



Sidewalk Chalk

Monthly e-newsletter

OUR VISION

All children in Randolph County enter school healthy & ready to succeed.

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"None of us can do alone what all of us can do together."

~ Dr. Ron Ferguson
Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative
Harvard University

Inspirations

Summer is the perfect time for each of us to practice our *Serve & Return*, and no tennis rackets are needed! Serve and return interactions between an infant or newborn and her parent or caregiver shape brain architecture. When a little one babbles, gestures, or cries, and an adult responds accordingly with eye contact, words, or a hug, neural connections are built and strengthened in the child's brain. And this, in turn, supports the development of the child's communication, cognitive, and social skills.

In the information to follow, we introduce you to The Basics Randolph. At the heart of The Basics are five pillars that parents, grandparents, and caregivers across our county can implement to facilitate and strengthen those Serve & Return interactions.

Someone once said, "Love means nothing in tennis, but it is everything in life." Caring adults who interact lovingly with little ones, respond to their babble, and heed their cries are nothing short of brain architects. Let's all get building!



Lisa Hayworth

Executive Director



The Basics Randolph

Last month, we briefly introduced **The Basics Randolph** to you.

During the first week of June, Executive Director Lisa Hayworth and Director of Marketing & Community Engagement Micki Bare attended the second annual convening of the Basics Learning Network. They met Dr. Ron Ferguson and learned innovative ways to incorporate The Basics into our work in Randolph County.

Randolph County is one of a handful of communities in the nation at the forefront of bridging the gap between research and practice by using The Basics to align messaging across the early childhood community — including parents and caregivers!

The messaging boils down the brain and early childhood development research we all use to drive our work into five simple, actionable pillars. These five pillars offer simple things early educators, service providers, families, and caregivers can do to nurture and maximize brain development in the first three years of a child's life, when 80% of brain growth occurs.

This messaging alignment initiative is being rolled out by Randolph County's KidsReadyNC Team — a cross-organizational task force addressing the needs of children birth-3 in our county.

Why The Basics Randolph? More than 1 million neural connections are produced each second in the first 3 years of life. Nationally representative data show clear skill gaps by the second birthday. Enriching and nurturing babies in those first, critical years can positively impact early development and future success in school and life.

In Randolph County, we want all children entering kindergarten prepared for success in school and life.

In Randolph County, we want to move the needle on grade-3 reading proficiency from about 50-60% of students to more than 80%.

In Randolph County, we want a strong, prepared workforce.

In Randolph County, we want healthy, happy communities.

It all starts at the very beginning, in the first 3 years, when we can all be a positive influence and effect change.

[Visit The Basics Randolph Website](#)

For more information or to request The Basics Randolph posters in English and/or Spanish, contact us at 336-629-2128.

WHAT ARE THE BASICS™?

Science shows that 80% of brain growth happens by the age of three! Beginning from birth, young brains develop like little muscles, getting bigger and stronger the more you and your family interact with your child.

The Basics are five fun, simple, and powerful ways to help all our children aged 0-3 grow to be happy and smart.

Do all of the Basics every day to help your child become the amazing person you know they can be.



Maximize Love, Manage Stress

Babies and toddlers thrive when their world feels loving, safe, and predictable. Respond with smiles, words, and touch to help them see, hear, and feel your love. You will help them develop a sense of security and self-control.



Talk, Sing, and Point

Babies learn language from the moment they are born. Respond to their sounds, and later, their words. Connect with eye contact and a loving tone of voice, while pointing to help them know what you are talking about.



Count, Group, and Compare

Every child's brain is wired for math. Talk about numbers, shapes, patterns, and comparisons as you go about your routines together. Watch your child learn to love math.



Explore Through Movement and Play

Babies are like scientists who love making discoveries. Watch to see what interests your child, then encourage their curiosity and help them learn when they play and explore.



Read and Discuss Stories

Reading turns kids into confident thinkers. Make books a regular part of your relationship from the very beginning. With infants, point at the pictures and speak with excitement. With toddlers, just make it fun.

Who Is Involved?

Lots of people! Partners include hospitals, health centers, schools, community centers, childcare providers, churches, family members, and others.

What If I'm Not a Parent?

You still care about children! Learn about the Basics. Encourage parents and caregivers to make sure their children experience all five with everyone who cares for them.

How Can I Learn More?

Visit www.thebasics.org or connect with us on social media for information on the campaign, opportunities in your community, tips, and videos.

Created by the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University for use by The Basics, Inc., a nonprofit organization, and local campaigns in the Basics Learning Network.
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randolph.thebasics.org

Watch The Basics Randolph Overview



Our KidsReadyNC Partners supporting The Basics Randolph

Asheboro City Schools
Children's Developmental Services Agency
Daymark Recovery Services
Harmony Place Child Care Center
Randolph Communities in Schools
Randolph Community College
Randolph County Department of Social Services
Randolph County Government
Randolph County Health Department
Randolph County Public Libraries
Randolph County School System
Randolph Health Pediatrics
RCS Head Start
The Children's Center
The Growing Place Child Care Center
Uwharrie Charter Academy

Want to partner with us or simply learn more?

Contact **Micki Bare** at 336-629-2128 ext. 12 or mbare@randolphkids.org.

Penciled in

- **Friday, June 21:** Board Meeting **8:15 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, June 25:** Local Family Engagement Coalition Meeting at Senior Adults Center **11:30 a.m.**
- **Thursday, June 27:** Sustainability Committee Meeting **1 p.m.**

- **Thursday, July 4:** HOLIDAY Office Closed



*Help us put kids first in
Randolph County!*

Donate

new & gently used books
new infant blankets
diapers

Shop

We're connected with Amazon Smile, so when you shop and select Randolph County Partnership for Children, you're helping to raise money for literacy programs, parent support, early childhood professional development and NC Pre-K right here in Randolph County!



Randolph Partnership for Children | 349 Sunset Ave., Asheboro, NC 27203 | 336-629-2128

Visit our website