



## Sidewalk Chalk

### Monthly e-newsletter

#### OUR VISION

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

#### In this month's issue:

- Incredible Years success story: Parenting is a Family Activity
- Parents as Teachers success story: You Don't Have to Read Well to Read to a Child
- Imagination Library: ALL Children Younger than 5 in Randolph County
- Learning as a Family in Randolph County
- Don't forget to scroll all the way down for calendar reminders



#### November is National Family Literacy Month

"Family literacy is at work when two generations or more — parents, children, and/or extended family members — are actively engaged in learning together."

~ National Center for Families Learning

## Inspirations

As our youngest children are at the very beginning of their life's educational journeys, their parents are similarly learning how to be full and active participants in their child's education and overall development. We know that positive family involvement leads to better social, behavioral, and academic outcomes for children from all ethnic and economic backgrounds. Similarly, family participation improves early childhood program quality.



While the power of parent involvement in a child's education is undeniable, the educational systems and pathways we ask our families to negotiate can be perplexing and overwhelming. Think about being that mom or dad that arrives at their first parent-teacher conference to find themselves bombarded with unfamiliar educational concepts and terms like 'phonological awareness' and 'numeracy.'

Being a parent is never easy. At the Partnership for Children, we know that parents have very real reasons why they may feel separate from their child's educational community. Many have had negative school experiences themselves, which may make them apprehensive about coming to the school or interacting with teachers. Some may hesitate to speak to educators because of a lack of confidence, out of respect for the teacher's authority, or because they have been discouraged in interactions in the past.

At the Partnership for Children, we know that family involvement – done well – is a positive experience for everyone involved. Creating cultures in which parent engagement is the norm is an overarching goal. I invite you to reach out to us if you'd like to learn more about our family engagement initiatives.

**Lisa Hayworth**

Executive Director

## Parenting is a Family Activity



Two Fall cohorts for the Incredible Years preschool-aged curriculum program began in late August, 2018, one in Archdale and another in Asheboro.

Pictured at an informational booth at Free Haircut Day in Ramseur are Andréa Moore and Yvette Cooke, co-facilitators for the program, and United Way Executive Director Elizabeth Mitchell.

One of the current participants to enroll is a Hispanic mother of two who, after attending the first session of the program, was able to encourage her husband as well as her father to attend the program along with her.

This mother explained that she wished to gather skills and learn about ways to prevent negative behaviors in her preschool-aged son. This mother has shared continuous growth over the course of the program, learning about child-directed playtime, labeled praise and effective communication among many other topics covered.

This mom has also shared specific success (and pride!) related to developing a bedtime routine for both of her children, encouraging clear household expectations, and being able to incorporate reading together before bedtime. The mom has shared openly in group that despite there being a language barrier (as she is in the process of learning English) she has been able to incorporate both her native Spanish language as well as English into story time.

This mom has been issued bilingual books during the program and she has utilized them by having her children read English portions in the books while she reads the Spanish portions; mom shares that her children very much enjoy this turn-taking, which is also a social behavior highlighted through the Incredible Years curriculum!

Both fall cohorts are scheduled to graduate the current participants at the end of November. This mother has already begun to express she and her family will miss attending group on a weekly basis.

The next Incredible Years cohort will begin in February, 2019.

For more information on the Incredible Years, contact:

**Andréa Moore**

Incredible Years Facilitator  
Family Service of the Piedmont  
1738 N. Fayetteville St., Asheboro, NC 27203  
336-259-6265  
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## You Don't Have to Read Well to Read to a Child

Amanda Ratliff, one of two parent educators in the Parents as Teachers program, has been serving a newly enrolled family in Asheboro for about a month now.

When she first started working, the mom had a newborn. Mom is a single mother and a domestic violence survivor three times over. She also had other obstacles to overcome, including an inability to read or write in her native language and poverty.



During a recent visit, Amanda noticed that the mom was struggling to show a book to her baby. The mom timidly asked how to read it to her child.

Amanda brought a board book with contrasting colors, but no words in it — "Hello Baby" published by Priddy Books (pictured). Amanda modeled for the mom how to read the book to the baby. The mom immediately began reading more confidently.

The mom held her baby in her arms and showed the book. She let the baby focus on and follow (track) the bold photos.

To help the mom overcome her feelings of incompetence while reading to her baby, Amanda has been talking to her all the things that are part of literacy: talking, telling stories, singing, making up stories, pointing to pictures and more.

The mom has since shared that being able to read to her baby despite her own limitations with literacy has been empowering. And her work with the Parents as Teachers program, and Amanda, has only just begun.

The mom also shared that the reason she is so motivated to participate in Parents as Teachers is because she doesn't want her child to live with the same limitations and obstacles she faces. She wants to become a better mother so that her child can have a better, successful future.

