



Sidewalk Chalk

Monthly e-newsletter

OUR VISION

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

In this month's issue:

- Inspirations
- Toddlers Playing with Loose Parts Outdoors (VIDEO)
- Imagination Library: Let's Get ALL Little Ones Registered
- How to Create a Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace (BLOG)
- Virtual Night of the Stars
- New NC Pre-K Application Drop-Off Event Dates & Locations!
- A (virtual) Salute to Seuss
- Don't forget to scroll all the way down for calendar reminders



"It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength."

—Maya Angelou

Inspirations

My father's favorite place on this earth was his barn. Many years ago, Dad laid a new slab of concrete in the barn for one of his tractors; and, as the cement was drying, my parents' beloved yellow lab, named Daisy, stepped one paw into the concrete before anyone could gently guide her away. The contractor pouring the slab assured my dad he would smooth out the imperfection easily enough, but Dad objected, telling the fellow that the paw print should remain. Dad said, "This dog has imprinted our hearts, so why shouldn't she leave her personal stamp on the barn floor?"

Fast forward all these years. Every time I go into the old barn, I'm pulled directly to that paw print like moth to flame. It's reassuring to see the lasting remembrance of the dog our entire family loved like crazy, and I'm always comforted when I think about my dad's foresight and wisdom.



I sometimes ponder what the imprint of my life will be. What is my personal stamp on my community, on this organization that I lead, and on its people, especially during this time of great—and, heartbreakingly, much warranted—social unrest? For starters, I hope my imprint will be one of compassion and kindness. But it can't stop there because it is my responsibility, and, indeed, my privilege and honor, to lead our organization in not only

delivering services but also in confronting the enduring structural inequities and injustices within the larger systems in which we live and work.

I don't enjoy confrontation. But, a sentiment that has resonated with me of late is this: When hate is loud, love must not be silent.

Children deserve to grow up in a world free from bias, discrimination, and hatred. The field of early childhood education is rooted, largely, in goodness and equality. Yet, none of us can deny that stark inequities exist for kids and families of color. If we somehow didn't see these things before the COVID-19 pandemic, we surely see them now as the global health crisis has only exacerbated long-standing inequities in health care, employment, and education. If we somehow couldn't admit before George Floyd's death that cruel and senseless injustices occur every day, surely, now we have opened our eyes.

And when we know better, we must *DO* better.

Our Partnership team is putting together a 12-month work plan, coming out of COVID-19, to infuse **R**esilience, **I**nclusion, **C**ultural Competency, and **E**quity into our overarching strategic objectives. Our acronym for this focus is **RICE**, which is just perfect because rice is sticky. And to do better for the children, families, and communities we serve, we need for equity and justice to stick and take hold. Just like cement in my dad's old barn.

Lisa Hayworth

Executive Director

Are you or someone you know in need of urgent child care?

Call 1-888-600-1685 for Emergency Child Care Referrals & Information

Toddlers Playing with Loose Parts Outdoors

These are stressful times for everyone, including our young children. In this video, Infant-Toddler TA Specialist Scarlet Welborn provides useful tips and encouragement for parents with toddlers on making the most of outdoor play. It's a great way to reduce stress and nurture healthy brain development.



**Imagination Library:
Let's Get ALL Little Ones Registered!**

**"You may have tangible wealth untold; caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be. I had a mother who read to me."**

– Strickland Gillian



Did you know that all the children in Randolph County who are younger than age 5 are eligible to receive a FREE book each month in the mail from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library?

Currently, there are more than 8,000 children younger than 5 in Randolph County. About 3,500 are enrolled in the Imagination Library. That means 4,500 more children who *are* eligible, 56%, are not currently enrolled.

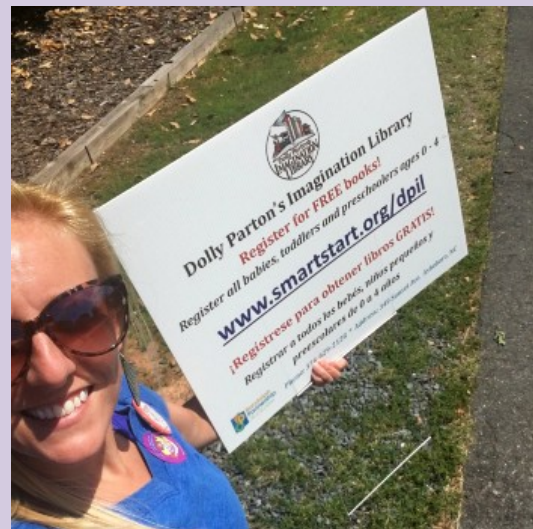
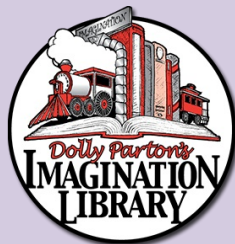
Did you know you can help us reach the rest? You can, and we've got the tools to make it easy!

YARD SIGNS: Family & Literacy Engagement Specialist Meredith Shields created yard signs that provide families with the information they need to register their children. If you live or work in an area frequented by families with young children and would like to place a sign in your yard, email Meredith to request signs.

