alameda-nc.com/dss/programs-and-services/child-care> para más información o escanee el código QR de abajo.

SCAN ME

Our Staff

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