For more information on the Parents as Teachers program, contact:

**[Amanda Ratliff](#) or [Alex Chavez](#)**

Parents as Teachers Parent Educators  
Randolph Public Library

201 Worth St., Asheboro, NC 27203

Amanda: 336-824-4144 [aratliff@randolphlibrary.org](mailto:aratliff@randolphlibrary.org)

Alex: 336-861-6770 [achavez@randolphlibrary.org](mailto:achavez@randolphlibrary.org)

## Learning as a Family in Randolph County



Families can learn together through visiting places throughout **Randolph County**. Here are some ideas, all of which are free! Share with your family and families you work with in celebration of National Family Literacy Month this November. Share your ideas for family fun with us, as well!

### **ARCHDALE**

Challenge the family on the orienteering course, explore scenic walking trails along Muddy Creek, play shuffleboard, have a picnic, and so much more at **[Creekside Park](#)**. Be on the lookout for special events, too. 214 Park Drive, Archdale. 336-434-

### ASHEBORO

Research your family history. Check out artifacts that are hundreds of years old. Visit the [Randolph Room](#) at Randolph County Public Library and step into the past. 201 Worth Street, Asheboro. 336-318-6815

### LIBERTY

Explore [Morgan Reptile Replicas](#). View a large variety of lifelike reptile reproductions the showroom of a company that creates replicas for parks, gardens, zoos, and even TV and movie sets! 5546 NC 49 N., Liberty. 336-622-3720

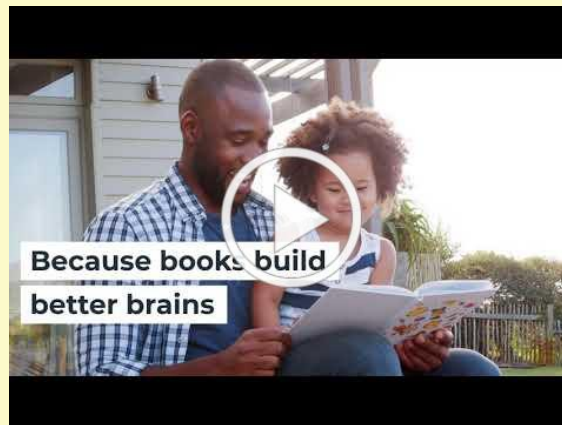
### RAMSEUR

[Millstone Creek Orchards](#) is so much more than a place to pick-your-own produce. They offer a play area that includes a large sound wall and tire swings. They also offer seasonal special events and activities. 506 Parks Crossroads Church Road, Ramseur. 336-824-5263

### SEAGROVE

Walk around the [Carolina Bronze Sculpture Garden](#). Featuring a rotating selection of sculptures from a wide array of artists, the garden features a half-mile walking trail looped around a 1.25-acre pond. 6108 Maple Springs Road, Seagrove. 336-873-8291

## ALL Children Younger than 5 in Randolph County



During back-to-school and fall festival events, we collected more than 400 hundred registrations for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. However, that's only a drop in the bucket. There are about **8,000 children under the age of 5** in Randolph County. Only about **12.5%** are enrolled in the Imagination Library. We need to get the word out and enroll the other **87.5%!**

#### *Why do we keep talking about the Imagination Library?*

- **80%** of Brain Development occurs by **age 3**
- Essential wiring in the brain for **thinking & learning** occurs by **age 5**
- A child's **vocabulary** can predict **third-grade reading achievement**
- **Reading to your child** — starting early, even before the child is born — significantly increases vocabulary and helps the child develop an array skills, boosting language development as well as **success in school and life**

#### *Sounds great, but for families with lots of books and resources, is the Imagination Library really necessary?*

YES! Each child enrolled receives their own, age-appropriate, new book mailed directly to him or her every month. Imagine the excitement of receiving that package in the mail! The Imagination Library is for ALL children. In addition to being a literacy resource, it's a relationship-building program — instilling a love of reading by building positive relationships between children and books. It forms a love that lasts a lifetime.

### ***How can I help?***

- Share the information and this [LINK](#) with parents of children younger than 5
- Keep applications and/or brochures on hand to give parents of children younger than 5 when they visit your business or organization
- Contact us to schedule presentations about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library with your community organization

### ***Who do I contact?***

#### **Meredith Shields**

Family & Literacy Engagement Specialist  
Randolph Partnership for Children  
336-629-2128 x32  
[mshields@randolphkids.org](mailto:mshields@randolphkids.org)

## ***Penciled in***

- **Wednesday, Oct. 24:** Farm-to-Childcare meeting at [The Growing Place](#), Asheboro **noon**
- **Thursday, Oct. 25:** Intro to Toddler Class II **6:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, Oct. 29:** NC Pre-K Meeting **noon**
- **Tuesday, Nov. 13:** Director's Institute **noon**
- **Wednesday, Nov. 14:** Professional Development **noon**
- **Thursday, Nov. 15:** [Archdale-Trinity Chamber Coffee & Conversations](#) featuring the Partnership at Guil-Rand Fire Department **8:00 a.m.**
- **Thursday, Nov. 15:** Intro to Infant Class at Randleman Senior Center **6:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, Nov. 16:** [Asheboro/Randolph Chamber Business Before Hours](#) hosted at the Partnership office **7:15 a.m.**
- **Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 21-23:** Offices closed for Thanksgiving. Have a safe and fun holiday!



***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](#)