WINDOW CLINGS: Meredith also created window clings. If your place of business sees families with young children, we'd love for you to also place a window cling where parents will see it. To request window clings, email Meredith.

SOCIAL MEDIA: By liking, tagging parents, and sharing our Imagination Library posts, and creating and sharing your own posts, we can reach lots more families. Here's the link parents can use for more information and to register their children:

SmartStart.org/DPIL



How to Create a Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace

We know that breastfeeding provides the healthiest start for infants. We also understand that children routinely cared for by someone other than parents are less likely to be breastfed. That's why Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC) helps to support workplaces and child care centers in their efforts to provide support and encouragement for breastfeeding mothers. We want to ensure mothers of infants don't have to sacrifice breastfeeding—the best nutritional option for a healthy start to life—to be able to continue to work.

RPC's early childhood health and wellness specialist, Patty Sullivan, works with child care centers and the community to promote breastfeeding-friendly spaces for working



mothers. She also led the effort to convert space at our office and write new policy that supports breastfeeding staff and visitors.

On June 11, Patty was interviewed during the Mommy Matters segment of the WGHP Fox 8 Morning News to talk about why ensuring breastfeeding-friendly environments for working mothers is important and how to get started.

[READ MORE](#)

Virtual Night of the Stars



"Play is the only way the highest intelligence of humankind can unfold."

~ Joseph Chilton Pearce

On Thursday, June 25, the 17th Annual Night of the Stars will be held virtually to recognize the academic achievements of early educators in Randolph County.

Kathryn Aldridge, the director of the Online Degree Completion Program for the Early Childhood program at the UNC-Greensboro will host the event. The keynote speaker

will be Rhodus Riggins, Jr., who serves as quality enhancement coordinator at the Education Quality Improvement and Professional Development Project at UNC-Greensboro.

Two early educators will be recognized for earning an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. Five early educators will be recognized for earning Bachelor's degrees. Two early educators will be recognized for completing their Master's degrees.

Following the event, Randolph Partnership for Children will issue a [press release](#) with highlights from the event. For more information about Night of the Stars, contact [Susan Helsabeck](#).

NEW NC Pre-K Application Drop-Off Event Dates & Locations!

Partnership staff will receive [NC Pre-K](#) applications for four-year olds for the 2020-21 school year following this schedule:

Tuesday, June 23: 9 AM-Noon in

the **PARKING LOT** of Randleman
Public Library, 142 W. Academy
St., Randleman



Wednesday, June 4: 9 AM-Noon
in the **PARKING LOT** of Ramseur Public Library, 1512 Main St.,
Ramseur

Families dropping off applications must stay in their cars.
Partnership staff will retrieve materials while maintaining safe social distancing guidelines.

The Partnership will continue to accept applications through the mail and email, as well.
For information about the application events or about the NC Pre-K program, please
call 336-629-2128 ext. 10.

**“Anything you can teach in an indoor classroom can be taught
outdoors, often in ways that are more enjoyable for children.”**

~ Cathy James



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Present



Our 2020 Gala for the Children **A Salute to Seuss**, our annual fundraising
auction and benefit, is planned for:

Saturday, August 29

Your support for early education in Randolph County each year is inspiring. The money
you so selflessly and generously contributed last year expanded outdoor learning
environments, supported early educators with instruction and mentoring to incorporate
fresh healthy foods and active learning in their daily routines, and expanded early literacy

efforts profoundly.

This year's pandemic will not thwart the benefit auction and fundraiser that provides the biggest impact for Randolph County's youngest children. **Our 12th Annual Gala for the Children: A Salute to Seuss will be ONLINE this year!**

Our virtual event will offer three fun ways to give—a silent auction, a live auction, and a Fund-A-Need campaign.

We'll make sure you have access to all the links, platforms, and instructions to make this a fun, engaging evening. All you need are a computer to register and to live-stream the event, and your cell phone for bidding. And, of course, a group of family or friends for in home watch-parties! (Keeping COVID-19 safety a top priority.)

Our event will highlight our sponsors and provide you a way to make a difference in the lives of Randolph County's children!

We're so very grateful for our growing list of sponsors!

LIST OF 2020 SPONSORS

BECOME A SPONSOR

Penciled In

- The RPC office is closed to the public until further notice. Staff will still be working primarily from home during this time.
- Essential agency board and committee meetings will be held virtually. Attendees will be notified with participation information. Contact **Lisa Hayworth** for an invitation to board meetings.
- Night of the Stars, a celebration to honor child care professionals who earned degrees during the 2019-2020 year will be held June 25 as a virtual event.
- The 2020 Gala for the Children A Salute to Seuss fundraising auction & benefit has been postponed and will now be held on Saturday, August 29 as a virtual event.
- For virtual professional development opportunities, visit our **TRAINING** page on the RandolphKids.org website.



***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!

WE KNOW you're shopping online.
Did **YOU KNOW** you can impact the success of young children in Randolph County by using **Amazon Smile**?
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