

Randolph Community College Summer/Fall Registration

Summer/Fall Registration opens: **April 12, 2021**

Dates to remember:

- April 26** New students can enroll with a current/accepted application
- May 20** Last day for summer registration
- May 24** Summer session begins
- August 10** Last day to register for Fall semester
- August 16** Fall semester begins

To schedule an advisory appointment contact: Angela Cox: acox@randolph.edu or Stephanie Rietschel: sgrietschel@randolph.edu or call the Early Childhood Department (336) 633-205

On-line Training Registration Forms

Forgot to print that registration form? Can't remember the fax number? Have no fear!!!

Starting in April we will begin sending individual email invitations for our trainings. If you are interested in attending the training you can register right from that email! Just click the link 'Register Now!' You will fill out your information online and it will come directly to us!

No worries, we are still accepting registrations using the original format, as well! You can still send us the registration form via email or fax and we will get you registered that way.

Questions? Email Kristy: kumfleet@randolphkids.org



Night of the Stars 2021

Randolph Partnership for Children invites you to our annual Early Care and Education Professional Development Recognition event!

★ **Thursday, May 20, 2021**
7:00 - 9:30 pm

★ **Randolph Community College, Archdale Campus**

★ **Keynote Speaker: Tanya Dennis**

★ **RSVP deadline: April 30th**

Invitations will be distributed early April with additional information detailing guidelines for this unique event!

We look forward to spending this special evening with you!

Early Education Explorations


Discovery, Investigation & Experiences in Randolph County's Quality Early Care & Education

Vol.19 Issue II

April—June 2021

A quarterly publication of the Randolph Partnership for Children, providing resources for the early childhood community.





Child Care Services Program

349 Sunset Avenue Asheboro, NC 27203

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail or would no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please call (336) 629-2128.



Randolph Partnership for Children

To add your name to our mailing list please contact us! Include your name, address, phone, fax, etc.

349 Sunset Avenue
Asheboro, NC 27203
Phone: 336-629-2128
Fax: 336-629-2135

WORTHY WAGES CAMPAIGN

Early educators are the workforce behind the workforce!

Now is the time to make sure policymakers recognize the value of the early childhood workforce and provide early educators with adequate pay and compensation.

Join the 2021 Worthy Wage Campaign through the NC Early Education Coalition:

ncearlyeducationcoalition.org

Together we can build a movement to support the early childhood workforce!

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 3 - 7

A special day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions you make to every child!

"As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person"

~ Paul Shane Spear

A Letter to the Coronavirus from a Child Care Director

It's hard to believe but we have just reached a threshold of a year into the pandemic. COVID-19 has touched the lives of many in unusual and unique ways and has fostered a range of emotions throughout the year. It has provided more empathy and a deeper understanding of someone who is different from themselves and perhaps discovered a new appreciation of nature and the outdoors. Below is an anonymous letter from a director to the Coronavirus that sums up this very memorable year!

Dar Coronavirus,

It is 3:30 am and I can't sleep. You are making this hard! You are making me mad! Here are a few things that I want to talk to you about:

Child Care Crisis: Child care workers are important! Now more than ever it is critical to take care of our early childhood educators. The pandemic has hit childcare centers hard. While essential workers in other fields have been recognized for the risks they undertake, early educators work face-to-face with young children who are not all capable of many virus mitigating practices. You are making this so hard for us because we have hearts. And we are helpers! And we are caregivers! We are already facing a child care crisis. This will make it even worse. I am so mad at you, Coronavirus.

Early Childhood Teachers: You are showing what type of people you are. Our teachers keep showing up, day after day, bringing their best selves to this challenging yet rewarding work. You are our greatest resource! Early educators need to be well supported and well compensated and that the culture of respect and value is nurtured! Our children depend on it!

BUT....Coronavirus you just might be lending a hand to an even bigger pandemic. A pandemic of good! A pandemic of love and caring and compassion and empathy and helping and adventure and curiosity and innovation. A pandemic where we slow down, spend time as a family, go outside, forgo all the organized activities and plan things we have only dreamed about but now have time to make a reality. I may just end up liking you. But not today. Today I still have to make some big decisions—or wait, maybe you are making them for me!

As we look back upon this year, we know how important our early educators are and the impact you have on children, families and communities. For this we are extremely grateful!



Connecting, Contributing and Collaborating

How do we celebrate milestones with children? What meaningful, thoughtful authentic ways do early childhood classroom communities come together as one? This year it really feels as though this COVID climate has created a greater sense of bonding and reliance on the value of community and making connections with each other.

The image of the child as an active participant in the learning process - the trust in children to explore, create, solve problems, and communicate knowledge - has had a profound impact on how we think about curriculum and learning in our child care centers. Reflective practice in listening, documentation and collaboration with children. Children's relationships with materials and ideas, with peers and teachers, with the community and the world form the basis for learning. The specific dynamic in any one classroom can never be duplicated from one to another; therefore, the curriculum is ever-changing!

We offer a myriad of materials - loose parts, natural materials, clay and paint - with which the children can communicate the direction of their interests. As early educators listen and document their work with these materials, new questions and insights arise and lead us deeper into our work. It is when we are fully engaged in this dialogue - this "dance" back and forth between the idea of children and teachers—that we feel most inspired.

Resource: Emergent Curriculum by Susan Stacey

Professional Development

How Health Equity Impacts our Community training series

This spring, the Partnership will embark on a comprehensive training series for our early educators focusing on building equitable classrooms and how racism can affect child development! "Educators not only impact a child's academic and social-emotional development, but also their character, self-esteem, and self image. Research shows that when children engage in productive conversations about race they:

- Positively embrace their own racial identities
- Develop critical thinking skills to analyze the impact of race
- Develop empathy, compassion, and confidence in having meaningful discussions about racial and social justice

Initial session: Director's Institute - March 17 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Understanding Implicit Biases: Do We Really Have Them?

Director's Institute - May 12

Supporting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in my Program

Early Childhood Education Evening sessions: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

April 8: Understanding Implicit Biases: Do We Really Have Them?

May 6: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the EC Classroom: session I

June 10: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the EC Classroom: session II

In partnership with Lakeshore Learning Company we offer this incredible professional development opportunity. Early educators are in a unique position to put in place practices that can help dismantle racism and give children the tools they need to build an anti-racist society.

Celebrate Earth Day: April 22

Earth Day 2021 theme: Restore Our Earth,

Thousands of organizations are coming together for three days of climate action
April 20 - 22, 2021

Ways we can restore planet earth with young classroom helpers!

CREATING A CYCLE OF CARING FOR PLANET EARTH ACROSS GENERATIONS



Spend time outside! Support the Great Global Cleanup and pick up trash while enjoying outdoor activities!

Plastic pollution is one of the biggest environmental problems we face today! Help break free from single use plastics!

Lower your center carbon footprint with renewable energy sources. Ask for green power!

Fight food waste by composting!

Create a pollinator garden and help save the butterflies and bees!

INSPIRED LEARNERS

Journaling is a way to mark moments, big and small, that will help us see next steps for learning and growing. Randolph County documentation teams continue to observe, document, interpret and draw meaning from the children's mark marking. (Sharing excerpts)

With time, most children enjoy showing their ideas graphically. It is a way to demonstrate all of their learning languages. Children make marks for a variety of reasons, and the best way to support mark making is to build and nurture an emotionally positive environment that fosters the growth of confident, capable communicators.

During our Spring Community of Learners Symposium: Journaling: A Practical Tool to Nurture Reflections, Routines and Relationships, the collective journaling by our documentation teams showcased, along with facilitator Jodi Wert, the benefits of mark making for children and teachers.

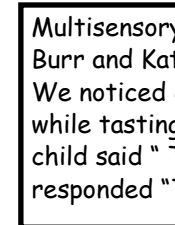


Happy Place Drawing by Margie Trogon
Trogon's Day Care

Using the "language of art" (of her 100 languages) to convey feelings of being in a happy, nurturing environment. This picture provides "peace of mind" to her mom and posts this photo on facebook.



Tactile Safe Writing by Dee Davis, Lindsey Arroyo and Jennifer Miller, The Growing Place
By experiencing this tactile salt writing, he is enhancing his pre-writing skills and gaining control of this fine motor skills. We also noticed him using positional words (up, down, this way) to describe what he drew.



Multisensory Mark Making by Alejandra Cruz, Ann Burr and Katie Hancock, Precious Memories Preschool
We noticed children identified the color to a fruit while tasting and drawing with colorful yogurt. One child said "The strawberry one!" and another child responded "The grape one was my favorite."



Scratching the Surface by Barbara Jent, Britney Oakes and Cartina Black, Harmony Place
As he gradually started to touch the canvas and the paint, we noticed how much he enjoyed how it sounded and felt. We could hear him scratching the surface with his fingernails.

What is mark making /journaling?

It is the child's idea. The adults' job is to set the tone, environment, materials, and invite/ challenge deeper inquiry.

Resource: Mark Making Matters